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PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

**NEWSLETTER No.60
Autumn 2026**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



*Jane overlooking Barafundle Bay
Photograph Jane Mason*

Phew! What a summer and certainly our Pembrokeshire Coast was the only place to be.... Barafundle was very busy on the one occasion we ventured there, but it appears the good news from Stackpole National Trust staff is because we had such a long summer heatwave, everyone did not always rush to the beach at once.... There is also so much coastline to explore. Thank you to PNTA committee members who have been busy promoting the Association. At the 50th anniversary Stackpole picnic and the Eisteddfod we had a presence. Read on and you will learn about the delightful Association trips and walks this summer you may have missed. But make sure you **DO NOT** miss our Christmas meal and AGM at the St Bride's Hotel, Saundersfoot on November 26th, you will be guaranteed an excellent three course meal with Christmas treats and that stunning sea

view. There is an interesting winter talks programme lined up starting on October 1st and several other events too. Don't forget to find out about the annual four-day PNTA tour around the Shrewsbury area in May 2027. Our website page always has all the details.



Barafundle Beach Photograph Jane Mason

Our committee really does need some help. We have all been managing everything for years but must get some fresh input. We are looking for a website manager (training given using easy to use templates) and individuals to organise a day out or visit next summer. Please contact me by email jmason@fastmail.com or phone to discuss 07796331743. If we do not get some help soon, we will need to review what the Association can offer. So, I look forward to hearing from you.

Jane Mason Chairman.

ANNUAL SUMMER TOUR 2027
SUNDAY MAY 9TH-13TH
SHREWSBURY -

We will be staying in the centre of historic Shrewsbury in the Prince Rupert Hotel, an amazing building dating back to the 14th 15th and 16th centuries and giving easy access to local exploration on foot.



Prince Rupert Bar & Lounge
Photograph Andrew Weaver

Many visits are in the advanced planning stages and will include a boat ride along the almost circular part of the Severn to get an early flavour of the town.

We hope to visit several NT properties including Wightwick an outstanding Arts and Crafts House, Ironbridge- recently adopted by the Trust with some museums still being refurbished, Attingham and Carding Mill. There will be opportunities to opt in or out of various activities such as Cosford Air Museum and Shrewsbury Prison.

On one day we intend to visit the small and magical Stokesay castle an English Heritage property when en route to Ludlow where we will have a tour of the impressive castle which rises spectacularly above the river Teme.



Ludlow Castle the round chapel
Photograph Andrew Weaver



Stokesay Castle Gatehouse.
Photograph Andrew Weaver

The single supplement is more manageable this year.

As our visit costs have yet to be finalised, we are quoting a guide price.

The final price will not differ by much and will be announced later this year.

Guide price

Double or Twin £680 per person

Single supplement £115.

A booking form is attached on page 23

Annie

AUTUMN WALKS & TALKS 2026-27

Monday 28th September at 1030hrs
Walk to look at NT Land Management at
Gupton, near Freshwater West.



Alex Shilling NT Lead Ranger

This interpretive walk will be led by NT Lead Ranger, Alex Shilling. Meet at the NT car park at Freshwater West, where there are public toilets. Please wear suitable outdoor gear and walking boots and (I suggest) bring poles as the terrain is uneven and there is one steepish ascent. The distance is about 2 miles, and the walk is expected to take at least 2 hours. Alex will explain the NT's plans for the medium and longer-term management of the area, including the extensive reed-beds, sand dunes, hedgerows, grazing regimes, wildlife interests and the recreational aspects of this popular area which includes the NT campsite at Gupton Farm. There is a bird hide about halfway round which will be of interest to the birders in our midst. Numbers will be limited.

Bookings commence on 21st September via Steve Drinkwater on 07761 231 325 (text) or (email) steve.drinkwater68@gmail.com He will acknowledge all bookings.

Tuesday October 20th, 'Tour of the
Pembrokeshire Archives' and optional lunch at
the 'Bristol Trader', Haverfordwest. (You can
select either to come on the tour, or both.)

Book early to secure a place.

Tour of the Pembrokeshire Archives

Travel by own car or car share. **Arrive** 10.00am, **finish** 12.00 noon. **Cost** £5.00 per person. Up to 20 places available.

- Introduction in the public research room covering who they are, what they hold, why archives matter, and how easily the collections and research facilities can be used.
- Behind-the-scenes visit to the conservation studio, digitisation facilities, and the repository block, where over 131,000 records are kept in climate-controlled conditions, with an explanation of how collections are cared for and accessed.
- Return to the research room to view selected original items of interest, including maps, newspapers, and postcard albums.

Lunch at the 'Bristol Trader', Haverfordwest (optional).

Time 12.45 Parking available nearby. **Cost: No deposit required; Winter Menu to be sent out in September by Sandra; Pre order with Sandra by 6th October 2026; all food and drinks to be paid for individually on the 20th Oct.**

To book for the tour, or tour and lunch:

complete the **Booking Form on page 22** or on PNTA website/Mailchimp. Alternatively Email Sandra at pntatrips@btinternet.com for a form, or text to **07926 757321** if you don't use email.

Booking/Payment deadline by **BACS 6th October 2026**, or by **post 1st October 2026**.

WINTER TALKS:

ALL TALKS START AT 2.30PM IN CRUNDALE VILLAGE HALL - There is no need to book to attend the talks. Refreshments will be served. Please note that entry fee will be £2 for members and £3 for non-members

Date: 1st October 2026

Speaker: James January-McCann
RCAHMW

Title: Welsh Place Names



The List of Historic Place Names of Wales is a groundbreaking resource containing hundreds of thousands of individual place names. The List is used both as an antiquarian and historical resource in its own right, and also as the basis on which new streets and developments across Wales are officially named.

Born and raised in Havant, a small town outside Portsmouth, in an Irish/Welsh family, Dr James January-McCann finished his PhD in 2016, producing a scholarly edition of Robert Gwyn's earliest surviving text, *Na all fod un Ffydd onyd yr Hen Ffydd*. He was appointed as a Teaching Fellow in the Celtic Languages in the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies, Aberystwyth in 2015, and promoted to lecturer the following year, before taking up his current post as The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales' Place Names Officer in June 2017, where he is responsible for the List of Historic Place Names. His research interests are Early Modern Catholic Literature in Welsh, and Welsh Place Names, and he has written a number of articles on both fields. His latest publication is *Vernacular Catholic Literature* in the second volume of the *Oxford History of British and Irish Catholicism*. He has also translated a number of books for learners of Irish, and is a regular

columnist for Lingo360, the online magazine for Welsh learners.

Dr James January-McCann, Place Names Officer at the Royal Commission will delve into the history and development of the List and discuss the various sources from which it draws material, with a strong focus on local place names.

Date: 05 November 2026

Speaker: Caroline Marmara

Title: Stackpole Walled Gardens – Then and Now



Caroline Marmara's talk traces a century of memories from the six-acre **Stackpole Walled Garden**, once supplying vegetables, fruit and flowers to **Stackpole Court** until the mansion's demolition in **1963**. Each morning, staff walked from the garden through Lodge Park Wood to deliver produce to the 'Big House'. At Christmas, exotic flowers and fruits were requested, supported by the garden's heated glasshouses, vine cultivation and water-storage irrigation system.

The garden was a centre of activity: beekeepers attended training days, and its roses won prizes at both the **Chelsea Flower Show** and the **Royal Welsh Show**. Many local families recall working across the estate, and some contributed memories to Caroline's **2010 National Trust oral history project**.

For the past **40 years**, the Walled Garden has been leased by **Pembrokeshire Mencap Ltd**, offering training, work and wellbeing for adults with learning disabilities. Caroline has been a trustee since **2012**, and the garden remains a place of deep personal significance.

Date: 3rd Dec 2027

Speaker: Michael Thomas

Title: The Abbot's Farewell



Michael Thomas was born and raised within a mile or so of the ruins of Whitland Abbey. As a child, in the 1960s, he and his friends often visited the Abbey area to play in the woods and fish the river Gronw. Over the years his knowledge of the Abbey and its history grew a little, but it was tuning in to an online talk by Professor Janet Burton during lockdown that sparked a renewed interest in the Abbey and its history. A series of happy coincidences in the following year led him to write and perform a monologue, a kind of 'performative history', in the voice of the last Abbot of Whitland Abbey. Over the past four years Michael has performed the piece about a dozen times to various groups such as Merched y Wawr, various dinner clubs as well as at Open Days at the Abbey ruins organised by the Friends of Whitland Abbey.

In essence this is an attempt to bring the history of the Abbey to life in what Professor Gwyn Alf Williams called a 'people's remembrancer' style. From its foundation in the late 12th century to its dissolution under Henry VIII Whitland Abbey was of significant social, economic, political and cultural importance. It deserves recognition and a special place in local, Welsh and European history. Following the conclusion of the monologue Michael will add supplementary information on the Abbey as well as some general points of interest on the Cistercian Order.

Michael worked in social care in several roles across Wales before his retirement. He graduated from Lanchester Polytechnic with an honours degree in Modern Studies in 1976. Michael would like to thank Professor Burton for inspiring him to

look a little deeper into the medieval world, David H Williams for his scholarship on the Cistercians in Wales and also to Robert Nisbet, Haverfordwest, who's creative writing class he attended for a number of years.

Date: 7th Jan 2027

Speaker: Terry John

Title: The Siege of Pembroke 1648



Pembrokeshire-born, I was educated at Milford Haven Grammar School and later at Cardiff College of Art. I began my career teaching in schools in Buckinghamshire and Hampshire before returning home to Pembrokeshire.

In 1987 I was appointed Education Officer for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, a post I held until taking early retirement in 1996. Since then, I have worked as a tutor with Learning Pembrokeshire. I have a life-long interest in history and have written books and articles on various aspects of Welsh history. I am also a long-standing member of a Parliamentary regiment of the Sealed Knot, the 17th-century re-enactment society.

The talk recounts the dramatic events of the 1648 siege of Pembroke, when the castle garrison—previously loyal to Parliament—unexpectedly changed allegiance and declared for the king, helping to ignite the Second Civil War.

Over six weeks, the town endured a determined siege by a substantial Parliamentary force commanded by Oliver Cromwell, finally surrendering in July 1648.

The talk will examine the possible motives behind this sudden shift in loyalty and consider the subsequent fate of the leaders of the revolt

Date: 4th Feb 2027

**Speaker: Steve Whitehead Head Gardener,
Colby NT**

**Title: "People and Nature Thriving" on the
Colby Estate and the Carmarthenshire Coast**



Steve was born in Leicestershire and has lived in North Derbyshire, Devon, North Somerset, and for the past twenty years in Pembrokeshire. His early career included eleven years in the nursery and garden-centre trade, working across both small independent nurseries and major garden-centre chains. He then spent six years in the landscaping sector with companies ranging from small local firms to large contractors, gaining experience in everything from domestic garden design to substantial commercial landscaping projects.

For the last twenty years Steve has worked for the National Trust in Pembrokeshire—initially as Head Gardener and currently as Gardens and Outdoors Manager. He is responsible for Colby Woodland Garden, the wider Colby Estate, and National Trust properties along the Carmarthenshire Coast.

People and Nature Thriving on the Colby Estate and Carmarthenshire Coast

Steve Whitehead will explore how people, wildlife and landscapes are being supported across the Colby Estate and the Carmarthenshire Coast. At Colby, he will outline the Mount and Barn project, where new tree planting, pond creation, improved access and close partnership working are helping to reshape the site. He will describe the Woodland Improvement Grant at Colby Woodlands, focusing on removing invasive non-native species, creating wood pasture, installing leaky dams and enhancing access. The development of woodland management plans across all National Trust woodlands will be

highlighted, with an emphasis on building in community benefit wherever possible.

Steve will also discuss *Landscape for Lessers*, a partnership with the Vincent Wildlife Trust aimed at restoring bat roosts and supporting declining Lesser Horseshoe Bat populations. Community projects form a major part of the work at Colby, including the allotments and orchard created with the Llanteg, Amroth and Summerhill communities, using green hay from Colby's meadow to establish a wildflower-rich orchard. He will touch on the Llanteg and Amroth Re-naturing Community's efforts to protect local streams, and the joint restoration of freshwater habitats through pond creation at Cwmrath Farm.

Turning to the Carmarthenshire Coast, Steve will describe the community partnership at Morfa Bychan and Ragwen Point, working to make Morfa safe and welcoming once again and to restore the SSSI at Ragwen Point to good condition. He will conclude with work at Wharley Point, where Lords Park Farm is developing a diversified community enterprise centred on farming, food production, wood pasture creation and new pond habitats around a sensitive SSSI landscape.



Autumn leaves at Colby

Date: 4 March 2027

Speaker: Gary Hicks

Title: Special Constabulary, some interesting incidents



A Chartered Civil Engineer by profession Gary has always had an interest in the Police. Had he reached 5ft 10 inches he would have joined the Pembrokeshire Constabulary in 1968, that wasn't to be, but thankfully his exam results pointed the way to a career in Civil Engineering.

At Swansea University he served with the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), the senior Regiment of the Reserve Army. In 1973 on taking up an engineering position in Bedfordshire he joined the Bedfordshire Police as a Special Constable.

After a brief break in service, which saw him returning to West Wales he again served with R.Mon.R.E, up to 1982 when he joined Dyfed Powys Special Constabulary, serving until his retirement at the age of 68. In total he served the Special Constabulary for 39 years, the last seven of which were as the Dyfed Powys Police Specials Chief Officer.

"Special Constabulary - some interesting Incidents! "

Gary's talk will give a brief introduction to the history of the Special Constabulary – **which predates the regular Police Service**. He will describe what the recruitment process, and training was like in 1973 – a time when Police Officers only had a whistle, notebook and pencil, and you seldom saw a female police officer on the front line. He will then share with the audience his varied experiences over 39 years of front-line policing. This takes the form of the audience choosing "Incident Titles" from a circulated list, Gary will then talk, from memory, about the chosen "Incidents" – obviously names and locations will not be disclosed, although on one occasion the

incident recalled actually involved a member of that audience – so be warned!

Date: 1st April

Speaker: Simon Hancock

Title: Historic Ghosts and Legends of Pembrokeshire Piracy and Smuggling



Simon Hancock is a Haverfordwest-based historian known for clear, well-researched storytelling about Pembrokeshire's past. His talks for local societies and heritage groups blend strong archival work with an engaging delivery, making complex historical subjects accessible to broad audiences. He contributes to community history projects and supports museums and archives in promoting the region's heritage.

Simon's talk looks at a selection of ghosts, myths and legends from Pembrokeshire 's vast range of such stories.

The historic ghosts start with the stories of Gerald of Wales and include ghost stories of old buildings, ships and roads up to the twentieth century.

FUTURE EVENTS

ANNUAL FESTIVE LUNCH

Thursday November 26th

AGM: Midday

Lunch 1pm

It's that time of year when we start to think about our annual lunch. This year it will be held at the St Brides Hotel in Saundersfoot, with its view across the bay.

It's good to have a change of venue now and again. We have been promised complimentary crackers and coffee or tea after the meal, which is much appreciated.

There will be a very brief **AGM**, which usually lasts about 15 minutes at around midday, which will allow plenty of time to enjoy preprandial drinks. (Remember if you have joined the Celtic Neighbour scheme, which is open to Pembrokeshire residents, you will be able to save 15% on drinks. It will also enable you to get 15% of food in the Ty hotel and St Brides (on another day). Lunch will be served at 1pm
We will have an entertaining speaker and of course the Christmas raffle. Please bring, if you can, a gift-wrapped item for a prize.

I would be grateful if you could send me your menu choices **ASAP** to annielweaver@gmail.com and pay £40 via BACS to PNTA and mark it "lunch"

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association acc no. 90390992 Sort code 20-37-82.

or send a cheque payable to PNTA plus your menu choices to

Annie Weaver, Larks Rising, Kiln Park, Burton Ferry SA73 1NY

***Please let me know of any special dietary requirements and I will inform the hotel**

MENU

STARTERS

Butternut squash, chilli and coconut soup with toasted seeds and coriander

Chicken liver and truffle Parfait with quince, pickled walnuts and brioche

Confit Garlic and Herb Panna Cotta with smoked applewood cheese croutons, confit tomatoes

MAINS

Roasted Turkey Crown with cranberry, sage stuffing, fondant potato, bread sauce and turkey gravy

Fillet of Stone Bass
With Puy lentils BBQ leek and Parsley sauce

Steak and Perl Las Cheese Pie
With smoked mash, butter roasted carrots and pickled shallots

Saffron and Coconut Crusted Tofu
With chickpea and kidney bean hindi, cardamom infused red onions and kale

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding
Vanilla and brandy sauce

Mulled Poached Pear
With chocolate cremeux and mandarin ice cream

Warm Apple Cake
With ginger and cinnamon syrup and Pembrokeshire cider sorbet

Selection of Welsh Cheeses
Perl Las, Snowdonia black bomber and Perl Wen, grapes, spiced tomato chutney and Cradoc crackers

REPORTS OF EVENTS

SUMMER 2026

THE ANNUAL SPRING TOUR TO DEVON MAY 2026



PNTA tour party outside Exeter Cathedral

Forty-four PNTA members took part in this year's tour.

On our outward journey we stopped off at Hestercombe House and Gardens to see the formal terrace designed by Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens.



The orangery at Hestercombe

Refreshed we completed our journey to the Imperial Hotel, Torquay for our four-night stay. With service a bit slow at supper, there was plenty of time for good natured chatter.

Monday saw us at Exeter Cathedral where our distinctively dressed American guide, Leslie, single handedly coped with our large group, holding our attention with her distinctive style.



Exeter Cathedral

We then moved on to Killerton NT. The small but welcoming family home had a costume display as a bonus. The sunny intervals enhanced our enjoyment of the gardens and broader landscape views.

Lyn Humphries' quiz, on Monday evening was well received with some close scores.

On Tuesday we went to Dartmouth. Some enjoyed the ferry ride to Greenway NT, the family holiday home of Agatha Christie. The remainder were taken on a two-hour tour of the Britannia Naval college. There were many compliments for our guide Nichola.

The party then reunited for a visit to Buckfast Abbey.

On Wednesday we drove west to Plymouth. After a boat trip, giving a wave to Cornwall, we had plenty of choice for lunch venues.

We then drove north towards our booked visit at Buckland Abbey NT. Fortunately our driver, Sam, spotted a road closure ahead, (due to an accident) and was able to turn around before we got stuck for the afternoon in a traffic jam.

Annie and I were aware that Saltram NT was not far away. With fingers crossed a phone call was made. They had room in their car park for a coach and at short notice they made us very welcome. Phew!



Saltram

On Thursday morning the double rainbow over Torbay warned us that showers were about and it was time to head home.



Rainbow over Torbay

En route there we had a stop at Tyntesfield NT, where a founder member of PNTA, Margret Price, joined us for a cuppa and a stroll. Our thanks go to all those that joined in to create another sociable tour, raising funds along the way to support Pembrokeshire NT projects.

Report and Photographs Andrew Weaver

April 13th TWIG Project Colby

Natasha Doane, TWIG Project Officer, took us on a fascinating guided walk on 13th April 2026, through part of the Colby Woodlands (situated to the N of the Woodland Garden) to explain what the TWIG Project is achieving.

The project is funded by The Woodland Investment Grant (TWIG) scheme. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with the Welsh Government.

The history of these wild wooded valleys is rooted in the industrial past of coal mining and the functional use of timber through time. In the past, native species were replaced with fast growing trees such as conifers, so that a lot of our native woodland species struggled to survive. The project aims to restore ecological balance within the woodlands (79 ha) by limited intervention, restoring the woodland habitats to optimum health, thus the thousands of plants, bryophytes, fungi, insects, birds and mammals dependent on these woodland habitats will become part of an increasingly functional ecological network. This is a fantastic opportunity to restore an area that will flourish from minimal intervention. Nature knows what to do, it just needs a little help to be able find balance again. Key elements of the project include:

- Improving access into the woodlands by repairing pathways, steps and managing path vegetation for all to enjoy.
- Contributing towards the needs of local people as a public space.
- Restoring 69 hectares of “Priority Habitat” (Ancient Woodland and Wood Pasture) through eradication of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS), natural flood plain management, woodland restructuring, and the introduction of cattle grazing on heathland areas.
- Planting 1000 native broadleaf trees and over 150 fruit trees.
- Providing a new visitor map to aid navigation as well as downloadable trails for the website.

The streams are being managed by inserting “leaky dams” which slow the flow of water at times of peak flow. Thus, the woodland will retain more water, soil and nutrients whilst filtering the water that flows downstream, providing healthier habitats along the way.

The project also involves adjoining farmland, meadows and water systems and there has been a high level of cooperation with local farmers, landowners and local communities.



*Natasha Doane explaining the TWIG Project
Photograph Myles Huthwaite*

The group were fascinated by the excellent explanations given by Natasha as we visited parts of the site to see examples of the works being undertaken.



Photograph Myles Huthwaite

The two-year project will finish in June 2026, but the long-term management will continue in line with the management plan, and a ranger has been appointed to take the work forward. The walk concluded at the tea-rooms and Natasha was warmly thanked for her detailed presentation



Photograph Myles Huthwaite

Report by Steve Drinkwater

April 20th Hilton Court

Visit to Hilton Court 20th April 2026



Lily pond Photograph Lyn Humphries

After weeks of cold, wind and rain, we were treated to a glorious day for this event. Everyone arrived for coffee which we were able to have outside. There were people who had never been to Hilton before and some not for a very long time. Others were repeating a lovely walk through the woods with bluebells and pink campion, and down to the water. Sometimes sitting in contemplation or meeting up with old friends.

We were allowed to visit the private garden and sit in the covered retreat to see the view. Then we had a good lunch and said our goodbyes. Just before I left, I heard a cuckoo! First time for about 20 years - magical!

Report by Lyn Humphries

June 10th St Brides.



St Brides Bay

On 10th June, 32 of us had our evening meal at Dylan's restaurant at St Brides Castle with a grand view of the bay. Some of us went straight there, but the majority met at the bay by the Chapel. The pump house was open, and we were able to see the progress made there by The Friends of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Luckily, the weather had turned out fine and we could do our walk. The advance guard seemed to race up the coast path, but one or two of us stopped to look at the view and the fishermen on the rocks.



St Brides Castle photograph Lyn Humphries

We were all served promptly with good food and had a lot of chatter. Then we had a relaxed meander down the drive and across the field to the Chapel. It was a very pleasant evening!

Report by Lyn Humphries

19th June 2026

Visit to Castell Henllys Iron Age Village -

Thirteen members of PNTA met in the well-appointed cafe and reception building to be greeted by members of the site staff. Once we were all gathered together (and some had downed a quick coffee in the interim), we were directed to walk up the track to the reconstructed Iron Age Village, where we were met by the site guides in authentic period costumes. The two enthusiastic young people turned out to be university students, working there in their vacation. We were ushered into a large roundhouse with a roaring fire, a fitting context to hear detailed descriptions of life in the Iron Age.

The Castell Henllys site was reconstructed in the 1980's by the Late Hugh Foster - a remarkable man who had previously set up the London Dungeon. His early ideas had included a desire to construct a Theme Park on the site, but this had not gone down well with the planning authority. However, he did obtain permission from CADW to reconstruct Iron Age roundhouses on their original sites - probably a unique feature of this site. He built the roundhouses and opened the site to visitors. After his death, the site was put on the market and acquired by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority in 1991, in order to help support sustainable tourism in North Pembrokeshire.

Over the intervening years, the NPA has made numerous improvements, including a rebuild of the farmhouse and the construction of the modern building which now houses the reception, cafe, shop and visitor centre. The round houses have also had to be rebuilt, as must have been the case in the Iron Age.

As well as the general visitors, Castell Henllys welcomes large numbers of school groups every year. The site has been extensively dug over by archaeologists from York University, over more than twenty summer vacations. Thus a huge amount is known about the site as it developed. Very few artefacts were found, however, owing to the very acidic soil conditions. After a delightful lunch in the cafe, we had a very interesting talk by Owen Edwards, the Site Manager, who has worked there in various roles over more than twelve years. He explained in some detail as to how the operation of the site fits in with

NPA objectives, alongside Carew Castle & Tidal Mill and Oriel y Parc - the NPA Discovery Centre in St Davids. A lively discussion ensued. Some members went back up to the Village for a closer look and more interaction with the guides. It was a fascinating visit, with much to see and good weather. More details about the site can be found by following this link: [Castell Henllys Iron Age Village - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)



The Roundhouse
Photograph by Jane Mason

Report by Steve Drinkwater

Dr Beynon's Bug Farm, 14 July 2026

Seventeen PNTA members enjoyed a lively and informative visit to **Dr Beynon's Bug Farm** in St Davids on 14 July 2026. From the moment we arrived, the team made us feel welcome and gave a clear, engaging introduction to the Bug Farm's mix of conservation work, research, and visitor attractions.



Green Bean Insect Photograph Andrew Weaver

The **Up-Close Experience** was a real highlight. Members gathered around to learn how

invertebrates are perceived by the public and to see and handle tropical species at close quarters. The presenter's enthusiasm made the session both fun and unexpectedly captivating.



Display of old agricultural equipment

Afterwards, everyone explored the site at their own pace — the **Tropical Bug Zoo, Museum, Bug Farm Trail, Nature Recovery Centre**, and the **History of Pembrokeshire Farming Exhibition** offered plenty to discover. The **Grub Kitchen Café** opened especially for us, providing drinks and cakes and a relaxed chance to chat.

We finished with a few final questions and a browse in the gift shop before heading home. Members spoke very positively about the visit, praising the knowledgeable staff, thoughtful displays, and the Bug Farm's clear commitment to conservation.

A thoroughly enjoyable morning and a welcome addition to our 2026 programme.

Report by Jane Mason

September 9th A Day Coach Trip to the Royal Mint and St Fagans

It was a strange start to the morning. There were the cars parked neatly in the rugby club car park. There was the Richards bros coach and there was the band of friendly faces, but something was missing. Ah the suitcases! Yes, this time it was onto the coach for one day only. This time we were able to spread ourselves with a certain degree of abandon over many empty seats.

The activities in the Mint had changed a lot, for those who had been there before. We were lucky to have an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide who turned out to be a part-time baker. We were all able to hang onto her every word thanks a bit of tech where those still blessed with good hearing had an ear pod and those who needed hearing help were able to wear a brilliant device over their aid.



Our guide tells the story of the Mint through the centuries. Photograph Andrew Weaver

We went into the 100m long factory after admiring the daffodil mimicking wind turbine on the hillside and imagined the solar panels spread out somewhere helping the Mint to become more self supporting energy wise.

All was quiet in the hall. The workmen were having an early lunch. Business is quiet too. Covid helped to hasten the demise of cash carrying. No longer is it cost effective to continue to manufacture foreign currency either.

In storage there is a small fortune of coins with the Queen's head. King Charles has said they must not be melted down, so it will be a long time before his image will jingle in our pockets.

These days the workmen have been reskilled and now make silver and gold jewellery occasionally downing tools to go back to coin making.

Recycling is the new diversification. They extract rare metals from electronics favouring motherboards as the most productive. They hope to eventually communicate with council recycling plants and individuals to source more "raw materials".

Some members struck their own 50p pieces celebrating 50 years of the Aardman animation, which may well set them off on collecting many more commemorative editions.

In St Fagans it was strange how many members were seen drifting off in the direction of the rebuilt Cardiff pub, not to see the sawdust strewn floor or Edwardian barmaid but to search for liquid refreshment



St Teilo's Church photograph Andrew Weaver

The court of Llewelyn Fawr and St Teilo's church were definite favourites recreating life and colour.

Luke drove us safely back home in very good time for an early supper.

Report by Annie Weaver

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.

Rebecca Evans – Community and Participation Project Officer



PNTA update – Autumn 2026

Visitor Experience

It's been a very busy summer across Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen Bay. Visitor numbers have been up, and car parks were often full. We've appreciated volunteer support at Stackpole Quay car park to help manage parking at the busiest times. New car park machines were installed at Stackpole Quay, Bosherton and Broad Haven, which meant staff had more time to engage with visitors. The much-anticipated solar eclipse saw unprecedented crowds flock to the coast – the roads around Freshwater West were gridlocked for hours. A big thank you to Andrew and Annie, who came to help litter pick and check the area on the following day. North Pembrokeshire has been busy with visitors too, and the season is ending now with ranger Matt's series of seal walks at Marloes Deer Park.

Just when we thought we had avoided any severe consequences of a long, hot, dry summer a fire broke out at Morfa Bychan, an area of National Trust land between Marros and Pendine. It has been in our care since we became Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen Bay as part of the Sustainable Futures Programme. Steve Whitehead, Garden and Outdoors Manager, and Daniel Wood, local ranger, were very quick to react and have been involved in community meetings and discussions with

neighbours and local authorities. The fire has brought people together and there is a sense of momentum and co-operation to try and prevent future fires and to improve the safety, amenity and nature value of the site.

Colby Woodland Garden has had a busy summer season. A garden party in the walled garden kick started the Colby Gazebo appeal – a fundraising project to restore the trompe l'oeil paintings, continue conservation work and bring the gazebo back in to use. In partnership with Span Arts they hosted an outdoor aerial circus, Journey of the Shapeshifter, a story inspired by the Mabinogi.



Colby Gazebo National Trust images James Dobson

Families enjoyed soft archery and meadow games as part of the summer of play, and Colby continued to welcome large numbers of runners to Park Run every Saturday. The second hand book shop has raised nearly £6000 so far – quite an achievement. Visitor numbers may have eased off now, but the team are full steam ahead with planning for October half term activities and continuing to celebrate Welsh cultural heritage.

Tudor Merchants House

Despite the challenges of having no internet and no mobile phone signal over the summer, Tudor Merchants House has had a noticeable increase in paying and international visitors and has continued to receive excellent feedback on their volunteers and the house and garden. The Festival of Archaeology was well received, and they had a good time at Carew Castle as part of Carew's Unearthing History Day. They have already been approached by several school groups for the Autumn term, so it's shaping up to be a busy one.

Community, Participation and Volunteering

Stackpole Picnic

Its 50 years since the National Trust started caring for the Stackpole Estate. Such a milestone was a good opportunity to stop and reflect on what has changed in that time:

- restoration and re-purposing of old buildings,
- opening up access with new footpaths, cycle tracks and accessible spaces,
- welcoming thousands of visitors, school children and local people,
- and of course, recognising the high nature value of the Stackpole Estate.

We marked the occasion with a community picnic on the court site lawn and announcing the winners of the photo competition, kindly sponsored by PNTA. Partners had stalls celebrating the key themes of nature, access and history at Stackpole along with some lawn games, art, delicious food and a fabulous performance from our local Stackpole Singers. We feel very lucky to care for such an incredible site, and to work with partners who are also passionate about Stackpole. The event had a real buzz and a lovely community feel to it. We look forward to the next 50 years and beyond!



*Investigating insects with Darwin Science
National Trust images Milly Kelly*



Looking for insects. National Trust images Milly Kelly



Mencap Walled Garden National Trust images Milly Kelly

Photos

Winning images from the adult's photo competition

1st Place – Just one of my favourite views, Alex Moss

2nd Place – Between moss and light, Cameron Scourfield

3rd Place – Stackpole swims, Lauren Thomas



Winning Photograph Alex Moss



Sandpalace Arts National Trust images

Agricultural Shows

This year we had a presence at both Pembroke Show in Lamphey and the County Show in Haverfordwest. We enjoyed engaging with people, showing off the photo competition entries and just being present as part of the wider community. Equally as valuable was time spent connecting with other stall holders and organisations.

Volunteers' Week

Volunteers' week is celebrated nationally in the first week of June. This year we gathered at Stackpole and volunteers had the opportunity to learn about and try out traditional stone wall repair and repointing techniques with National Trust contractors and / or learn about the fascinating history of the Stackpole Estate on a guided walk with Ruth. We shared some lunch in the sunken garden, a space looked after by volunteers. It was great to see volunteers who do different roles at different places across Pembrokeshire come together and enjoy activities and each other's company.

Eisteddfod

National Trust Cymru spent a week at the Eisteddfod at the start of August, in Llantwd (North Pembrokeshire), connecting with our Welsh language and heritage. A big diolch yn fawr iawn to Marilyn at the PNTA for volunteering your time and helping to make our presence on the Maes such a success this year. The stand was a hive of activity all week, and it was great to see such positive engagement with our content and craft activities, partner organisations (including yourselves, Amgueddfa Cymru and Darwin Science), and our first panel event! It was a huge team effort, months in the making, and we should all be incredibly proud of what we achieved. Diolch eto!



PNTA Stand at the Eisteddfod



Kate Mellor at the Eisteddfod Photograph Marilyn James

St David's shop has also had a very busy season, with the campsites in and around St Davids being full and lots of happy visitors calling in. Jelly Cat products and Welsh products have been the most popular, and shelves are now being stocked ready for Christmas. Cath enjoyed being alongside PNTA at the Eisteddfod and will always be ready with a warm welcome for PNTA members in the shop.

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.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

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) with the new style membership form downloadable from the PNTA website to Membership Secretary Angela Jones – 'Briar Patch', The Ridgeway Penally, Tenby, SA70 7RJ or better still, complete a standing order form which is available on the PNTA website. Payment by BACS transfer is preferable to cheques.

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association
Account no: 90390992
Sort Code: **20-37-82** Reference your name.

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

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, Angela Jones angieprobertjones@hotmail.com

MAILCHIMP

I aim to send these email updates at approximately monthly intervals. These are mainly reminders of forthcoming events but include other bits of news that I hope will be 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.

NEWSLETTER BY E MAIL.

This edition of the newsletter is being sent out by e mail unless you have specifically asked for a paper copy.

This will enable the society not only to save money on paper and postage (and of course do our bit to save trees) but also allow us to contact you at short notice when we are able to arrange events. Some of you will already be receiving Andrew's messages via mailchimp and of course the newsletter is always published on the website, but an e mail with the newsletter attached would be straight to your inbox.

Our Association membership fees are very competitive. To save ongoing costs, our bi-annual newsletter (April and September), is now being emailed to all members and not posted. So, it is important we have your up-to-date contact details on our new style membership form. If you must receive a copy by post, please make this known on your form or by email, which can be sent to Membership Secretary Angela Jones.

angieprobertjones@hotmail.com

We request an additional £2 donation, which can be paid by bank transfer or to Treasurer Steven at a winter talk or to a committee member.

**YOUR OFFICERS AND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ARE AS FOLLOWS (* OFFICER):**

Chairman* Jane Mason

Vice-Chairman* Angela Jones

Treasurer* Steven Flather

Secretary* Annie Weaver
Tel: 01646 831323

Membership Secretary. Angela Jones Mob: 077965699
angieprobertjones@hotmail.com

Mailchimp Andrew Weaver

Newsletter Marilyn James

Publicity Jane Mason

Walks Steve Drinkwater

Day Trips

Winter Talks. Graham Wright & Sandra Wright

**Additional
Socials.** Lyn Humphries

FINANCE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

Our finance position continues to be healthy with a surplus of £5,481, that is £659 more than in 2024. This has allowed the Association to donate £4,555 to the National Trust for 2025, £1,000 more than in 2024. The accounts show actual donations paid as £6,460, this figure includes £3,000 committed in 2024 but not released until 2025. Also £1,095 of the 2025 donation had not been released at 31 December 2025 as refurbishment of the Stackpole trailer had not been completed.

Apart from the change in the National Trust donation, our financial position has changed very little. Cash and bank balances are at a healthy £9.7k and the General Fund stands at over £7k after providing for donations. Movements in the Receipts and Payments in advance are due to timing differences in the payment of spring tour deposits; the tour remains are main income source.

A summary of the 2025 Annual Statement of Accounts with comparative figures for 2024 is shown below. An electronic copy of the full statement is available on request by e mailing

Sflather21@gmail.com

Notes and accounts prepared by
Steven Flather FCCA
Treasurer

PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2025

SUMMARISED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2024		2025
£	£	£
	<u>INCOME</u>	
(2,031.75)	Membership subscriptions winter talks	(1,939.00)
(3,528.50)	Tours, fund raising and donations received	(4,287.60)
(54.62)	Bank	(48.52)
		(6,275.12)
(5,614.87)		
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
490.00	Winter talks	430.00
302.78	Administration and gifts	364.09
		794.09
792.78		
(4,822.09)	(surplus)/deficit before donations	(5,481.03)
3,500.00	To Provision for National Trust Donation	4,555.00
(1,322.09)	(surplus)/deficit after donations	(926.03)
1,322.09	To/(from) Accumulated Fund	926.03
<u>Nil</u>		<u>Nil</u>

SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

2024		2025
£	£	£
11,507.81	Cash and Bank	9,740.88
(2,423.00)	Payments and receipts in advance	(1,635.04)
<u>9,084.81</u>		<u>8,105.84</u>
	<u>Accumulated Fund</u>	
4,762.72	At start of year	6,084.81
1,322.09	(To)/From Income and Expenditure Account	926.03
<u>6,084.81</u>	At end of year	<u>7,010.84</u>
	<u>Provision for National Trust Donations</u>	
nil	At start of year	3,000.00
3,500.00	(To)/From Income and Expenditure Account	4,555.00
(500.00)	Donations paid	(6,460.00)
3,000.00	At end of year	1,095.00
<u>9,084.81</u>	Total Funds	<u>8,105.84</u>

SUMMARISED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2024		2025
£	£	£
(1,322.09)	(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	(926.03)
2,000.00	(Increase)/Decrease in Provisions	1,905.00
1,206.62	(increase)/Decrease in Payments and Receipts in advance	787.96
<u>1,884.53</u>		<u>1,766.93</u>
11,507.81	Closing Cash and Bank	9,740.88
13,392.34	Less: Opening Cash and Bank	11,507.81
<u>(1,884.53)</u>	Movement in Cash and Bank	<u>(1,766.93)</u>

PNTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Pembrokeshire National Trust Association will hold its AGM at St Bride's Hotel Saundersfoot on Thursday November 26th 2026 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

Please Note – The minutes of the 2025 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 _____

Seconder _____

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

Please send your form, by Thursday 19th November to:

Annie Weaver Secretary PNTA, Larks Rising, Kiln Park,

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

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association Booking Form for Archives and /or Bristol Trader

You need to be a member of the Pembrokeshire National Trust Association to attend. *Essential*.

You can select either to come on the archives tour, or both the tour & lunch.

Visit to The Pembrokeshire Archives, Haverfordwest, Tuesday 20 October 2026

Morning visit to *The Pembrokeshire Archives*. Travel by own car, or car share. Free parking.

- **Cost:** £5.00 per person payable by the 6th October.
 - **Times:** 10.00am-12.00 midday. **Places:** Minimum 10 - maximum 20 people.
-

Lunch at the 'Bristol Trader', Tuesday 20th October 2026

Travel by own car, or car share. Parking available nearby.

Cost: No deposit required; **Winter Menu to be sent out in September** by Sandra; Pre order with **Sandra** by 6th October 2026; **all food and drinks to be paid for individually on the day.**

Times: 12.45 **Places:** Maximum 20 people.

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FORM FOR GROUP VISIT TO Pembrokeshire Archives and or, Bristol Trader.

I / we want to attend the **Archive** / **Archive & Lunch** (*circle the option you want*)

Archive £5.00 per person – payment non-refundable.

Bristol Trader no deposit- all food and drinks ordered to be paid for individually on the 20th Oct..

.....

Please complete in full when booking, thank you.

Name 1..... *Essential*

Name 2..... *Essential*

Contact Mobile Phone Number *Essential*

Contact Email..... *Essential*

I/ We wish to pay by (tick which appropriate) **BACS** **CHEQUE**

Amount due /paid £..... *Essential*

PNTA Bank Details to pay by BACS through your bank:

Business Account: Pembrokeshire National Trust Association

Account no: **90390992** Sort Code: **20-37-82** Reference: **Archives visit.**

Last date for booking form & payment by BACS is 6th October 2026.

If paying by cheque. Please complete and return the **Booking Form together with your cheque. Send the cheque and form to: Sandra Wright, 2 St Peters Way, Steynton, Milford Haven, SA73 1HT.**

Make the cheque payable to PNTA, post by 1st October 2026.

BOOKING FORM FOR PNTA SPRING TOUR 9TH - 13th MAY 2027

We will be staying at the Prince Rupert Hotel, Shrewsbury, as our base for **touring Shropshire**.

Our **provisional** timetable of activities:

Take a boat trip on the Severn to view Shrewsbury from the river.

Visit Stokesay Castle (English Heritage) and Ludlow Castle.

See the Arts and Craft at Wightwick Manor NT, near Wolverhampton.

Then go on to Cosford RAF museum or Moseley Old Hall NT.

Take a look at Blist Hill, Ironbridge NT.

There will be time to explore more of Shrewsbury itself, with the option to visit the former prison. The town offers a museum, the market, churches, floral displays at the quarry, its own castle and of course shops.

Attingham NT is nearby, so a visit there is possibility.

Annie and I have yet to do a further recce, hence the itinerary may change a bit, but the above gives you a flavour of what to expect. We will be travelling by coach with Richards Bros. **You need to be a PNTA member to come on the trip.**

Those who are not National Trust members may need to pay the entry fee for NT properties visited. Most other entry fees etc are included in the price.

THE COST WILL BE approximately **£680pp** for those sharing a room (**single supplement £115**). This includes coach travel plus three course dinner, bed and breakfast.

We need at least 30 on board to make the trip viable.

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

If you would like to reserve your place, please send your cheque made payable to PNTA for the **deposit (£50 per person)** with your booking form to;

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

See the notes below if you prefer to make online payments.

Name/Names _____

Address _____

Phone numbers _____

email address _____

Single ____ Double ____ Twin ____ room (Please tick)

Payment by Cheque Yes/No or online Yes/No (Please indicate)

If you prefer to pay online, please pay Barclays Bank, Sort Code 20-37-82 for the credit of the PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION, Account Number 90390992 Please add 2027 tour as the reference

Please still send a form by post or email to andrew.pnta@gmail.com 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 or email.

