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PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No.52

Autumn 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Greetings

It has been a treat to have a more normal programme of events over the last six months, after limits imposed by Covid. The twice postponed tour to Chester, set up by Margret Price and Lyn Humphries for 2020, eventually took place in 2022. The camaraderie of previous tours was quickly re-established, after the 3-year hiatus. The National Trust properties visited offered a fine blend of Tudor House, working Mill, colourful gardens and stately homes. We also took a ride on the Anderton boat lift. Thanks to Pat Morgan, we enjoyed led walks, learning more about the walled garden and wildflower meadows at Colby, geology at Saundersfoot, and the history of Llangwm.

Lacking a day trips organiser for this summer, various committee members chipped in. Lyn Humphries arranged a successful and sociable visit to Hilton Court Gardens, near Simpson Cross. Jane Mason took us to Golden Grove, near Llandeilo, a former home of the Campbells of Stackpole. It showed the challenges of restoration of decaying properties. Annie arranged a warm welcome for us at Scolton Manor, now run by Pembrokeshire County Council, where we saw the house and the colourful walled garden and learnt of further planned developments.

Angela Jones, former manager at Tenby Tudor Merchants House, is a recent recruit to PNTA and has joined our committee. With the support of Pat Benson, she will be planning day trips for us, in the future. We have had positive feedback from the local national trust properties following our recent donations, such as the memorial bench at Stackpole, the picnic benches at Stackpole Quay and the electric chain saw for Colby. The plantings at Lodge Park are settling in well, despite the summer drought. We look forward to the spring bulbs flowering. We have again been able to offer funding and await to hear of the Pembrokeshire NT wish list.

For our future PNTA programme, Jane Mason has lined up monthly speakers, from October to April. (Usual time, usual place.)

Annie has organised a lunch, with the AGM and a speaker. This will take place at Narberth, in November.

My thanks to Marilyn James for putting together this newsletter. In it you will find more information on past and future PNTA activities, along with valued updates from Pembrokeshire National Trust Staff.

I am grateful to all the committee for their work behind the scenes, enabling PNTA to function.

Finally, my thanks to you all for your ongoing support and I look forward to our future events.

Best wishes

Andrew

Remembering

Sadly, we report the recent death of Hon. Robin W Lewis, formerly Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, a member since the inception of PNTA.

Margaret Price recalls that as an ex-chairman of the National Trust Committee for Wales, he spoke in support and acted as a catalyst for the formation of Pembrokeshire National Trust Association, in 1998. In the early days he came to meetings of the PNTA and took an active interest in the Association's development. He was invariably there for the AGM for many years, when he probably had many other demands on his time.

REPORT ON SUMMER 2022 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Llangwm walk Thursday May 5th A guided walk by Graham Stephens



Graham Stephens points out the site of the former Llangwm ferry.

Photo by Andrew Weaver

We met on a lovely sunny morning in the car park of The Cottage Inn. Before starting our walk Graham gave a detailed overview of how the name Llangwm evolved and its correct pronunciation, the many prehistoric links that have been found in the area including flints from the Mesolithic period (8000 -6000 BC), the Neolithic Hanging Stone Cromlech at Sardis (3000 BC) and the amazing Late Iron Age chariot found nearby in 2018. Many foreign invaders also came into

the area, The Norsemen in the 9th century, The Normans in the 11th century and The Flemings in the 12th century who had a major influence locally. Welsh was not really spoken in Llangwm and villagers developed their own dialect some examples being lake for stream, drang for passage and cluck for broody.

Leaving the car park, we made our way down the narrow Main Street passing "The Screw ". Here water was drawn up from a well using the Archimedes screw principle. There were several businesses in the village including butchers, bakers and a Bank all now closed. Four public houses flourished but were shut due to the influence of the Temperance Movement. Fenton in his book about his travels in 1811 describes Llangwm as "This miserable village consists of several low, straggling houses interspersed with trees, amidst mountains of oyster shells" The village now has a shop, post office and Inn

Our next stop was on the village green, in many ways the centre of the village with the large Wesleyan Chapel built in 1897 but now closed, the Rugby club which was previously the site of The Llangwm Institute and St Jerome's Church which houses effigies of the De La Roche family and the Llangwm Tapestry depicting its history which was embroidered by local people in 2016. Mill Street leads off the green named because of the grist mill found there.

Continuing downhill we walked over Guildford Bridge and ahead was the new Galilee Baptist Chapel built in 1904 the original having been on the site of the now chapel car park. Turning left we walked along Williamson Terrace which local legend says was lost in a bet!

Tragedy occurred in Llangwm more than once. Graham recounted the sad story of Sam and Mary John who both drowned when their boat got stuck in the mud at Carew Reach while they were on a fishing trip on 28th July 1930. Another drowning documented is that of Edwin Davies on 1st

April 1970 when the boat he was in which was full of herring, sank when swamped by water.

Our walk continued up hill and then across a field where the Mesolithic flints were found. Descending a narrow footpath, we arrived at the bottom of Port Lion. A ferry service ran from near here to Coedcanlas. The charge was 1 penny for a person or horse. It was often used by the famous fisherwomen of Llangwm who then walked in their traditional Welsh costumes to sell their wares of oysters, prawns, and mussels as far afield as Pembroke, Tenby and even Carmarthen! William Pickens was one of the ferrymen employed by the Williamson Estate but died in 1867 of Cholera which was rife in Llangwm in the mid 1800s with many villagers losing their lives. The last ferryman was William “Darky” Llewelyn with the ferry formally ending in the early 1930s.

We made our way carefully along the foreshore which is designated a SSSI with abundant salt marsh flora, varied bird life and where otters are sometimes seen. We reached Guilford Pill and saw swans nesting on the far shore. Let’s hope the eggs all hatch and the cygnets develop well. From here we returned to our cars via the village green and Main Street.

Graham was thanked for his most interesting and informative talk which everyone enjoyed, and we look forward to another visit to Llangwm to continue its story.

Report by Pat Morgan (walk organiser) and Graham Stephens (our guide).

A stroll at Colby Woodland Garden on Monday June 18th 2022 with Christine Bevan and Steve Whitehead .



Christine Bevan by the bee willow

We started our visit at the entrance of the Walled Garden where we were met by Christine who is responsible for the area. She explained that its history goes back some 220 years, the house and walled garden being built in the 1800s by John Colby. The walled garden was restored and embellished in 1965. It was originally a vegetable garden. Today it is mainly trees, shrubs and perennials. We made our way to the high point of the garden close to the gazebo admiring many colourful and varied plants and shrubs on our way. The gazebo was added in 1975-76 by Mr. and Mrs. Chance. Unfortunately, we were unable to go inside because a bee colony had made its home in there. To the side of the gazebo is the south facing border with a large magnolia grandiflora “Exmouth”, a hibiscus and other tender specimens with a pretty alpine border to the side. The slate rill running down the incline was put in by Mr. and Mrs. Scourfield Lewis in 1993. The rill is fed from a lion’s head spouting water into a semicircular cistern in the retaining wall of the gazebo platform. The water is then piped under the path and into the rill.

Moving on around the garden a large area of ferns was discovered with their different structures and textures. Christine pointed out a Drimys Winteri Tree which is a very tender species but is well protected here. Two huts were pointed out that used to be used for compost, one now houses

gardener's tools and the other has information boards on the plants in the garden.

The first thing we saw as we moved into the meadow area was an impressive willow bee which had been made by Melanie Bastia. A variety of fruit trees also grow in this area including plum, pear, apple and medlar. Christine explained that a grass border had been created to fit in with the area 5 years ago. The hedges surrounding the meadow are cut in September.

Leaving the meadow, a large border of oxeye daisies interspersed with some ragged robin and other meadow flowers was ahead of us. The large concrete beds, called coffin beds, were constructed the same time as the wall and it's thought they were used for plants such as asparagus. They now contain fuchsias, topiary yews with a mass of Chionodoxa bulbs for spring interest.

In 1889 on entering the walled garden through the gate there would have been a glass house to the left with a modern version in place on the same area until the 1990s.

Christine explained that they endeavoured to keep the paths clear so wheelchair users can move around easily. Keeping the ivy off the walls is a big challenge for her and her band of volunteers who she explained were fundamental to the garden's maintenance.



Steve Whitehead points out a Japanese Maple paid for by PNTA.

As we ended our tour of the walled garden Christine was thanked for her informative

and interesting tour and we were joined by Steve Whitehead, Head Gardener at Colby for the last 17 years who took us down to the main meadow area. Steve explained that there used to be 8 acres of formal garden, 30 in total, while the whole estate was 890 acres with 20Kms of footpaths. The Trust is moving to a more wildlife friendly garden and does not use any chemicals. There are many challenges e.g., ash die back. Trees are felled if they become a danger to the public. 3000 native species trees have been planted on the estate this year by garden volunteers and another 26000 by contractors. The meadow has mown paths across it. The cut grass is used to make grass snake habitats. We crossed a bridge under which is a small trout stream. The house with its formal garden was on our right.

Making our way along the meadow small ponds could be seen where frogs and toads spawn and newts and sometimes otters are seen. Unfortunately, many ponds have been lost across the country. Large amounts of yellow rattle, a parasite on grass which weakens it, purple orchids and some knapweed which provides nectar later in the year were seen amongst the grass. Steve passed on a good tip, spread the soil of mole hills, and use it to scatter seeds on.

Arriving at the bottom of the garden we came to a circle of fallen ash trees. Colby has a partnership with The Darwin Centre which fund school visits and use this area. The National Trust staff undertake most of the felling of the trees but sometimes need help from the council. Some of the oak wood goes to Marine Heritage although extraction is difficult. Steve explained how delighted he is with the battery-operated chainsaw, donated by us, which is extremely useful.

Starting our return journey along the path of the old mill leet we passed a carved hedgehog by Neil Machin and saw lots of Colby's renowned rhododendrons, some of which were still in flower. A little further on was the site of a very deep old mine shaft capped by a large wheel. John Colby mined the area with as many as 9 mines on

the estate, although they weren't profitable. Close by were memorials dedicated to Miss Mason and Mrs. Chance. Having gone nearly full circle we passed through 2 large gate posts which were remnants of a toll gate which had been sited nearby at the time of The Rebecca Riots. Back at the start of our walk Steve explained the work taking place in the Eastwood which is being reclaimed from a conifer wood. Some of the Maples we could see had been donated by us and provide good autumn colour. Steve, 2 gardeners, Christine and their band of volunteers do a magnificent job of managing the estate and walled garden. They were thanked for making Colby the magnificent place it is today.

Report by walk organiser Pat Morgan with assistance from Christine Bevan and Steve Whitehead

GELLI AUR – GOLDEN GROVE VISIT AND TEA – WEDNESDAY JUNE 29TH

This Tudor/Gothic large rambling house near Carmarthen, proved to be an interesting visit. Not only for its historical links to the Cawdor family of Stackpole estate, but also its story of recent years and the astounding construction and current state of repair.



View from the rooftop

The Earl of Cawdor, John Campbell, employed Sir Jeffrey Wyattville, a prominent architect who transformed Windsor Castle, to design a replacement for a house which had been lower down the hill. The Estate was founded by the Vaughan family, who were descended from the Price of Powys and settled in Carmarthenshire in 1485. At the height of its affluence the Estate comprised over 50,000 acres. The house has superb views over the River Tywi, a rich agricultural landscape sprinkled with history and beauty.

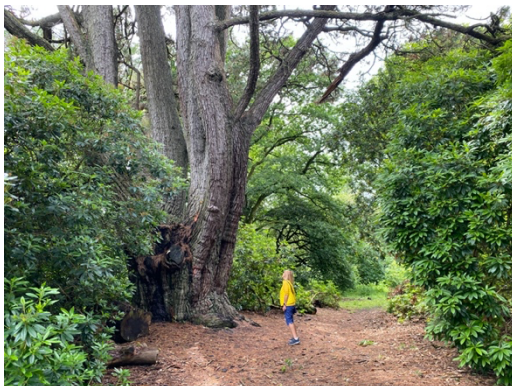
John Frederick Campbell inherited the Cawdor Estate and in 1827 was created Earl Cawdor in the County of Pembroke and Viscount Emlyn in the County of Carmarthen. He laid the foundations of the present house and pulled down the former residence. In the 1930s the family returned to Nairn and during World War 11 Golden Grove was occupied by the US Air Force. In 1952 it was leased to the then Carmarthenshire County Council for use as an agricultural college. In 1976 most of the vast estate was sold to pay taxes on the death of his father.

The main house is a large rectangular wing with a glass central ceiling and then an extraordinary number of buildings linked by corridors to provide the working areas and servants accommodation of the estate. We wandered through laundries, stables, cellars and vast kitchens for preparation of produce from the agriculturally rich estate and numerous rooms. The majority in a poor state of repair with some elements removed, others seemingly untouched for many years. In the main house ceilings were propped up with scaffolding and roof slates being repaired to prevent water ingress. But the fine ebony inlaid dark wood staircase was still in excellent condition and the original front door and main rooms with superb views across the valley preserved.



Stable block

Our excellent guide Frances took us first to the extensive stable area, which is of national architectural significance, but has unfortunately been stripped of roof slates in some areas causing deterioration. She explained the history of recent owners and that Gelli Aur was now in a charitable trust led by an art dealer. The house, which has planning permission for reconstruction and for a number of uses, was full of wrapped up paintings and discarded furniture and is being maintained by only one employee.



Monteray Pine in the Arboretum

This same employee also has the task of trying to maintain some of the world class arboretum at the rear of the house. We wandered through giant precious trees, labelled by Kew gardens, marvelling at how this superb garden not been more significantly preserved and publicised. The visit provided material for an interesting discussion about preservation and the value of the National Trust. Sitting together on the auditorium at the end of the tour we were virtually speechless at the enormity of the task presented to the charitable Trust to even just preserve the

Mansion and its historical gardens. However, it is clear from what we saw it is a precious resource that deserves to be brought back to life.

Report by Jane Mason
Photographs Andrew Weaver

VISIT TO HILTON COURT ON THURSDAY 7TH JULY

On Thursday 7th July a posse of 20 members met to amble gently around Hilton Court Gardens. Now no longer open to the general public, they are still happy to welcome small local groups.

It was a lovely opportunity to meet up and to renew old friendships.

Cheryl welcomed us and told us a bit about the evolution of the extensive grounds. It had taken 25 years, but gosh it was worth it.

Wandering along the woodland paths we were often met by fairytale playhouses, all different and all constructed by Peter, Cheryl's husband. It was quite easy to lose one's bearings under the leafy canopy and they certainly helped our tentative navigation on times.



Hilton Court Lily Pond

The lakes looked beautiful and scattered seating enabled relaxed viewing from all directions. Everyone who attended loved the peace and tranquility of the garden and took time to sit on the many seats around the pond. We had the exciting addition of viewing Cheryl's own lovely garden set in many older walls around the house and looking across to another tranquil pond.

At the end of the visit, we were able to recharge our batteries with sandwiches and cake from the veranda of the tearoom and enjoy the restful view.



Lunch at Hilton Court

Many thanks to Lyn who suggested and organized the visit, unfortunately she was unable to attend on the day.

Report by Annie Weaver & Jane Mason.
Photographs Andrew Weaver

A GEOLOGICAL WALK AND TALK FROM SAUNDERSFOOT TOWARDS MONKSTONE POINT ON THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER WITH CHRIS EVANS.

We met on a somewhat damp day (with umbrellas ready to use in the event of forecasted heavy rain but thankfully weren't needed) at Saundersfoot Harbour on the new decking events area in front of the impressive wooden Coastal Schooner. Chris started his talk by exploring the history of Saundersfoot and its growth as a result of the development of the "Railway and Harbour Company" from 1828. The railways carried the high-quality coal and ironstones, initially by horse power until steam took over in 1870. Such local coal powered Queen Victoria's Royal Yacht and Steam Train and the SS Great Britain on its inaugural voyage to Australia. We next made our way onto Glen Beach where we saw strata and structures of the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures. The

harder sandstones and the much softer, more brittle shales, together with the ironstone nodules mined in "patches" locally were pointed out by Chris.



Examples of Ironstone Nodules

We observed many geological features as we made our way along the beach including a noteworthy downfold or synform and associated faults and joints.



A noteworthy example of a downform or synform

Recent large and alarming rock-falls were also seen highlighting the precarious nature of the Coal Measures cliffs. These cliffs were monitored using seismometers in the early 1970s when "Concorde" was making its test flights over the area. Our walk concluded at the textbook and much photographed "Lady's Cave" upfold or antiformal. Chris explained its features and especially the environments in which the beds were laid down when Britain was located near the equator and also how the folds and faults were formed as a result of mountain building due to northwestern Europe plate movements creating the geological features we had seen today.



Chris explains how Lady's Cave, an upfold or antiform was created.

We made our way back into Saundersfoot where Chris was thanked for his interesting and informative walk and talk and how again his enthusiasm for his subject was evident for all to see. He has also provided the main text for this report.

Report by Pat Morgan
Photographs: Graham Brace

SCOLTON MANOR VISIT ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH

The sun smiled on us that day.

A group of 30 members spent an enjoyable day at the PCC run country estate. In the morning, after splitting into two more manageable groups, we toured the house where Katie regaled us with the history of the house dating back to early Victorian times and an insightful description of life with generations of the Higgon family. The house was typical of a country gentleman's house, furnished with authentic Victorian furniture and populated with family portraits. The family left the house in 1972.

Our tour of the garden and grounds with Simon Richards the head gardener in the afternoon was amazing. We all took away with us nuggets of information ranging from encouraging pollinators by growing the food plants needed for different stages of development, recycling most garden waste into valuable soil improvers, to strategies for maintaining constant interest in herbaceous beds.

One main focus of Scolton is to be all inclusive giving employment to people of all abilities, where they help run the cafe and shop and help in the gardens. Mark

Thomas, the on-site manager, is committed to involve anyone and everyone in the area, whether it is working together with other groups to improve mental health and well-being or encouraging The Green Team- a band of 17 committed volunteers who tend the walled garden and propagate plants that together with kitchen garden produce helps to bring in much needed funds.

They are excited about their plans and want to enhance everyone's awareness of the opportunities for future generations to benefit from actions taken today. They are busy propagating trees that have flourished in our county for hundreds of years and are hoping to put many on sale in November when celebrating tree week.



Simon Richards enthuses over compost with PNTA members.

Report by Annie Weaver
Photograph: Graham Brace

AUTUMN WALKS & TALKS 2022

ALL TALKS START AT 2.30PM IN CRUNDALE VILLAGE HALL - Provided covid rates do not escalate, there is no need to book to attend the talks. Refreshments will be served. The £2 entry fee will resume, to help cover speaker fees and hall hire.

Thursday October 6th

Gareth Mills

Forgotten Heritage- the untold stories of an incredibly important military town. The talk explores the substantial history of Pembroke Dock as a military town and tries to explain why the town has been forgotten and overlooked nationally and regionally as an important centre of Military heritage.

Gareth Mills is a retired history teacher who has lived and worked in Pembrokeshire for 30 years. He is a Trustee of The Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre and former Chairman of The Trust.

Thursday November 3rd

Amanda Canby-Lewis

Ceidwad Arweiniol/Lead Custodian
Llys yr Esgob/St Davids Bishop's Palace
Cadw

The history and development of the Bishop's Palace from the birth of St David through to the present day referring to the building and key Bishops. Also included will be some of the latter Bishops who, although not directly associated with the Palace, have a somewhat colourful history!

Amanda has been Lead Custodian working for Cadw since 1988.

Thursday December 1st

Simon Hancock will talk on

The History of the Port of Haverfordwest .

Thursday 5th January 2023

Melanie Knapp Tudor Merchant's House

A talk related to some aspects of history linked to the Tudor Merchant's House and Tenby

Thursday February 2nd 2023

John Archer – Thomson

India and Tigers

Thursday March 2nd

Speakers: Louise Barker, Toby Driver and Hannah Genders Boyd (CHERISH project: RCAHMW)

Investigating the edge of Wales - Promontory forts, Shipwrecks, and Island Landscapes
Since 2017 the CHERISH -climate change and coastal heritage project has been working along the coast of Wales and Ireland raising awareness and understanding of the past, present and near-future impacts of climate change on the rich heritage of our sea and coast. The team have worked at some of the most iconic coastal location in Wales, and the talk will provide an overview and highlights of their work across Pembrokeshire, including Grassholm Island, Caerfai Promontory Fort, and the Albion shipwreck.

Thursday 6th April

Beverley Phillips “Newgale Coastal Adaptation”

Coastal Adaptation Project Officer NT
The talk has relevance to the Southwood Estate.

FUTURE EVENTS

ANNUAL NOVEMBER LUNCH & AGM IN THE PLAS, NARBERTH, Thursday 17th November 2022. 12.00 for 1.00

This year we thought we would try another venue for variety and hope that you will approve.

We are incorporating it like last year with a speedy AGM. Last year I think it took 15 minutes or so!

Again, we are having a speaker. This time it will be Rhian Sula who gave us such an enthusiastic and interesting talk on her role in developing visitor experience in the local National Trust, earlier in the year. This year I have been told that we will be seated at tables of 8-10 and they have asked that you organise your preferred seating on arrival, so that a sheet with menu choices can be filled in. As before I will organise your menu choices place cards in case you don't remember what you have ordered!

*It would be lovely if we could have another Christmas raffle like last year, so please bring any gift-wrapped items along if you can.

The cost will be £28.00pp for 3 courses and £24.00pp for 2 courses including tea or coffee.

My contact details are at the bottom of the menu page 22.

Annie.

SPRING TOUR 2023 - MAY 7-11TH

Following the successful and sociable tour to Chester, this year, Annie and I have been planning another.

Our proposed trip next year will take us east. Our base will be Bedford. The Bedford Swan Hotel is on the River Great Ouse, offering tree lined strolls along the embankment.

Our provisional planned visits include Bletchley Park, where there is an impressive array of exhibitions, detailing the code breaking days of the second world war. In contrast, the nearby National Trust

Stowe Gardens offers statues, temples, ornate bridges and views of the house. Heading further east, we plan to visit Anglesey Abbey NT, a picturesque house, updated in the 20th Century by Lord Fairhaven, set in acres of gardens. There will be time to explore Cambridge. We intend to have a boat trip on the Gt Ouse and visit the Wimpole National Trust Estate. Jonathan Hughes was seconded to manage the property for a while, some years ago, and some of you may remember his talk to the PNTA lunch in 2018. Waddesdon Manor is a Rothchilds property, now run in conjunction with NT. Expect splendour. Our hotel, at the site of the former castle, has old parts with a grand staircase. Most of the accommodation is in a more recent wing. There is a lift. The double rooms have standard beds of 4ft 6in width. You can upgrade to a king size (5ft) bed for £5 per room per night. As is the trend, most rooms offer a shower rather than a bath. Again, there are upgrade options. The price includes dinner bed and breakfast. (We will have a room to ourselves for dining.) As usual we will travel by Richards Bros coach (included). The price will be £499 for those sharing a double or twin room, with a supplement of £100 for single occupancy. This price includes Bletchley Park entrance fee and a boat trip or similar but does not include travel insurance. There are only eight twin rooms available, but more doubles or singles. We will need at least 25 booked on the trip for it to be viable. We are asking for a £50 deposit to confirm your interest, but this would be returned if we have insufficient take up. The balance of payment will be due towards the end of March. **Booking form on page 23** The price presumes National Trust membership. Non members would need to pay NT entrance fees.

Andrew

NATIONAL TRUST NEWS

National Trust staff have provided reports on activities and changes at the local NT locations. It demonstrates the tremendous amount of work being done to enable people to enjoy them.



Rhian Sula Visitor Operations & Experiences Manager

Summer of sunshine

Hello everyone,
Hope you are well and enjoyed the sunshine this summer? I usually adore the sun, but there were certainly occasions when I was praying for rain and hoping for cooler evenings. It really has hit home the impacts of climate change and it has been evident to see the effects it has had at our properties.

So, we have had an interesting season and here is what's been happening across Pembrokeshire this spring/summer: As life started to get back to normal and restrictions were lifted, we spent the start of the year planning for a very busy summer season and anticipated a similar experience to 2021. However, with people travelling abroad, petrol prices going through the roof and the cost of living rising we have had a calmer summer than expected and our staff have had a more enjoyable experience.

We have been very excited this year, because for the first time in two years our Visitor Welcome team have been able to recruit National Trust Members, and this has created a real buzz amongst the team.

We have exceeded our membership target and it's been fantastic to see the team growing in confidence.

Colby

Colby welcomed back the Pembrokeshire Craft makers to the Gallery, which has been a great success and visitors have really enjoyed taking part in the workshops over the summer. Some of them have included making your own dog lead, painting with watercolours, and making jewellery. The second handbook shop has also been relocated to the previous visitor welcome hut and has been doing a roaring trade. A big thanks goes out to you all for donating your books and to Annie and Andrew who kindly drop them off to us.

Tudor Merchants House

Tudor Merchants has been able to open for an additional day and the team have been busy coping with the numbers of visitors wanting to visit this beautiful little house. The team are also getting very excited as they plan for a Christmas event, where the house will be beautifully decorated, the fire roaring and the house lit with candles.

The Stackpole Estate

The Stackpole Centre has been busy welcoming School and University groups and it's made the place feel alive again. It's been wonderful to hear the children laughing after coming back from the obstacle course covered in mud and the teachers very excited that they had seen their first otter. These groups would not have been able to stay, without SJ's catering providing hearty meals and Outer Reef who took them surfing, supping and coast walking.

Visitors have also been able to attend events at our properties and the Summer of Sports has been a huge success with families taking part in archery, orienteering and yoga at Stackpole Court site. We also attended the Lamphey show, where children and adults could enter our tree and wildflower competition.



*Wildflowers at Lamphey Show
Photo by Sue Jones*

Freshwater West has been a topic of conversation, as we engaged in a community consultation project, which was funded by the Community Renewal Fund. This project engaged with the local community to see how Freshwater West can be sustainably managed in the future. Nearly 5,000 people took part in the survey and hundreds attended the pop-ups sessions on the beach and town hall. The results of the survey will be shared in October, along with a proposal for the site and we have been thrilled with the level of response from the local community and visitors.



*Colby Crafts
Photo by Sue Jones*

North Pembrokeshire

We celebrated National Meadows Day at Southwood, where people could learn about our wonderful meadows. We were absolutely thrilled that everyone who attended the event either had a meadow that they had created or wanted to create one on their land.

Unfortunately, the scorching weather in August brought about drought, a hosepipe ban and sadly two very large fires that crept on to National Trust land on the Southwood Estate. The fire brigade and Ranger team did a fantastic job, but it has given us a real cause for concern and has made us really think about the effects of climate change on our properties.



*Fire on the road to Maidenhall car park
Photo by Sue Jones*

So, all in all it's been a good season, with happy visitors and staff, however we have had our challenges along the way. I hope you have a lovely autumn and I look forward to seeing you all in November.
With very warm wishes
Rhian

TUDOR MERCHANT'S HOUSE



Melanie welcoming visitors.

Tudor Merchant's House is very pleased to report another busy season as we are coming to the end of the Summer holidays. Our bookings have remained healthy throughout, with most days fully booked a few days in advance! This year we have been able to be more flexible with numbers which has been a real bonus. It has been lovely to welcome back school and tour groups for the first time since 2019 and to dress up in Tudor costume once again. At the beginning of the year, we were really pleased to welcome four new volunteers to the house team. Two of which were signed up on our Recruitment Day in January. They have been able to support us with our Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday opening. In total we now have 13 volunteers giving us their time to support with the tours.

Mair has continued with her valuable contribution in managing our lovely garden which has featured in every house tour conducted this year. At present we can admire strawberries, beetroot, lettuce along with all the herbs and our newly planted damson tree which is bearing a lot of fruit and hopefully jam will follow.

In July we were very pleased to appoint Angela Jones as our Welcome and Service Assistant. Angela returned to TMH last year as a volunteer and she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge having done previous roles at TMH and Colby. For the first time since 2016 we are planning to open TMH for the first three

weekends of December. Plans are in progress to have a family activity and hopefully for the first time a F&B offering with a Christmas theme! This will give us the opportunity to engage with local visitors who would not venture into Tenby during the Summer. We are all very excited about this and have had plenty of offers for help!



At the time of writing, we are planning our opening times for next year and will be moving to three days a week opening from April until the end of August. This will still give us the opportunity to welcome school and tour groups on other days. In the Autumn we are planning a tour of Tenby Church, an end of season coffee morning and a trip to North Wales and Cheshire in early October where we hope to visit Erddig, Little Moreton Hall and Chester. This will give us an insight into how other houses are operating and hopefully give us some inspiration for our planning next year.

Melanie Knapp
Collections and House Manager

COLBY WOODLAND GARDEN

Colby is back up and running for 2022. If you haven't been to Colby in a while, you will notice a lot of changes. We no longer charge an admission fee and solely charge for parking. There is a pay and display machine in each car park. The Visitor Reception building is back open this season as the location of our Second-hand Bookshop. It's previous home above the Tearoom has been reopened as a Gallery, with the Pembrokeshire Craft Makers back in residence for the season. The 'events' trailer from North Pembrokeshire is being used in the lower car park as the focal point for our visitor welcome. Our Welcome & Service Assistants will usually be found here.

In the garden it's been a successful year in lots of ways despite the difficult weather. Last year's hard work mowing, harrowing and seeding the meadow using green-hay from the wildflower rich areas and from meadows in North Pems really paid off, with great displays of wildflowers and a continued increase in the orchid population. Everything went over pretty quickly in the heat, but there are still flower rich patches left in places for the insects, some of which, like butterflies have only just started to come out in force. Right now, we're concentrating on making those wildflower displays even better next year with more of the same treatment. The Woodland Garden struggled a little with wilting Hydrangeas in places, but lots of work took place removing tired old plants and planning for Autumn re-planting.

We also managed to clear up all the felled Ash trees and move most of the large remaining logs into positions where they can be adapted into seating.

The Walled Garden came through the drought quite well, with lots of colour and much more still to come. Ironically for a garden which has achieved Bee-friendly status, the swarm in the roof of the Gazebo continue to be a problem!

The streams and ponds didn't fare quite so well this year, with low levels,

eutrophication and high algal growth in the stream. But the early de-silting of the upper ponds in Spring did provide a refuge for many of our little Trout this Summer. The lower ponds have also now been de-silted, and in some cases divided into smaller deeper ponds as these have proved to retain water better than the large shallower ones. We have still had a reasonable hatch of Dragon and Damselflies this year, but nowhere near the swarms we saw last year. Hopefully next year's wildlife will reap the benefit of the work done this year and our Damselfly swarms and Dragonflies will be back in force.

In a change from the usual pattern, we also found ourselves mowing new picnic areas in the shade so that visitors could continue to enjoy the garden in the extreme weather. To anyone who still denies climate change, please come down and enjoy our shady tropical rain-free paradise, in Wales!

Events are back with a bang this year at Colby. We currently have a self-led sensory trail around the garden, and a rare new tree trail will be coming soon. Our Come Out and Play programme features drop in soft archery and orienteering on a Wednesday afternoon during the summer holidays, facilitated by staff. Why not come on a guided garden or history walk with our staff and volunteers (held once a month)? The National Park Authority have been back with their popular bug safari events. The Gallery have been hosting workshops on various themes and have many more to come.

Parkrun continues, and they hold the occasional night-run for us to raise funds for us to help maintain the paths and tracks they use here.

All in all, it's looking like a very busy year!

Steve Whitehead

Head Gardener

**Tour to the Cheshire Region 15-19th
May 2022**



The PNTA tour group with our driver, Sam (far left).

We were blessed with mainly fine weather for the tour to Cheshire. The trip was initially planned for 2020, but was postponed for two years, because of Covid.

Those travelling by coach from Pembrokeshire were met by some who made their own way there, including Jim and Margret Price, who drove from the Bristol area, where they now live. In total there were 36 of us.

It was good to re unite with tour regulars and welcome some who were new to the experience.



The Mansion at Attingham Park



The Repton Oak at Attingham over 650 years old

We stopped, en route, at **Attingham Park NT**. In addition to the mansion, there were extensive grounds to explore.



Rowton Hall Hotel gardens

The staff at **Rowton Hall Hotel**, on the outskirts of Chester, looked after us well. There was a spacious bar for pre dinner drinks, and we had a function room to ourselves for breakfast and evening meal.



The Anderton Boat Lift.

The **Anderton Boat Lift**, near Northwich, was constructed in the late 19th century, to connect two waterways, serving the local salt mining industry and the potteries at Stoke on Trent. After closure in 1981, a well-supported appeal led to successful restoration. As a result, we were able to take to a boat to experience the fifty foot descent from the Trent and Mersey Canal to the River Weaver.



Aboard the Edwin Clark at Anderton Boat Lift



The house at Dunham Massey

Later that day, the National Trust property at **Dunham Massey** provided a chance to explore the house, enjoy the gardens and stroll the extensive deer park.



A common sight at various NT properties was to see tree trunks and fallen timber left to slowly decay and act as "invertebrate hotels".



Quarry Bank Mill from the gardens

We devoted a whole day to visit **Quarry Bank Mill NT** near Wilmslow. It is a surprise to find a working cotton mill surrounded by a valley garden. The azaleas were at their peak. Our visit also took in the apprentice house which gave a good insight into the life of a child labourer.



Speke Hall

On the final morning in **Chester**, we were met by our guide, Yvonne Kirk, who joined the coach to point out the Roman walls and amphitheatre, as well as other sights. Thereafter some took a boat trip on the River Dee, whilst others stayed with Yvonne for a walking tour of the city centre. In the afternoon we went to **Speke Hall NT**, near Liverpool Airport. There we heard many tales about the sheltering of Catholic priests in the era of their persecution.



The laburnum arch at Bodnant

Our journey home was made more colourful by a visit to **Bodnant Gardens NT**. In the lower gardens we saw the effects of storm Arwen, in November 2021. Over fifty large trees were lost, including a giant sequoia. However, the upper parts of the garden provided a feast for the eyes, with the famous laburnum arch approaching its seasonal peak.

Our thanks go to Margret Price for making the initial arrangements for 2020, with help from Lyn Humphries. Sam, our driver from Richards Bros, looked after us very well. Thanks also go to all those on the trip for making it such an enjoyable social time.

Report and photos by Andrew Weaver

PNTA WEBSITE

The Association has a website at www.pembsnta.org.uk It contains information about the Association, our Events Programme, the Newsletter and Association news items. We hope it will be useful to existing members and attract new members. Together with email and MailChimp, it helps us provide up to date information for members.

CONTACT BY EMAIL

We are continuing to increase our use of electronic communications. If you have an email address and are not receiving messages, such as **MailChimp** from us, or have just started an email account, please email our Membership Secretary, Sheila Ashton at robashnton95@yahoo.co.uk .

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is not surprising that with such a disruptive year, that there are still membership fees owing for 2022. If you intend to renew your membership and haven't yet done so, would you kindly send a cheque for £5 (single) or £8 (double) to the Membership Secretary - Mrs Sheila Ashton, Pondmeadow, Wiston, Haverfordwest SA62 4PR. (01437 731525), or better still, complete a standing order form which is available on the PNTA website.

Subscriptions run from January to January. Your effort will be much appreciated.

NEWSLETTER BY E MAIL.

In order to keep costs down and do our bit for the environment we are continuing to send out the newsletter by e mail unless members have requested to receive the newsletter by post.

A number of members currently receive Andrew's mailchimp on a regular basis and this works well to keep everyone up to date.

The newsletter is also published on the website.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE HOW YOU RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER

please contact

Membership Secretary - Mrs Sheila Ashton, Pondmeadow, Wiston, Haverfordwest SA62 4PR. (01437 731525),

Sheila Ashton at:

robashnton95@yahoo.co.uk

MAILCHIMP

Mailchimp continues to offer reminders about upcoming events, reports on recent activities and other things that I hope members find of interest.

If you have been missing out, but would like to subscribe, please email me at andrew.pnta@gmail.com

If you have already provided an email address but are not seeing Mailchimp, please check your junk/spam file.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Your officers and committee members are as follows (* Officer):

CHAIRMAN*	Andrew Weaver Tel: 01646 831323
VICE-CHAIR*.	Sheila Ashton
TREASURER*	Stephen Flather
SECRETARY*	Annie Weaver Tel: 01646 831323
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Sheila Ashton Tel: 01437 731525
MAILCHIMP	Andrew Weaver Tel. 01646 831323
NEWSLETTER	Marilyn James Tel:01437 891205
P.R.	Jane Mason
WALKS.	Pat Morgan Tel: 07866242924
DAY TRIPS.	Angela Jones
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Lyn Humphries

FINANCE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Last year I reported that financially, 2020 had been a very unusual year due the reduced activities as a result of the Covid pandemic. Sadly 2021 proved to be a continuation of that theme. There was no income generated from winter talks (no charges were made for the two talks which did take place) or from tours and trips. This resulted in the Associations income falling from the 2020 low of £2,030 (including donations for plants) to £1,293 in 2021. Hopefully 2022 will be a return to more normal activity levels.

The fall in income led to the Association showing a deficit of £554 for 2021. It was agreed, however, that a more modest donation compared to previous years of £1,225 should be made to the National Trust for local projects funded from Accumulated surpluses from previous years.

The Balance Sheet and Cash Flow statement show large falls in cash at bank and creditors between 2020 and 2021. This is because the 2020 donation to the National Trust was not drawn down until 2021, it was shown as creditor in the 2020 accounts. The actual draw down in 2021 resulted in a decrease in cash at bank and in creditors in 2021.

A summary of the 2021 Annual Statement of Accounts, with comparative figures for 2020 is shown below. An electronic copy of the full statement is available on request by e mailing

Sflather21@gmail.com

PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2021

Summarised Income and Expenditure Account

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

2020		2021
£	£	£
	<u>INCOME</u>	
(1,428.00)	Membership subscriptions and winter talks	(1,132.00)
(598.99)	Tours, fund raising and donations received	(160.50)
(2.81)	Bank interest	(0.36)
<u> </u>		<u> </u>
(2,029.80)		(1,292.86)
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
2,993.00	Donations made	1,250.00
75.00	Winter talks	50.00
334.88	Administration and gifts	546.87
<u> </u>		<u> </u>
3,402.88		1,846.87
1,373.08	(surplus)/deficit for year	554.01
25.99	To/(From) Earmarked Reserve	(25.99)
(1,399.07)	From Accumulated Fund	(528.02)
<u> </u>		<u> </u>
nil		nil

Summarised Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

2020		2021
£	£	£
7,985.80	Cash and Bank	5,022.40
(2,323.00)	Creditors and Payments and Receipts in Advance	86.39
<u> </u>		<u> </u>
5,662.80		5,108.79
7,035.88	Accumulated Fund at start of year	5,636.81
(1,399.07)	To Income and Expenditure Account	(528.02)
<u> </u>		<u> </u>
5,636.81	Accumulated Fund at end of year	5,108.79
nil	Earmarked Reserve at start of year	25.99
25.99	(To)/From Income and Expenditure Account	(25.99)
<u> </u>		<u> </u>
25.99	Earmarked Reserve at end of year	nil
<u> </u>		<u> </u>
5,662.80		5,108.79

Summarised Cash Flow Statement
For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

2020		2021
£		£
1,399.07	(Surplus)/deficit for the year	528.02
(25.99)	(Increase)/decrease in Earmarked Reserves	25.99
(4,144.00)	(Increase)/decrease in Payments and Receipts in Advance	2,409.39
<u> </u>		<u> </u>
(2,770.92)		2,963.40
7,985.80	Closing Cash and Bank	5,022.40
5,214.88	Less: Opening Cash and Bank	7,985.80
<u> </u>		<u> </u>
2,770.92	Movement in Cash and Bank	2,963.40

PNTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Pembrokeshire National Trust Association will hold its AGM at Plas Hyfryd Narberth on Thursday November 17th 2022 commencing at noon.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's report
3. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts
4. Approval of annual subscriptions to apply to the next AGM
5. Election of officers and other Committee members for the period to the next AGM
6. AOB

Please notify the Chairman well in advance if you wish to raise any matters.

Following the AGM, for those that wish to stay, there will be a lunch followed by a short presentation by Rhian Sula Visitor Operations & Experiences Manager.

Please Note – The minutes of the 2021 AGM will be available at the meeting.

The members of committee are willing to continue in their roles.

We are looking to recruit extra members to help with organisation, either on or off committee.

NOMINATION FORM FOR PNTA COMMITTEE

Name _____

Position sought for election _____ (please write 'General' if just seeking a General position on the Committee)

Proposer _____

Secunder _____

(Nominees, proposers and seconders have to be members of the PNTA)

Please send your form, by Thursday 10th November to:

Andrew Weaver, Chairman PNTA, Larks Rising, Kiln Park,

Burton Ferry SA73 1NY or call him on 01646 831323 if you wish to have further information.

**PNTA Annual November Lunch at Plas Hafryd Hotel
Narberth**

12.00 for 1.00

£28.00 for 3 courses

£24.00 for 2 courses

Starter

Spiced Parsnip Soup

Sesame Fishcake with Asian slaw, sweet chilli & soy dressing

Pickled Pork Belly and Ham Hock Terrine, caramelised onion chutney

*

Main

Roast Landsker Beef

with Yorkshire Pudding, Red Wine and Rosemary Gravy`

Fillet of Haddock

with Parsley Mash and Tarragon Cream sauce

Butternut Squash and Sweet Potato Parcel

with Root Vegetable Casserole

*

Pudding

Chocolate Marquis

with Ripple Berry Ice-cream and White Choc crumble

Sticky Toffee Pudding

with Caramel Sauce and Chantilly Cream

Warm Apple and Raisin Filo Crusted Tart

with Candied Seeds and Double Cream Custard

*

Complementary Coffee or Tea

*

Choices and Payment to Annie

Larks Rising, Kiln Park, Burton SA73 1NY

annielweaver@gmail.com

07890756063

BOOKING FORM FOR PNTA SPRING TOUR 7TH - 11TH MAY 2023

We will be staying at the Bedford Swan Hotel, situated on the banks of River Great Ouse.

Our activities, whilst subject to alteration, are likely to include a visit to Bletchley Park, Anglesey Abbey NT, Wimpole Estate NT, Stowe Gardens NT, Waddesdon Manor NT, free time in Cambridge and a boat trip on the Great Ouse.

We will be travelling with Richards Bros.

Those who are not National Trust members may need to pay the entry fee for NT properties visited. The fares and entrance fees for the intended non-NT visits are included in the cost.

THE COST WILL BE £499 pp for those sharing a room. The single supplement will be £100. This includes three course dinner, bed and breakfast, at the hotel.

Please send your cheque for the deposit (£50 per person) with your booking form.

We need at least 25 on board to make the trip viable.

Final payment will be due towards the end of March. (Travel insurance is not included.)

Return form and cheque made out to PNTA and send to:.

Andrew Weaver, Larks Rising, Kiln Park, Burton, Milford Haven, SA73 1NY

Name/Names _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

email address _____

Single ____ Double ____ Twin ____ room (Please tick)

If you have received the newsletter digitally, it is not essential to print the form, provided that you give the requested information in a letter.

PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
CYMDEITHAS PENFRO YR YMDDIRIEDOLAETH GENEDLAETHOL
www.pembsnta.org.uk MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

If you wish to renew and do not have standing order, please fill in and return to: Sheila Ashton, Hon. Membership Secretary, PNTA, Pond Meadow, Wiston, SA62 4PR

I/We wish to renew our membership

Individual member £5 _____

Or Family membership (any number at the same address) £8 _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone number (optional) _____

e mail address _____

e mail address _____ (optional, but it is useful for communications)

Please tick below. You can say yes to as many as you want.

I am happy to be contacted by post phone

e mail

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to PNTA.

The contact information that you provide will be used to communicate with you about our association activities and relevant information about the National Trust. The information will be kept by the membership secretary and shared with limited members of the committee, where there is need.

You are free to withdraw this consent at any time, and can ask for your details to be erased.

Signed _____ Signed _____

Signed _____ Signed _____

Dated _____