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PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 46 SEPTEMBER 2019

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Newsletter. Again we can reflect on a successful series of activities.

At our AGM we made a donation of £3000 to Pembrokeshire National Trust. This will be used at Colby to support their Bee Friendly work, at Stackpole for new picnic benches, and at Southwood (see below).

In May, thirty nine members enjoyed fine weather to explore Wiltshire and Dorset on our tour, based in Bournemouth.

There was plenty of variety with our summer day trips. It was a damp start, in June, when we opted not to take the boat, in heavy rain, from Neyland. Instead we drove to Dale for a sociable lunch, glad to be in the warm and dry. After considerable research, Tim Sims-Williams came up with new venues to explore. He found us three contrasting properties in Llanelli, and the combination worked very well.

Numbers were low for the trip to the Millennium Centre and Cardiff Castle, but rather than abandon ship, Tim arranged for a smaller coach to fit the trimmed budget, and a successful day was had. Tim is stepping down from his lead role as Day Trips Organiser, and we thank him for all his efforts over the last few years.

Jim Price organised our summer evening walks. Head Ranger, Haydn Garlick took us on a tour of Gupton Farm, with its blend of camping site, farming and wildlife friendly areas. At Southwood, we met Area Ranger, Andrew Williams, who

talked of the plans for wildflower meadows and wildlife corridors that we have helped to fund. With the aid of volunteers from across the county, work has progressed on this over the summer. Steve Whitehead took us on a tour of Colby giving us the history and showing us the signs of mining. As per usual, pub suppers were enjoyed after these strolls. Our thanks to Jim.

Having filled in as Treasurer, for several years, to enable PNTA to continue to function, Margret Price has stepped back from the role, and we welcome Steven Flather as our new Treasurer. Steven has worked in accountancy and is former Chairman of the Swansea and West Wales members branch of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

With the help of Lyn Humphries, Margret has turned her attention to liaising with Richards Bros to put together a tour for 2020.

Arnold Williams joined the PNTA Committee in 2000. For the most of the subsequent years he has been Talks Programme Secretary, and we are very grateful for the many presentations he has lined up for us. Having arranged most of the forthcoming season of talks he has handed the reins to Kate Waldeis, who kindly agreed to organise the remainder.

In view of the success of last year's lunch, Annie and Kate have arranged another, for this November. We have chosen a Saturday to make it available to those who still have a working week.

Talking of Saturdays, don't forget the bonus talk on the morning of 12th October. Our summer season was rounded off nicely with an evening visit to Tenby Tudor Merchants House. We were invited to a cheese and wine event, where we were able to see the new hurdle fencing, garden planting and dolls that had been purchased through our previous donation.

If you don't have a standing order for your membership, this is a gentle reminder that the renewal fee is due in January; but you don't have to wait until then. Sheila Ashton, our membership secretary will be happy to receive your payment, along with the form. We value your signed consent for us to hold, up to date, contact details.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter featuring more details of past and future events, plus updates from the National Trust properties across the county. Thanks to Jim Price for putting the Newsletter together.

Andrew Weaver

REPORT ON 2019 SUMMER PROGRAMME EVENTS

Thursday April 4th – AGM and Talk – 'NT on Gower' Alan Kearsley-Evans.

Alan, whose NT responsibilities cover both Gower and Ceredigion, decided to concentrate his talk on a small farm adjacent to Rhosilli, called Vile. Nobody is sure how the name originated but it first appeared on a local map in 1845.

As with NT properties in Pembrokeshire, the Trust has decided to shift the objectives of its land management to protect the local flora and fauna which are under threat from problems such as global warming and intensive farming.

Vile has its own special characteristic in that it still has the traditional land management 'three field' system'. What it has to do is change some of its structure and farming to the benefit of wildlife, and people who want to visit the farm. Structure therefore includes more trees and hedges which give cover, food and

'wildlife corridors' to the fauna, but also a network of footpaths for visitors.

Farming also has to change. Wild flower meadows are being developed. Spring planting will be used for barley, and other crops if appropriate. This again gives better cover for fauna but also makes more food available during the breeding season. The aim is not to disturb the natural processes of fields from April to September. Crops are being reviewed.

Flowers such as sunflowers and poppies have been planted, and linseed and lavender are under consideration. There will also be a range of arable weeds which will bring colour and scent to the farm to the benefit of insect life.

Perhaps, in a few years, visitors will come to look at Vile and not Rhosilli.

PNTA SPRING TOUR TO DORSET – 12th – 16th MAY 2019

Thirty nine members headed south east to the Connaught Hotel, Bournemouth. Some had been on many a PNTA tour before, others were new to the experience. En route we visited Lacock NT featuring the Abbey, the village famous for TV and film locations, and the museum of photography. On the Monday we did not need to venture far to enjoy the delights of Kingston Lacy NT. The house offered art by famous names, whilst the grounds offered walks through acer groves and cedar avenues. In the afternoon most of the group strolled Compton Acres, with its selection of themed gardens. A grass snake was seen swimming in the waters of the Japanese area.

Tuesday saw us venturing further afield. The morning visit was to Nothe Fort, Weymouth. Constructed in the 1870s of Portland stone, it was built to deter Napoleon III like the many forts of Pembrokeshire. Now in the ownership of the council, enthusiastic volunteers have made it a historical museum of interest to all ages. Three such volunteers took us on guided tours. Amongst the many passages and nuclear bunker, the group sizes

dwindled, but fortunately everyone found their way back to the coach at the appointed time. The afternoon was spent at Abbotsbury Sub tropical Gardens which offered views of Chesil Bank and Golden Cap. A splinter group went to see the cygnets at the swannery.

Fortunately the weather continued to be bright, if breezy, for our Poole Harbour Cruise on the Wednesday. We saw the palatial retreat for John Lewis staff on Brownsea Island, and learnt about the oil producing island. We saw terns diving and a dolphin swimming by. The afternoon optional visit was the Russell-Cotes Gallery in Bournemouth with its personal collection of paintings and much more.

At the hotel, our tasty suppers were enjoyed at a leisurely pace, with much conversation, so there was no time for a quiz, despite travellers keenly absorbing facts across the week ready to be tested.

The route home took us via Stourhead, where the National Trust gardens were looking fine, with the Rhododendrons in full bloom.

DAY TRIPS

Thursday June 11th – Boat Trip from Neyland Jetty to Dale Pier, Lunch and return

The Boat Trip was a popular event on our Summer Programme. However when the day arrived it was wet and windy and the Dale Sailing staff explained that they did not have a boat that would keep people safe and dry. The majority of members then switched to our backup plan of driving to Dale to have Lunch. The Coco restaurant was very hospitable and served excellent food, much more enjoyable in that we were sitting there warm and dry. Perhaps we will try again next year.

Thursday June 27th – Coach trip to Llanelli.

This was our first visit to Llanelli in 20 years and we visited three historic houses.

Our first stop was **Llanelly House**. It was owned by the Stepney family in the 18th Century. They had moved from London to share in the wealth that Llanelli was creating with its local supplies of lead, tin and coal. The house was extensively renovated in the early 18th century and is seen to be the best example of early Georgian architecture in Wales. At that time the house was home to Sir Thomas Stepney, the 5th Baronet, and his wife Lady Elizabeth. Actors played the acrimonious state of their marriage with Sir Thomas complaining about his lack of funds, and Lady Elizabeth talking about her latest trip to Bath that enabled her to buy those things that kept her in fashion.

The House was later owned by a number of families but, as Llanelli's wealth decreased, it deteriorated and it was finally bought by the Town Council for use by local businesses. Its resurrection began in 2003 when it was runner up in the BBC Restoration series. Following a period of fund-raising, renovation commenced in 2011. This work was done with great care so that the House was brought back to its 18th Century design. However as a 21st century addition, it was fitted with splendid Audio Visual displays which included a court action against the Butler for inappropriate behaviour with one of the maids. It also has a very good café.

Our next stop was **Parc Howard**, a Victorian stone House built in 1885 by the Buckley family, the local brewers. It was gifted to the town in 1912. It is now a museum and art gallery which shows various facets of Llanelli's growth through mining and shipbuilding, and becoming the largest tin plate centre of manufacturing in the world, acquiring the nickname of Tinopolis. It also houses the largest public collection of Llanelli pottery. This shows how the manufacturing of pottery progressed and the problem of balancing quality and cost. Few local potteries survived into the 20th century.

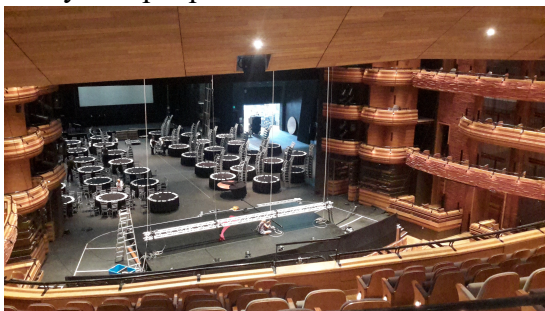
Our final stop was **Stradey Castle**, built for the Mansel Lewis family around 1850. We were welcomed by the current

custodians Patrick and Claire Mansel Lewis, our guides, who have lived there since 2009. The House was built to impress, and has a grand staircase and large rooms. The pictures on display were also impressive. From the tower you have a good view down to the sea, but this was only achieved by moving another large house which blocked the view.

Patrick and Claire were very open about the financial constraints of running the House. When they took it over, the Insurers demanded that the roof had to be made weatherproof and there had to be up to date electrical wiring. This work was costly but has now been done. Our tour finished off with tea and biscuits prepared by Claire followed by a short walk in the garden.

Thursday 11th July – Coach trip to the Wales Millennium Centre and Cardiff Castle

After a luxurious ride from Pembrokeshire, we were dropped off outside the **Millenium Centre** in Cardiff Bay. We were met by Joe and Robin, our tour guides, who first took us outside to see the ship structure of the building which was meant to replicate the industrial heritage of the area. We were then taken into the auditorium where we could see the whole stage being arranged for a banquet for nearly 400 people.



Next we then went downstairs into one of the four rehearsal rooms, which are sound and vibration proof. Each room is the same size as the main stage.

The general cast Dressing Rooms were next on the list, but we were told that the main characters Dressing Rooms had 7

foot high doorways to accommodate the elaborate headdresses for productions like the Lion King.

We went under the stage to see the workings of the orchestra pit, and then high up onto the gantry. Joe and Robin had been great guides being extremely knowledgeable and friendly in answering all our questions.

We then had two hours to stroll round the Bay and get some lunch before driving to **Cardiff Castle**. The Castle has its origins in Norman and Medieval times but the castle you see now was greatly enhanced in Victorian times by the Marquises of Bute, a Scottish Peerage, who built a fortune from the output of the South Wales Coalfield. He also made Cardiff the most important Welsh town. The 3rd Marquis decided to renovate the Castle and, with, his architect William Burges, created a lavish Victorian house. Many of its rooms had 22 carat gold on ceilings and intricate carvings. Religious themes relating to the family's



Catholicism were also common.

Strangely the Marquis only lived there for 6 weeks in a year. Following the nationalisation of the coal industry, the Marquis gave the Castle to the people of Cardiff in 1947. The Castle has a display of military memorabilia. There was a simulation of a war time air raid which was extremely realistic and noisy, and really quite scary.

SUMMER WALKS

Tuesday May 21st – Gupton Farm with Haydn Garlic, Senior Warden on the Stackpole Estate

Haydn explained that Gupton Farm, which abuts Freshwater West, came under the ownership of the NT as part of the Stackpole Estate which was transferred to them from the Cawdor Estate in 1976. The NT left the management of farms to their tenant farmers, but when Mr and Mrs Watkins retired in 2013, the Trust took Gupton 'in hand'. It was important that Gupton should be self-funding, and the better land was rented out to some other local farmers. It was decided that the farmhouse, farm buildings and some adjacent fields would be used to support tourism with the farmhouse being used as a holiday let, and the buildings and fields used for caravan and tents. On other fields, which were less fertile, the aim became to implement the wild meadow planting and the development of wildlife corridors. This programme is starting to progress but will take time on the very sandy soil..

The lower part of the farm is dominated by the Castlemartin Corse, the stream which runs into the sea at Freshwater West. The Corse has developed an enormous reed bed used by lots of different birds. It is a hotspot for local birders who have seen flocks of a thousand skylarks in the winter and also flocks of several thousands of lapwings and golden plovers. On our visit we were treated to the sight of a lone marsh harrier drifting over the reed beds which is a sight many of us will remember.

Wednesday June 5th – 'Southwood Farm' with Andrew Williams, Area Ranger Southwood.

Southwood Farm, near Roch and overlooking Newgale, was donated to the

NT in 2003 and has become the Home Farm for all the North Pembrokeshire. Properties. The two previous walks we had there both started on the coast side of the farm but this time we began at the farmhouse. Andrew led us down the lane which runs through the middle of the farm and into an old wood. The wood had been properly surveyed but one old ash was the only tree to be registered. It had some enormous branches which seemed to be defying gravity.

Andrew then showed us the herd of 20 Welsh Black cattle which are based at Southwood. Their role is to be taken out in the summer to the different areas of wild coast owned by the Trust to munch the undergrowth to stop it becoming dominant. Ideally about 50 cattle are needed but Southwood can only provide winter quarters for 20 and are reliant on the tenant farmers making up the balance.

Southwood also has 34 Welsh Mountain ponies, also used for coastland grazing. Andrew showed us six plump ponies which were still at Southwood and enjoying grassy meadows. He said they would quickly lose their fat when they had to forage for food in the undergrowth.

Wild flower meadows are also being developed at Southwood and they hope to have established 71 hectares in the next three years. Work on covered wildlife corridors is also underway with hedgerows being widened and connecting corridors created.

Andrew finished by showing us around the Courtyard buildings which were advanced for their time but have no obvious current use without a large amount of money being spent.

Tuesday July 2nd - 'Coal Mining at Colby' – Steve Whitehead

Steve first explained to us that when we look at the Colby Garden we are looking at a structure that was designed for coal mining. The pathways and water management were developed to facilitate the extraction of coal from the mines in the

valley and its movement to the seafront at Amroth from where it was shipped to its customers. Colby was within the confines of the Pembrokeshire coalfield which produced high quality anthracite. But as with all mines in the Pembrokeshire coalfield there were two major difficulties. Firstly that the coal seams were narrow and difficult to work, and secondly the geology of the coalfield is very fragmented and the seam you were working could suddenly disappear.

It is not clear when mining started in the area. Some seams were visible on the surface and could be worked with no tunnelling. This coal could be dug by families leaving a pit and piles of waste. Steve says there are many of these at Colby and some are still being discovered. However by the end of the 18th century the demand for coal was growing rapidly and landowners wished to exploit this. John Colby bought 123 acres at Colby to start mining. Interestingly this land was on the eastern side of the stream running down the Colby valley, while the western side was owned by his friend Lord Milford.

As Steve walked us around the Garden he pointed out a number of pits such as Bedlam, Hall, Engine and Corner and the sawing pit where pit props were cut. He also scuffed the ground and found bits of anthracite which were part of the waste from the pits.

The work in the pits was hard. Shifts were as long as 12 hours. Men did much of the coal cutting but women pulled many of the drams(carts) that took the coal from the coal face to the bottom of the mine shaft. Here it was taken to the surface using a windlass, also often operated by women, before being pulled down the valley. Children were also used for dram pulling when the tunnels could be three feet or less in height.

There was a hard price to pay for this. The norm for underground workers deaths was 40 to 45. Much of this was caused by lung disease, but it had not been discovered that the diseases were caused by coal dust. Children also developed deformities.

Stunted growth was common and it was commented that anyone could distinguish a collier's child from the children of other working people.

Mining at Colby died down around the end of the 19th century. The lodge was bought by Samuel Kay in 1873 and restoration of a woodland garden began.

Tudor Merchant's House

Thursday Sept 5th – Wine and Cheese Reception

The TMH entertained a party of Pembrokeshire NTA members for a Cheese and Wine evening at Tudor Merchant's House to enable us to visit the Tudor garden to see how our donation had been spent. Mair, the volunteer gardener, had worked tirelessly on the garden every week and her efforts have given us all a lovely garden to enjoy. Visitors regularly comment on her knowledge and the level of relevant detail she has at her fingertips. Jonathan Hughes, General Manager gave a special thanks to Mair for all her hard work and to the other staff members and volunteers who came to help on the evening. Many members enjoyed a tour around the house as some had not visited for a while, and the garden looked enchanting with all the lit candles that Mair had placed around the plants. Biscuits and wine were all bought from our National Trust shop in St David's and all the varieties of cheese were made in Pembrokeshire.

FUTURE EVENTS

PNTA ANNUAL LUNCH AT WOLFSCASTLE COUNTRY HOTEL SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th 2019.

As you will have seen in the Chairman's Report, the Lunch will take place on a Saturday to enable those in employment to attend.

There is a booking form attached giving full details. Our Lunches have always

been enjoyable and I am sure this one will continue to bring pleasure.

Our speaker at the Lunch will be Chris Harding. Chris was a pilot on the Haven for many years and a Captain at sea for many years before that. Gardening and golf list among his hobbies. He is presently captain of the Seniors at Milford Haven Golf Club. Chris will talk about his experiences at sea

SPRING TOUR TO CHESHIRE MAY 17TH TO MAY 21ST

Andrew and Annie are taking a well-earned break from organising the tour for next May. It has fallen to Lyn Humphries and myself to organise it. We have not been able to do any reconnaissance of the places we will visit although both Lyn and myself hail from the area and have visited many of the places in the past. Keeping my fingers crossed, I hope we have put together another good tour which people will enjoy.

We will be staying at Rowton Hall Hotel which is just three miles from the centre of Chester. It is a country house hotel, based on a Georgian house and set in its own grounds. The hotel says of itself that is "just minutes from Chester city centre but nestled in secluded grounds. Historic yet grand, with a relaxed, friendly feel that makes every welcome genuinely warm". Unfortunately the hotel does not have a lift but there are a few bedrooms on the ground floor. If stairs are a problem for anyone, please let me know. There is a spa with a pool which is available to everyone who wants to use it. The furthest of the properties we will be visiting, is within approximately an hour's driving time from hotel. So that after a day's visits you will be able to take advantage of the hotel's facilities or visit Chester itself.

We will be travelling with Richard Bros and will use the usual pick up points. On the way to Cheshire on the Sunday we hope to have a coffee stop in Aberystwyth and then travel on to Attingham Park for lunch. Attingham Park is as the National

Trust describes: 'an 18th-century mansion and estate shaped by a story of love and neglect' It sounds intriguing and we will have ample time to investigate.

This is our provisional programme so there may be changes.

On the first day we hope to visit Paradise Mill and Silk Museum in Macclesfield in the morning and to have a coffee break there. At the Silk Museum you can follow the journey of silk making, from cocoon to loom and view the displays of silk items. Paradise Mill is next door where there will be a guided tour to see the restored Jacquard looms and machinery, and watch as they weave. For those interested there is an opportunity to see the pattern books with the Museum curator. This is not part of the programme so if anyone is interested they need to let me know so that it can be arranged. Then we will travel on to Lyme Park, about half an hour away. This National Trust property is a glorious house, surrounded by gardens, moorland and deer park, used as Pemberley in the BBC filming of *Pride and Prejudice*, famous for the Colin Firth scene.

On Tuesday morning we plan to go to Tatton Park, an historic estate with Tudor hall, neo-classical mansion, lavish gardens, a deer park and playground and then move on to Quarry Bank, one of Britain's greatest industrial heritage sites, home to a complete industrial community.

On Wednesday we go to Dunham Massey - a garden for all seasons, an ancient deer park and a house filled with treasures and stories. In the afternoon we are planning a boat trip on the river Weaver to experience the Anderton Boat Lift designed to lift boats and barges the 50 feet from the River Weaver Navigation to the Trent & Mersey Canal as well as to have an explanation of the industrial history of Northwich..

On our way home on Thursday we are intending to stop at Croft Castle with its history of 1000 years of power, politics and pleasure in an intimate family home.

SPECIAL TALK

The Committee is very conscious that moving our Talks to afternoons has been very successful in terms of attendance, but it has made it very difficult for members in employment to participate. We are exploring ways in which we can involve them again. To this end we have set up the following talk at **Crundale Village Hall**, to assess the degree of interest.

Saturday October 12th at 10.30am – ‘Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Nature Conservation Projects’ – Paul Culyer

Paul is the Senior Reserve Manager for NRW in Pembrokeshire. He will talk on the work of NRW across Wales in a broad sense and then focus on his work on nature conservation in Pembrokeshire. This will cover Stackpole, Ty Canol and Llangloffan Fen.

WINTER PROGRAMME 2019/20 TALKS

Talks will be held on the first Thursday of the month in the Crundale Community Hall starting at 2.30pm.

Those attending will be asked to donate £2 per person to cover the speaker’s fee and refreshments.

Thursday October 3rd – ‘Refuse and Recycling’ – John King of Pembrokeshire County Council

John works in the waste recycling department of the County Council. His talk will be about the changes in waste recycling that the Council will shortly introduce. Most of us have the moment when we ask ourselves ‘which bag or box should ‘this’ go in’. The new process will offer further choices and hopefully assist us in choosing the right one.

Thursday November 7th - ‘Looking after our Special Landscapes and Seascapes’ – Edward Holdaway

In talking about “Looking after our special landscapes and seascapes” he proposes to

focus on the beginning. He will then explore the challenges that face our National Parks, both today and in the future, and suggest ways in which we look after them even better.

As to his CV – he is now retired. However, he was involved throughout his career in the planning and management of our special places.

He worked for the Countryside Commission for many years, where he was closely involved in the creation and management of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. More recently he was appointed by the Welsh Government as a member of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and was a Board member of the UK branch of the Federation of European National Parks. He was also engaged as a consultant on the planning and management of our special landscapes by various local and national public agencies.

December 5th – ‘Early Postal Services in Pembrokeshire’ – Rev. Roger Antell

Roger Antell is a retired vicar now living in Pembrokeshire, where his wife has historical and current family connections. He has been a member of the Welsh Postal History Society for many years, is its Magazine editor, and is currently Chairman. In 2011 the Society published his account of the Milford-Waterford mail packet service, 1600-1850.

His talk will describe how the early postal services in Pembrokeshire evolved up to about 1850, illustrated largely from his own collection.

January 2nd 2020 – ‘The Forgotten War’ – David James, West Wales Maritime Trust

David will talk about ships torpedoed off the Pembrokeshire coast in WW1 and how this has led to new links with Japan in recent years, both at Ambassador level and at a family level.

David is not asking for a donation, but will bring some books he has written and hope to find some buyers.

February 6th - ‘Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire’ - in the footsteps of Richard Fenton’ – Dr Robert Davies

Rob spoke to us last winter about the Landshipping mining disaster. This talk will look briefly at the life of Richard Fenton KC FAS, the historian, archaeologist, poet and scholar who wrote the book ‘Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire’ in 1811. The illustrated talk looks at many of his stopping points on his journey throughout the county. We look at the Gwaun Valley where he spent much of his life and the many coastal viewpoints he visited. The talk will follow his route from Fishguard meandering his way to St David’s and on to Haverfordwest via Dale and Milford. He frequently stayed at the homes of the landed gentry, many of these places will be discussed together with their owners.

March 5th – ‘Mining the Colby Coalfield’ – Steve Whitehead, Colby NT Manager

Steve led one of our Summer Walks last summer and amazed us with the story of 19th century industrial Colby. Participation of our Walks is much smaller than our afternoon Talks and we are sure many more members will be surprised with history of what is now a woodland garden.

April 2nd – AGM and Talk

Details to be announced in the Spring Newsletter

NT NEWSBOARD

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

**Colby Woodland.
Garden**

Steve Whitehead reports:

Visitor numbers at Colby continue to increase, already 3,000 ahead of last year and set to top 50,000 in 2019.

Member recruitment at Colby has been fantastic too. The team had a target for the whole year of 436 members to recruit and by the end of August had already signed up 598. An amazing effort!

Lots of events have been on over the summer, mostly bee and pollinator related to spread the word about improving habitats for our pollinating insects. Everything from building a giant wicker bee, travelling hives, insect hotel building, and the installation of our own hives through to mini insect themed dramas.

Rather ironically, honeybees have moved into the roof of the gazebo so we’ve had to close that to visitors. This Autumn we’ll be taking the roof off to extract the swarm. Add to all that a treetop safari, theatre in the meadow, wood turning weekends, twilight walks, (thanks again for the bat detectors!) pond safaris and history walks and it’s been a very busy summer.

We’ve also had a seasonal photography competition running, and the top three entries for the Summer competition can now be viewed up in the second-hand bookshop above the tearoom.

Parkrun has continued as usual attracting over 100 runners on most Saturday mornings and adding hugely to the weekend buzz at Colby.

Following the success of the “Busy Bees” program this year, exciting plans have been laid to base all our engagement activities in 2020 on the importance of trees in the landscape. Some funding has been secured for this, so look out for lots of tree-based activities and a tree-trail next year!

In the garden we’ve now installed new sky-glades in the top of the woodland to encourage visitors to just stop, lean back and look up at the trees and sky. The new forest food-garden between the car-parks has been started, with even more planting there planned for this Autumn. While clearing laurel around the mineshaft by Pamela Chance’s memorial, the gardener team made the exciting discovery that this is capped with another mine wheel, an exact match to the recently restored one and probably the other end of the wooden

drum in a balance wheel system. Now all we have to do is get together the money to cap the shaft in another way, so we can extract and restore it.

Out on the farmland we now have new farm tenants at Craig y Borion farm willing to work with us to improve the nature status of our farmland. Paul and Sophie will be farming organically and are just as keen to enrich the environment as we are. It's great to see kids being brought up there again too.

We also have a new tenant to work with on the land at Sunnybank, where similar plans are being put into place to raise high welfare beef cows on wildflower rich grassland.

All the new woodlands and woodland corridors on the southern half of Craig y Borion farm are growing away well, and the new tree nursery down in the garden has plenty of back-up saplings in it, ready to fill in for any casualties.

North Pembrokeshire

Mark Underhill, Countryside Manager for North Pembrokeshire, reports:

Magnificent Meadows has dominated much of the work of our ranger team this year. Magnificent Meadows is a project delivered by Plantlife in partnership with the National Trust, Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks and the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare. Its aim is to restore some of the 97% of meadows we have lost across the UK since the First World War.

As part of this project, the National Trust in Pembrokeshire is planning to restore over 100ha of meadows or species-rich grasslands over the next 3 years, starting with fields at Southwood farm. We have chosen fields at Southwood (receptor sites) based on: 1) Bio-survey that confirms their lack of diversity; and 2) Soil analysis that confirms they have a low nutrient status (particularly phosphate) and so are suitable for herbs. The receptor fields were grazed hard and then scarified with an agricultural implement called an "Einbock". The

receptor fields, once prepared have plenty of bare ground between the grasses that acts as a seed bed. We then worked with specialist contractors to cut hay from high quality NT meadows such as Goodhope and transport it immediately (when green) to the receptor sites to be spread by hand. This was a critical part of the operation, because if not spread quickly the hay heats up and "de-natures" the seed reducing their fertility/germination.

This was how we spent two weeks in August. A team of over 20 volunteers worked in rotation over two weeks to quickly spread the green hay across 9ha (9 International rugby pitches) at Southwood. Together we put in over 400 hrs in 8 days, spreading 70 large trailers of hay! After spreading, the fields will be rolled or grazed with cattle to press in the seed that will fall out of the hay. These will be stimulated by any frost we have this winter (vernalised) and then germinate in the spring 2020. Our hope is that by June 2020 we will already see a significant increase in diversity (more flowers). This will be monitored by annual surveys (comparing to the baseline survey completed by James this year).

Some of the fields were "spiced up" with the addition of a selection of wildflower seeds, purchased with the generous support of the PNTA. Thank you very much!!

The car-park teams have had another very busy season and look set to break another record for cars parked and memberships recruited (well done team)! At the same time we have been working with Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks Authority to improve the car-park surface and visitor welcome at Marloes Sands car-park. As I write we are just about to go out to tender for the project which will take place over-winter ready for opening at Easter 2020 (watch this space). This work is part paid for by the Welsh Government's Tourism Amenity Investment Support scheme.

On August the 5th we opened the gates of Southwood Farm for our 2nd Annual Farm

Fete. This was an opportunity for us to thank our supporters and showcase some of the work we are doing at Southwood (including our magnificent meadows). We were delighted to count nearly 500 visitors enjoying truck rides, kite flying, wild art, snail racing and welly wanging (with a record throw of 26 metres)!

Our new tenants at the Porth Clais car park kiosk (Ben and Carol Elliot) have had a fantastic 1st season. And we have been delighted to see the quality of the refreshments they are serving and the smiles of happy customers outside. Well done Ben and Caroline!

In the same vein, Charlie and Claire are enjoying their second season at Runwayskiln Café and we are delighted as they continue to attract the crowds with their lovely food. They have also managed to get their accommodation offer away with a modest start letting the old warden's cottage during the summer.

The Little Milford "windlass" has been installed complete with the interpretation funded by PNTA (thank you very much)! We are planning an official opening soon to which we will invite PNTA members.

Finally, our team: We continue this year with a full complement of rangers; and a shop and car-park team with very little changes from last year. I would like to welcome two new Full Time Volunteers: Lauren Dunkley and Matthew Gash. Lauren is on a "study year" from Aberystwyth University; and Matt has just completed his degree. They have both settled in well and are already an essential part of our team.

Our Thursday Volunteer group (volunteers who meet once a week on Thursdays to help us with countryside tasks) continues to grow and Cath has been successful in finding more volunteers to help in our shop in St David's. But we always need more (your National Trust needs you)! If you fancy an early morning shift meeting, greeting visitors Martin's Haven, chatting to customers in St David's shop; or "bashing scrub" on St David's commons we would love to hear from you.

Stackpole

Haydn Garlick reports:

It's been a very busy summer for everyone here on the Stackpole Estate, with the sunshine bringing lots of visitors to the beaches of Barafundle and Broadhaven especially. On very busy days Stackpole Quay car park would be full by 11am!

The Ranger Team has also been busy during the summer as we have the ongoing task of keeping our miles and miles of footpath open and clear for everybody to enjoy. Some of the trees which were planted in Cheriton Bottoms last winter were starting to get choked by brambles so a lot of these have been cleared to give the trees them a better chance of survival in the coming years. Within Lodge Park Wood, open grassland has been left to flower during the summer months; after everything has seeded, this area will be cut and the vegetation raked off and composted.

Access improvements have been made out in the Deer Park, with the installation of hand-gates alongside the electric ones, which used to confuse and deter some walkers in the past.



Much work has been carried out by volunteers around the Court site and Cawdor Cottage. The sunken garden adjacent to the brewery has had a garden makeover worthy of Alan Titchmarsh and his Groundforce team. To encourage bees and butterflies to this garden, new plants were purchased and planted. We will continue the work this autumn and winter by removing ivy from the terrace walls

whilst the vegetation from the terrace bank will be cut and removed.

Botanically, Gupton Farm looked amazing from early spring through to midsummer. The arable fields which were sown in the spring produced an abundance of arable weeds which attracted birds, butterflies, bees and insects associated with them. The large area of sand dune reversion fields produced an amazing show of the purple crane's-bill flower and yellow corn marigold.



Replacing some of the old boundary fences at Gupton has given us the opportunity to introduce wider field headlands, creating wildlife corridors and connectivity, as well as providing food and shelter for birds, insects and small mammals. We were treated to a range of wildlife whilst working at Gupton, from Hen Harriers to an unusual hairy dragonfly!

The activities and events were well attended by the public. Visitors who attended the bat walks were excited to see the greater horseshoe bats exiting the courtyard flats and hear weird sounds through their bat detectors. Lots of families came along to our rock pooling sessions at Freshwater West and pond dipping events at the Hidden Bridge.

We also attended Pembroke Town & Country Show where we had our own marquee and engaged with lots of children by making bug boxes and adders from driftwood. It was also nice to meet and talk to our local community about our work on the estate.

We will now be gearing up to carry out our autumn and winter woodland management and general maintenance work throughout the estate.

Tudor Merchant's House

Melanie Knapp reports:

In June we had several school visits where we all dressed up and our volunteer, Greg, kindly supported us by acting as "The Merchant". One school all came dressed in Tudor costume which really added to the engagement on the day and created a lot of interest when walking around Tenby! Our new term school visits start in mid-September when we have our first booking!

Also in June we had a visit from the author Sasha Handley (Senior Lecturer in Early Modern History at Manchester University and author of "Sleep in Early Modern England") who gave a very interesting talk to the staff and volunteers which tied in very nicely with our project on Sleep this year, especially the Household Sleeping Practices using Lavender and cures for Bed Bugs! She also gave us lots of facts and information on other Tudor sleeping habits and one that I share with all our visitors was that they would spend a third of their wealth on a bed!

In July we had a mystery visit from "Visit Wales" and passed our accreditation with very positive comments on the staff and volunteers here at the time. We can now boast having achieved a "Quality Assured Attraction for 2019/2020!).

We have just enjoyed a very busy School holidays with lots of families visiting our house and enjoying the Dolls Trail which you had kindly funded for us. We have decided on a "Bug Trail" for next year. This also ties in very closely with the conservation of our house. We will also be carrying on using our "sleep" material for the moment as it has been so well received. We have also been selling lavender and rose scented bags as our "in house" activity which has proved to be very popular and helped with our fund raising. I have been very encouraged by the amount of positive feedback received from our comments Cards within the house, personal letters and emails from visitors. We are so lucky to have such a

knowledgeable and motivated team of staff and volunteers!

We will close for the winter on Sunday 3rd November and will reopen for February Half Term on Saturday 15th February 2020 which will be The Trust's 125th Anniversary Year!



TMH Tudor Garden

N.T.AUTUMN/WINTER EVENTS:

**Spring events (March to May) 2019–
National Trust Pembrokeshire**

All events can also be viewed online at:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/search?query=pembrokeshire&type=event

***NAP – normal admission price**

****BE – Booking Essential**

/ wheelchair or buggy available

Colby Woodland Gardens

**31 October, 10.30 – 12.30 & 2pm – 4pm
Halloween: wicker man workshop** and campfire cooking. Create your own wicker man to take home and warm up with some campfire cooking. ****BE**

2 November – 2pm -3.30pm. Behind the lens: Photography talk with Drew Buckley. Join our VIP landscape and wildlife photographer. £5 per person.

***NAP **BE**

16 - 17 November. 10am – 4pm Colby's Winter Fair. Shop for local art, craft and homemade goods. Free entry.

North Pembrokeshire

31 October, 1pm - 5pm Halloween at Southwood Farm. Get spooky with broomstick making, face painting, some creepy craft and a scary spider trail. £1 per person

6 November, 10am-1pm Ranger ramble, Marloes Peninsula. Learn about our conservation work in this beautiful part of Wales. Adult £6, child £3.50. Bring along a packed lunch, or you can visit the Runwayskiln café after the walk. ****BE.**

7 December, 12.30pm-3pm Christmas craft, Southwood Farm. Come join the celebrations and make your own seasonal decorations. £1 per person.

Stackpole

28 & 30 October & 1 November, 9am-12noon. Junior ranger mornings at Lodge Park Woods. Wild about nature and the great outdoors. There'll be something different to do every morning. Child £15 (suitable for 7-12 year olds). ****BE.**

8 December, 2pm-4pm Christmas wreath making. Get crafty this Christmas and make your own wreath using natural materials from our woodland. £12 per wreath. ****BE.**

15 December, 10.15am-12pm Festive fun run. Choose from 1.5 miles, 3 miles or 6 miles before a Christmassy treat in the Boathouse tea-room. Free event.

Tudor Merchants House

Until 3 November Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite. Night caps at the ready as you embark on a slumber adventure at the Tudor Merchant's House. ***NAP.**

26 October - 3 November, 11am - 4.30pm. Tudor household trail. Spot the hidden Tudor dolls and their roles in the house. Free event

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 robashon95@yahoo.co.uk .

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our membership subscriptions are due for renewal on Jan 1st 2020. We are notifying, individually, members whom our records do not show as having renewed. Subscription rates are unchanged at £5 for Individual and £8 for Family Membership. If you would like to pay by Standing Order, please ask the Membership Secretary for a form.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

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

CHAIRMAN*	Andrew Weaver Tel: 01646 831323
VICE-CHAIRMAN*	Jim Price
& WALKS	Tel: 01646 661344
TREASURER*	Steven Flather Tel: 01437 765094
SECRETARY*	Annie Weaver Tel: 01646 831323

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

	Sheila Ashton Tel: 01437 731525
TALKS	Kate Waldies Tel: 01437 891578
TRIPS	Tim Sims-Williams Tel: 01348 811412
P.R.	Jane Mason Tel: 01437 762387
MailChimp	Andrew Weaver Tel: 01646 831323
General	Marilyn James 01437 891205

**PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
CYMDEITHAS PENFRO YR YMDDIRIEDOLAETH GENEDLAETHOL**

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 _____

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone number (optional) _____

**BOOKING FORM FOR
PNTA ANNUAL LUNCH ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH 2019
Wolfscastle Country Hotel 12.30 for 1.00pm**

MENU

TO START

- A Spicy pumpkin and sweet potato soup with parsnip
- B. Chicken Caesar salad, Parmesan, bacon lardons, garlic croutons
- C Smoked salmon pate, pistachio toast, dressed leaves

MAIN COURSE

- A. Chicken stuffed with spinach, herbs and cream cheese
- B. Boeuf bourguignon with red wine and shallots, bacon and mushroom sauce
- C. Fish Pie Pembrokeshire sea-food medley in a creamy sauce, mashed potato and Parmesan crumb
- D. Winter vegetable nut roast Wellington (v)

PUDDING

- A. Winter fruit meringue roulade
- B. Chocolate brownie with orange sorbet
- C. Brioche bread and butter pudding with salt caramel ice cream

Tea/ coffee

£26.00 per head

NAME Menu choices

_____ S _____ M _____ P _____

email or tel: _____

NAME Menu choices

_____ S _____ M _____ P _____

email or tel: _____

Please send cheque made payable to PNTA and menu choices to Annie Weaver, Larks
Rising, Kiln Park, Burton, Milford Haven, SA73 1NY
Tel 01646 831323 or annielweaver@gmail.com

We are hoping to have a MYSTERY RAFFLE this year, so please, could any donated raffle prize be wrapped? Thank you so much

BOOKING FORM FOR PNTA SPRING TOUR 17TH - 21TH MAY 2020

Cheshire

We will be staying at the **Rowton Hall Hotel**, which is set in the countryside, just three miles from the centre of Chester.

Our activities, whilst they are subject to alteration, are likely to include:-Dunham Massey, Lyme Park, Quarry Bank and Tatton – all National Trust properties – as well as visits to Paradise mill and Silk museum in Macclesfield and a river trip at Anderton Boat lift on the River Weaver.

Attingham Park and Croft Castle are the National Trust properties that we intend to visit en route.

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 non NT visits are included in the cost.

THE COST WILL BE **£455 pp (single supplement £80)**. This includes three course dinner, bed and breakfast, and the use of the leisure facilities 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, **but recent tours have filled the coach, so early applications are advised, to avoid disappointment.**

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

Return form and cheque made out to PNTA and send to;
Margret Price, Leys Cottage, 1Axton Hill, Pembroke, SA71 5HD

Name/Names _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

email address _____

Single ____ Double ____ Twin ____ room (Please tick)