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PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026 No 59**

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



Jane Mason under the Magnolia at Tredegar House. Photograph Alan Mason

Spring has Sprung

and with it a range of Association interesting strolls, socials and day trips this summer. Please join in and book with the organiser on the list further on in this newsletter.

Thank you to all members for your support for the PNTA this year, which has enabled us to donate to several projects in National Trust sites around Pembrokeshire:

- to recover and bring up to date the second-hand book trailer £1095. This raises over £1000 a year for the National Trust.
- repairs to the rose arch and path edging at Lodge Park, Stackpole £1260

- sessile oak planting at Southwood and Abermawr £1000
- baskets and pottery for the Tudor Merchants House £500
- bookcase for Colby second-hand book area £200
- Voice recorders for community project and water sampling £450

Our winter talks have been delightfully varied and well attended with a full house for the March talk to hear about Pembrokeshire islands.

After a reorganisation of staff and now covering a wider area into Carmarthenshire, the Pembrokeshire National Trust can now look forward positively to a successful season. The PNTA look forward to working with staff members Kate Mellor and Rebecca Evans to support our efforts to expand our membership and support the National Trust locally.

Thanks to all the committee who have worked hard and helped me this year. I am pleased that Angela Jones has agreed to join us and take over from me acting as interim Membership Secretary. She will also become Vice Chairman. We still welcome new committee members to our friendly team, so do contact me if interested.

Happy summer all
Jane Mason
Chairman

SUMMER WALKS & TRIPS 2026

Walks for Summer – Steve Drinkwater

Following the same pattern as in 2025, I have organised three walks for this summer. Each is relatively short, with an emphasis on interpretation of the location and topic. Numbers on each walk will be limited to 20. I will take bookings, preferably by email or text, commencing one week before the event in each case. More details will be given in Mailchimp in advance of each walk.

Please note that you are responsible for your own safety so please make sure that you have adequate footwear and clothing suitable for the weather and the terrain.

If you wish to go on any trips or walks, you will need to be a paid-up member of the PNTA.

Monday 13th April - a walk in the Colby woodlands to look at the TWIG project (Habitat Restoration and access improvements) with Natasha Doane National Trust Project Officer. Meet 11am at the Upper car park at Colby.

The terrain is likely to be very muddy, with some steepish slopes, so wear boots or shoes with a good grip. Walking poles might be useful. Duration of the walk around 1.5 hours.

Bookings from Monday 6th April to Steve Drinkwater by text on 07761 231325 or by email on Steve.drinkwater68@gmail.com

Friday 19th June Castell Henllys Iron Age Village. Day out maximum 20 people.

Make your own way to Castell Henllys at Meline SA41 3UR, signposted from A487 between Felindre Farchog and Eglwysrwr. Drive past the church and then bear left, follow the entrance drive to the main car park. The visitor centre and reception is adjacent to the car park. **Admission is £9 per head. Please arrive in good time for 1100hrs.**

Outdoor clothing and footwear is recommended. We will have a guided visit in the morning, lunch will be available at about

12.30, **which must be pre-ordered via Steve Drinkwater.** Lunch will comprise an assortment of sandwiches, with a garnish and crisps, a cake and a hot drink. **Cost £10.** If you wish to order lunch, **Steve needs to receive your lunch order by 0900 on Wednesday 17th June** - please ensure that you advise us of any allergies, etc. (Alternatively, you can bring your own sandwiches and purchase drinks in the Blasus Cafe.)

After lunch we will have an interesting talk on the management of the site by a senior member of staff. Background information can be found via this link: [Castell Henllys Iron Age Village - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

Bookings for the visit commence Friday 12th June to Steve Drinkwater by text on 07761 231325 or by email on steve.drinkwater68@gmail.com He will confirm each booking and lunch where requested.

Admission £9. Lunch £10.

Tuesday 7th July Whitesands

A stroll to look at new National Trust land acquisition with Ranger George Mee - Nature Recovery Ranger for the National Trust, Pembrokeshire North

Meet at 11am in the Whitesands car park which you need to pay for, (it is not NT) We understand that the fee is £6.50, cash advisable as there may be mobile signal issues if trying to pay by card. Sturdy footwear and waterproofs recommended. Binoculars may be useful. Some of the terrain may be muddy underfoot. Part of the walk is on the coast path which runs close to the cliff edge. The walk will look at why the NT acquired this piece of land, nature conservation issues, arable plants and birds as well as points of interest in the locality. Duration of walk 1 - 1.5 hours. Toilets and cafe adjacent to the car park.

Bookings from 30th June to Steve Drinkwater by text on 07761 231325 or by email on

Steve.drinkwater68@gmail.com

Summer Trips

Monday 20th April Hilton Court

Arrive between 10.30am - 11am. Coffee is available to purchase in the cafe.

Time for a leisurely walk through the woods and gardens and hopefully a peaceful sit by the water.

Entrance to the garden is £5 each.

Lunch - sandwich with crisps, hot drink and homemade cake £10.

Choice of sandwiches, ham and tomato, cheese and pickle, egg and cress and chicken and bacon.

As there is now only limited admission to Hilton Court, we will have the cafe and gardens to ourselves.

To register for the visit and give sandwich orders please contact Lyn Humphries on 01646 621159 or e mail lynb.humphries@gmail.com before the 13th April 2026



Lily pond at Hilton Court. Photograph by Lyn Humphries

Wednesday June 10th.

Evening meal at St Brides Castle restaurant 7pm.



St Brides Castle photograph Lyn Humphries

Meet at St Brides Bay car park at 6pm. Please car share if possible. We will meander up the coast path and across the field to the castle restaurant, returning to the car park after the meal. For those unable to do the walk there is limited parking through the castle by the tennis courts.



St Brides Bay Photograph Lyn Humphries

Please register for attendance and food choices with Lyn Humphries on 01646 621159 or email lynb.humphries@gmail.com.

Menu on page 15 please ensure that you advise Lyn of any dietary requirements, allergies etc.

Payment can be made to Steven Flather 21, Pembroke Road, Merlins Bridge, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA61 1JW by cheque for PNTA or by bank transfer to

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association

Account no: **90390992**

Sort Code: **20-37-82** reference St Brides.

Sunday 12th July Stackpole 50th Anniversary Celebration

Save the date! Picnic and other activities, a photography competition is planned as well. When available more details will be on the PNTA website and through Mailchimp.

Day Trip

Tuesday 14th July Group visit to the Bug Farm and Free Afternoon in St Davids

Travel by own car or car share. Arrive for 10.30am. Short 'Welcome Talk', followed by a 'Up Close Experience' where you get a chance to see some bugs.



Hands on experience Photograph Andrew Weaver

You can then spend time on a self-guided tour around the Museum, Tropical Bug Zoo, and Farm Trail. There is the all-important Café serving drinks and cakes, and a shop. We will leave at 1pm. The cost will be £12.60 per person, refreshments extra.

If you are interested in the trip, please contact Sandra, by preference on email at pntatrips@btinternet.com or return the booking form (page 14) with your payment by BACS details below. **Pembrokeshire National Trust Association** Account no: **90390992**

Sort Code: **20-37-82** reference **Bug Farm**
If you don't have access to email, TEXT Sandra on 07926 757321 and she will get back to you. **Definite numbers and payment need to be in by 22nd MAY 2026**

Day Trip Wednesday Sept 9th

COACH TRIP WITH TOUR IN THE ROYAL MINT AND VISIT TO ST FAGANS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

In order to cover the cost of the coach we need a minimum of 30 people to subscribe. If you have friends or family who would like to join us, please let me know.

The cost will be £37pp (coach is £25pp and the mint tour £12pp)

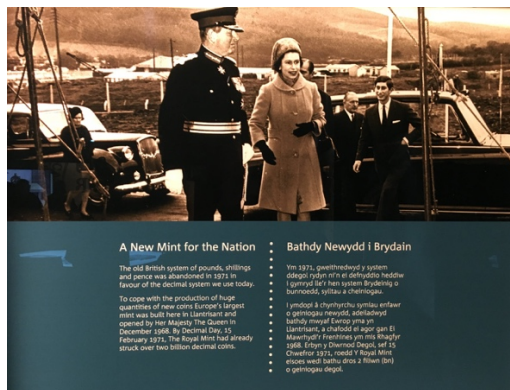
We need to leave Haverfordwest Rugby club at 8.30am. We will leave St Fagans at 5pm approx. If you are interested in the trip please contact Annie on annielweaver@gmail.com and I will send you a form. If you don't have access to email, phone me on 0789 0756 063

I will need to know definite numbers by the end of July

There is also a booking form on page 16 of this newsletter.



*St. Fagans Llewellyn's Hall
Photograph Andrew Weaver*



The Royal Mint photograph Andrew Weaver

Reports on Autumn/Winter talks 2025/26

For more in-depth reports on the Winter talks visit the PNTA website.

Pembsnta.org.uk

October 2nd 2025

Ant Rogers. Biodiversity-The state of nature in the global, national and local context.



The talk given by Ant stresses the vital role of healthy ecosystems in supporting life and the global economy, noting that over half of the world's economic output depends on nature. It highlights significant environmental risks, such as climate action failure and biodiversity loss, as reported by the World Economic Forum. Focusing on Wales, there has been a 20% decline in wildlife since 1994. Moths are most affected and one in six species are now threatened with extinction. This is mostly due to human activities, climate change, and invasive species. The Pembrokeshire Nature Recovery Action Plan was mentioned as a local response to these challenges.

Report by Graham Wright

November 6th 2025

Nicola Davies, Wild Books, writing about nature for children.

Nicola Davies is a zoologist and author of over 80 children's books, mainly focused on the natural world. Her books have been translated into more than 12 languages and have won awards in the UK, Japan, America, Germany, and France. The novel 'Skrimli' won the Wales Book of the Year (children and young people's category) in 2024. She is a Professor of Practice at the University of Wales, School of Illustration in Swansea, and lives near Solva. From September 2025, she is the new Children's Laureate for Wales.

Nicola was a presenter on the BBC's 'The Really Wild Show' and has studied species such as bats, turtles, sharks, and whales. She aims to communicate the wonder of the natural world and emphasizes the importance of children's connection with nature.

Using imagination, illustration, storytelling, information and humour, in her books she engages with different age children

'*Surprising Sharks*' was highlighted as an example of an informative picture book that uses illustrations and playful storytelling to teach children about sharks. In the book she flips perspective, showing that humans are a greater threat to sharks than vice versa.

Use of an interesting and unusual book title may attract different audiences (e.g., '*Poo*', '*What's Eating You*', '*Animals Behaving Badly*').

Fantasy fiction is employed to address complex topics like climate change, politics, and greed, making them acceptable to children without causing distress.

Nicola has a lifelong love of poetry and uses it to convey information succinctly.

The talk was concluded by reinforcing the theme of appreciating the wonder of the natural world.

Report by Graham Wright

December 4th 2025

Linda Asman Promoting Pembroke's Heritage.

Linda Asman is Chair of the Pembroke & Monkton Local History Society, a registered charity which aims to research and raise awareness of the heritage of Pembroke and district.

During the talk Linda spoke about the projects and achievements of the Society since its inception in 2010.

Initially the Society prioritised the creation of a photographic and oral history archive, which was subsequently published as a DVD with accompanying book. Then, in 2013, Pembroke Town Council set up its Regeneration Committee to bring together local organisations to work on projects to enhance the town. Linda described how this was the catalyst for more ambitious projects. The History Society took a leading part in developing a Town Trail (with Pembroke Civic Trust), a Digital Town Trail and most ambitions of all, a statue of Pembroke's most famous son, Henry VII which was unveiled in 2017. The Society took this forward with a further statue of William

Marshal unveiled in 2022 and is working on plans to develop a statue trail, working closely with the Town Council and community.

The Society is also very proud of its role in the setting up of a museum in Pembroke's Town Hall. Society volunteers have developed the museum from scratch on an entirely voluntary basis, so successfully that it has recently been awarded full accreditation status.

Some interesting insights were given i.e. fund raising with a miniature figure of Henry VII, using a local sculptor (Harriet Addyman) and the three future statues of women, Nest, Margaret and Isabel.

Linda showed that combined aspects of art, heritage and the natural environment are splendidly displayed by means of the statues, castle, walks, and millpond.

Information regarding the projects mentioned in the talk may be found on the website

<https://www.pembrokeandmonktonhistory.org.uk>

Report by Graham Wright

January 8th 2026

Angela Jones. Gumfreston Church

Angela has enjoyed a long career in education, complemented by a longstanding passion for history, literature, and heritage. As a dedicated volunteer at the Tudor Merchant's House in Tenby, she has contributed significantly to preserving and interpreting local history. Her work in historical settings has enabled her to blend storytelling, education, and community engagement effectively.

During her recent talk on Gumfreston, Angela set the scene and introduced the area with historical pictures, maps and the phrase, "the world forgotten by the world forgot." Situated in a wooded valley above the river Ritec, Gumfreston was historically significant as a stop for pilgrims travelling to St Davids and may have also attracted smugglers. The site's origins predate the church, with evidence of Roman and Celtic worship, including a distinctive round churchyard.

The Church of St Lawrence, located near three holy wells reputed for their healing properties, was central to village life and even supported local sporting traditions, such as cockfighting. The belfry of the church houses what is believed to be the oldest bell in the county. Although the church fell

into ruin, it has since been restored by the Friends of Friendless Churches, revealing medieval wall paintings and other historical features.

Angela also highlighted notable figures associated with Gumfreston, including Rev Smith, a rector known for his work as a beekeeper, antiquary, archaeologist, and geologist. His collection became foundational to the Tenby Museum. Other notable connections include Benjamin Hall (linked to Big Ben and the Elizabeth Tower), Edwin William John (father of Augustus and Gwen John), and the site of a historic duel between William Richards and John Owen. The Perrot family were once associated with nearby Scotsborough manor, which was abandoned following a smallpox outbreak and remains in total ruin.

Angela's talk was interesting and demonstrated the enduring historical and cultural significance of this often-overlooked village. After the talk Jane showed a short video which complemented the talk and introduced the renovation work done by Friends of Friendless Churches.

Report by Graham Wright

February 5th 2026

Melanie Knapp @ Mair Coombes Davies. Tudor Merchants House and Garden



*Mair & Melanie at PNTA Talk
Photograph Andrew Weaver*

The theme of the talk was based on "A conversation between the house team exploring some of the first feast days in January and February, looking at three elements on what would be involved in the house now and in the Tudor period. Namely cleaning, preparation of food for the feast and health following overindulgence"

Melanie and Mair had brought along a collection of items to support the talk. These included a copy of 'The National Trust Manual of Housekeeping' and '500 Points of Good Husbandry' by Thomas Tusser (a practical guide to agriculture and household management written in the late 16th century). A selection of plants from the garden were used, as examples to give explanations about their medicinal, culinary, or domestic purpose. Mair told about herbs, plant-based remedies and their applications. The following are given as examples: Lavender served multiple purposes in the household. It was valued for its ability to mask unpleasant odours, repel insects, add flavour to food, and assist in treating illnesses. Bay leaf, a commonly used aromatic herb, featured regularly in pottage and was often combined with parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme to enhance flavour and provide health benefits. Flag iris was used to alleviate toothache, while nettle ointment served as an anti-inflammatory treatment for stiff limbs. Liver wart assisted in healing burns and scalds, and Alexanders helped to warm a cold stomach.

Beetroot and saffron were natural colouring agents. Tannin, extracted from certain plants, was utilised as the foundation for making ink.

Household cleaning tasks included sweeping floors and cleaning windows. We were shown a traditional broom crafted from birch twigs bound to a handle with bark. The broom's flexible and springy construction, along with its rounded shape, made it particularly effective for sweeping uneven surfaces. For removal of mould, a solution of ethanol and water was applied. Vinegar was a versatile substance, used for general cleaning, culinary purposes, and hygiene. Bug-related issues were addressed by washing linen thoroughly. Soap bars were made from tallow, and occasionally, charcoal was added to produce black soap.

Artificial illumination was provided by beeswax candles, which could be straight or coiled. These candles burned cleanly and emitted a pleasant fragrance. In less affluent households, tallow candles were used instead.

Wicks, reeds, and mullein stalks also served as lighting materials, although they were associated with bacteria and dirt resulting from smoke residue. Starch was produced from the roots of Bluebell or Cuckoo pint. The merchant's house was renowned

for offering quality food on all occasions. Fish was often chosen over meat, with porpoise served alongside parsley sauce. Flat leaf parsley was preferred to round leaf parsley due to its benefits for indigestion. Oysters were sourced from the west bank of Caldey, and almonds were imported. Additionally, Tenby was notable for being the first to record a cargo of oranges.

Report by Graham Wright

March 5th 2026

Lisa Morgan. Warden Ramsey and Skomer Islands: History, Wildlife and what lies ahead.



Lisa Morgan, now Head of Islands and Marine Conservation for the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, shared an illuminating overview of the heritage and wildlife of Ramsey and Skomer Islands.

Lisa's extensive career began as a volunteer on Skomer and Skokholm before progressing to roles including seabird and seal fieldwork, assistant warden posts and 14 years as RSPB warden on Ramsey. Today, she oversees conservation work across key islands and leads the Trust's marine research team.

Her talk highlighted the islands' rich archaeological history, including Bronze Age sites such as the Promontory Fort and the Harold Stone on Skomer. She also described the significant seabird colonies, vibrant plant life and the vital work involved in keeping the islands free of invasive species. The successful eradication of rats from Ramsey 1999 marked a major conservation milestone, allowing the Manx shearwater population to recover—in the breeding season Wales now hosts around half of the global population.

Lisa also spoke about the long-established rabbit populations, the resilience of grey seals and the severe impacts of storms on pup survival. Broader challenges—including climate change, avian flu,

funding pressures and visitor impact—underscore the need for continued monitoring and conservation across the Celtic Sea.

Report by Graham Wright

NATIONAL TRUST NEWS



Rhian Sula General Manager for Pembrokeshire.

Spring 2026

Dear All,

As I write this piece the sun is shining through my office window, I can hear the dawn chorus, and spring is certainly in the air. It looks like we have some settled weather on the way, which we will all be glad of and let's hope it stays in time for Easter. Since the autumn of last year, things are more settled in the Trust, we have our team in place, and we know that Restoring Nature will be our primary aim for Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen Bay. The teams are feeling very enthused, but we are sadly still in the process of saying goodbye to some of our very valued members of staff. Our teams of staff and volunteers have been incredible through this process, and I am very grateful to them all.

This winter has been a busy time for us, as the team have been organising events including Christmas at Tudor Merchants House, the Lantern Parade at Stackpole, community coffee mornings, community drop-in sessions, tree planting, litter picks and St Davids Day celebrations. We have also been recruiting staff members into new roles and preparing for welcoming our visitors this spring.

Since January, we have been taking over the care of Morfa Bychan, Ragwen point, Mwche and Lords

Park farm, which are all beautiful stretches of the Carmarthenshire coastline and all of them will help play a part in restoring Nature. As soon, as we are more familiar with these sites, we will certainly offer you a guided walk so that you can see them too.

I am also very excited to let you know that we have also opened two beautiful new holiday cottages which have been a huge success already. Wood Farmhouse overlooking Newgale and Cawdor Cottage on the edge of the Stackpole Lakes are our very first 5 Acorn rated holiday cottages in Pembrokeshire.

We are all looking forward to a calmer and sunnier season this year, as we start to shape our People and Place plans for the next 10 years and start to focus on what restoring nature really means for our portfolio.

I hope you all have a lovely spring and if you fancy bringing your family to our Easter event in Colby, it would be lovely to say hello.

Best wishes

Rhian Sula

General Manager, Pembrokeshire and Carmarthen Bay

Rebecca Evans

Community, participation and volunteering manager.

It's been a busy few months in the world of participation, community and volunteering. For me, the highlight has been our lantern parade at Stackpole. Seeing the fantastic sculptures in such a magical setting, under the light of a full moon is something that will stay with me for a long time. Combined with lively music, tasty food and contented chatter, it was an evening of warmth, positivity and community spirit.





The lanterns then ventured away from Stackpole into Penrhyn school – and looked equally fantastic set amongst school playground equipment! It was lovely seeing school children, and their families and friends really enjoy the magic.



Near Southwood, I've enjoyed getting to know the neighbours and engaging with Roch school. Year 4 enjoyed visiting Southwood and planting over 200 oak saplings. We also hosted a community walk in October, which was well received. Not only did it help to create a better understanding of work at Southwood it also led to new connections and sparked new projects and ideas within the community. I'm looking forward to working with the community on a local history project in the latter part of this year.

Volunteering is going strong. Volunteers donated over 4000 hours of their time last year, supporting us with welcoming visitors at different sites, helping at events, doing practical conservation tasks across Pembrokeshire and much more. A recent event was planting fruit trees at a community orchard in Summerhill. We're pleased to report the trees are now in bud!



Orchard

It takes time to build good strong relationships, and I've enjoyed getting to know different communities a bit better and working with a range of different partners and organisations. My role is about collaboration and the power of people working together. I'm excited to see what it will lead to next!

North Pembrokeshire Ranger Team:

Update from James Roden, Countryside Manager

Conservation Grazing:

The team in North Pembrokeshire have had a busy autumn and winter further developing our conservation grazing operation. We've expanded our pony grazing capacity with the purchase of a couple of new groups of Welsh Mountain ponies, bringing the herd to 40 individuals. This increase will help us grow our ability to manage more sites and maintain priority habitats across the north of the county.



Ponies grazing on Cilau Ganol Coast

We also introduced grazing to new coastal sites, including Cilau Ganol near Fishguard, a small farm acquired in 2024. Although the site is undesignated, the coastal habitats here are of very high quality and were previously grazed for many years by the former owner with support from PCNPA. We are keen to continue this good management, and ponies were reintroduced to this

section of coast for the first time this winter. Grazing is crucial in preventing coastal slopes and cliff-top grasslands from becoming dominated by rank grasses, bracken, bramble and scrub, which would quickly out-compete many of the specialist wildflowers that rely on open, low-competition conditions. Maintaining this varied coastal mosaic also benefits a wide range of invertebrates and reptiles and provides valuable foraging habitat for chough.



Cattle grazing on Morfa Trelerw Coast

We have also expanded our cattle grazing. A small group of young Hereford store animals were purchased specifically for conservation grazing and have been used on Morfa Trelerw, a coastal site that last had cattle grazing in 2016. This reintroduction has only been possible thanks to developments in technology such as virtual fencing. Using NoFence collars allows us to guide where the cattle graze for ecological benefit, to keep them away from footpaths where possible, and to virtually fence them away from dangerous cliff edges.



Volunteer team working at Kete

Another important piece of work this winter took place at Kete, on the Dale Peninsula, where the North Pems Thursday Volunteer team, working with Ranger Matt Thompson, dismantled around 150 metres of old post-and-netting fencing and installed the same length of new fencing to make the coastal grazing compartment stock-proof again. The site has poor access and work near the cliff edge meant no machinery could be used, so the entire fence had to be installed by hand. Despite the challenging terrain, the volunteers did a fantastic job, honing traditional skills, gaining new ones, and demonstrating excellent teamwork. All posts, wire and tools had to be carried to and from the site on foot and completing the work in-house has allowed us to reinvest resources back into other conservation projects and estate maintenance.

Another exciting development has been the arrival of Amy Colledge, who has recently joined us as our new Livestock Ranger. Amy will work closely with Jim Wallwork, our Conservation Grazing Manager, to care for our in-hand cattle and pony herds and support the delivery of conservation grazing across National Trust sites in North Pembrokeshire.

South Pembrokeshire Ranger Update Lead Ranger Alex Shilling.

Stackpole Estate Spring

Castlemartin Corse

Following an excellent year for wildlife on Castlemartin Corse in 2025, work continued on the rivers and ditches that serve the reedbed in the autumn of 2025. Clearance of a blockage in the main river near to Starman's Hall has helped to alleviate some of the flooding issues on neighbouring land, while also safeguarding the fen meadow habitat by reducing the risk of nutrient rich stream water inundating the spring-fed fen meadow ditches and grassland. Further cutting of reeds was carried out along the river channel that flows through the southern portion of the reedbed, providing greater structural diversity and fringe habitat that is beneficial to a range of species.



Machine cutting of reeds along the river channel at Castlemartin Corse

Stackpole Lakes

Following the review of the Stackpole lakes project in 2025 that concluded in the decision not to proceed with large scale desilting of the Stackpole lakes, we were keen to continue this winter with habitat improvements and installation of dams along the streams that feed the upper eastern arm to help attenuate sediment. As part of our new strategy to work with partners beyond our boundaries, we successfully partnered with some of our farming neighbours to place a bid for funds from the Ffermio Bro grant scheme, which is being administered by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. While our farming neighbours have carried out some improvements to silt traps and streams on their land, we have continued with the success of the Natural Flood Management interventions we have delivered previously. A further 36 leaky wooden dams constructed from timber felled alongside the stream running through Cheriton Bottom woods have been installed, with the intention of slowing the flow of water, encouraging it out of the stream channel and onto the valley bottom, where silt can be caught by the ground flora that proliferates in response to the extra light allowed in as a result of the coppicing of streamside trees.



Installation of Natural Flood Management leaky dams in Cheriton Bottom, credit – Alex Shilling

Woodlands



Ranger dog Lupo helping with enrichment planting amongst thinned Western Hemlock in Cheriton Bottom, credit – Alex Shilling

Alongside our usual tree safety management work this winter, we have also delivered some woodland habitat improvements in two key areas of the estate. One of the remaining conifer blocks, consisting of a dense stand of Western Hemlock, has been thinned by our contractors. By thinning this stand of trees, the visual impact of felling is mitigated by maintaining a canopy layer, while also allowing gaps for light to penetrate to the forest floor. This will allow for ground flora diversity to increase, while also giving opportunities for new trees to establish. Since there is little tree species diversity in these conifer blocks, we have opted to carry out some ‘enrichment planting’ in this area, planting around 200 native broadleaf whips, to provide a shrub layer and future canopy of broadleaf trees.

The second area that we have carried out woodland operations in this winter is Lodge Park Wood, where we have continued our restoration of the 'informal arboretum' as imagined by the Cawdors in the 19th century. A heavy thin of self-seeded trees has allowed space for the existing specimen trees that were planted some 200 years ago, while also providing opportunities for succession planting of some future specimen trees. Some we have planted this year include a Copper Beech, Dawn Redwood, Diadora Cypress, Scot's Pine and Red Oak. In addition, we have brought some new trees into the Rose Garden area, including a group of Himalayan Birch, ornamental Cherry and a magnificent standard Magnolia.

Colby TWIG

Although the wider Colby Estate is now under the stewardship of the Colby Garden and Countryside team, the remaining few months of the Colby TWIG project will continue to be delivered by Natasha, our project officer, under guidance from the Stackpole team. A huge amount of work has been delivered across the estate woodlands this winter, including ongoing removal and treatment of Invasive Non-Native plant Species (INNS), installation of Natural Flood Management interventions in the form of leaky wooden dams, thinning of dense re-establishing woodland blocks, creation of wood pasture habitat, access improvements, and the planting of a community orchard on the edge of Summerhill village. With only a few months of the project remaining there are further works to look forward to, including a promoted walking route around the Mount and Barn fields woodland creation site and an exhibition celebrating the achievements of the project.



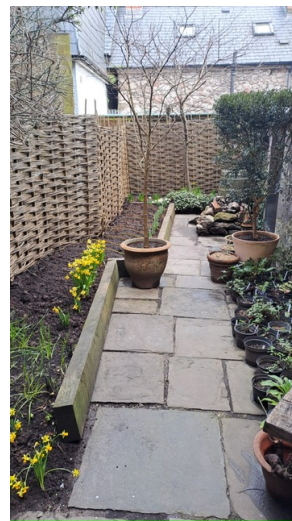
Planting the community orchard in Summerhill, credit - Natasha Doane

TUDOR MERCHANT'S HOUSE

Report from Melanie Knapp Senior House & Collections Officer

We had a very enjoyable afternoon visiting the Pembrokeshire National Trust Association on the 5th February when Melanie and Mair gave a talk on the house and garden.

Our new fence hurdles have completely transformed our garden ready for the new season. Mair is now in the process of re planting everything from the pots back into the garden. Daffodils for St David's Day gave us some instant colour.



New fence hurdles kindly donated by Pembrokeshire NTA

On the 12th February we had a very well attended Start of Season meeting. Rhian gave an update on last year and an insight into our new structure and plans for this coming year. We all enjoyed some Tudor "Snow in Summer" cake which was made by one of our new volunteers.

We re-opened on the 19th February during half term week which was very busy as usual. Visitors were very pleased and often surprised to find us open. Following receipt of a £500 Welsh Government funding we enjoyed a very successful St David's Day opening welcoming 198 visitors to listen to our harpist Delyth Jenkins who played throughout the day. Our visitors were very happy to receive their bunches of daffodils wrapped in fabric from The National Wool Museum.



Staff and volunteers dressed in Tudor Costume

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.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

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

CHAIRMAN* Jane Mason Mob: 07796331743. e-mail jmason@fastmail.com

VICE-CHAIRMAN* Angela Jones e-mail- angieprobertjones@hotmail.com

TREASURER* Steven Flather

SECRETARY* Annie Weaver
Tel: 01646 831323 Mob: 07890756063

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Angela Jones Mob:07796575699
e-mail- angieprobertjones@hotmail.com

MAILCHIMP Andrew Weaver

NEWSLETTER Marilyn James

P.R. Jane Mason

DAY TRIPS Committee Members

WALKS Steve Drinkwater

WINTER SPEAKERS ADMINISTRATION Graham & Sandra Wright

**ADDITIONAL
SOCIALS.** Lyn Humphries

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association

Trip to The Bug Farm, St Davids Tuesday 14 July

Morning visit to *The Bug Farm* followed by free time in St Davids. Travel by own car, or car share.

- **Cost:** £12.60 per person
- **Arrival:** 10.30am
- **Visit includes** - Short 'Welcome Talk', followed by a 'Up Close Bug Experience' where you get a chance to see and handle some bugs. You can then spend time on a self-guided tour around the Museum, Tropical Bug Zoo, and Farm Trail.
- **Facilities:** Shop and Café - drinks and cakes will be available to purchase.
- **Depart:** 1.00pm for the afternoon in St Davids, or as you wish.

To book: complete the Form 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 22nd May 2026, or by post 15th May 2026.

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FORM FOR GROUP VISIT TO THE BUG FARM

I/ We wish to go on the day trip to the BUG FARM at a cost of £12.60 per person.

I/ We understand that this is non-refundable.

I/ We are members of the Pembrokeshire National Trust Association.

Name.....

Name.....

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

CHEQUE

Your Mobile Phone Number

Your Email.....

PNTA Bank Details to pay by BACS through your bank:

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association

Account no: **90390992** Sort Code: **20-37-82** Reference: **Bug Farm**

PNTA If paying by cheque

I/ We enclose a cheque for £

Please complete and return the **Booking Form below together with your cheque. Make the cheque payable to PNTA, post by 15th of May 2026.**

Send the cheque and form to: Sandra Wright, 2 St Peters Way, Steynton, Milford Haven, SA73 1HT.

Menu For St Brides Castle Restaurant Wednesday June 10th



2 Course Set Menu

Mains

- Dylan's Chicken Supreme** [GF]
Chicken breast fillet with Welsh cheddar & leek cream sauce.
- Slow Cooked Lamb** [GF]
Lamb rump with red currant & rosemary sauce.
- Roasted Cod** [GF]
Oven roasted cod fillet with lemon & dill sauce.
- Puy Lentil Moussaka** [GF]
Puy lentil ragu layered with aubergines & bechamel sauce. [V*]

Mains are served with Pembrokeshire potatoes & selection of vegetables

Desserts

- Apple Crumble** [DF*]
Served with custard.
- Chocolate Brownie** [GF]
Served with vanilla ice cream
- Vanilla Ice cream**

£25 per person

Please inform a member of staff if you have any allergies or dietary requirements.

[GF] Gluten free. [GF*] Gluten free available. [V] Vegetarian. [V*] Vegan. [DF] Dairy free [DF*] Dairy free available

Pembrokeshire National Trust Association

Booking Form: Day trip to the Royal Mint with a conducted tour, at Llantrisant, followed by a self-guided afternoon in St Fagans open air National Museum of Welsh History.

On Wednesday 9th September

We will meet the coach at 8.30 am in Haverfordwest Rugby Club car park and leave St Fagans at approximately 5.00pm

The cost will be £37 per person (£25 for the coach and £12 for the Mint)

Name.

Name.....

Email.....

Telephone

Please email this form to Annie (annielweaver@gmail.com) and pay either by BACS .BARCLAYS BANK. sort code. 20-37-82 90390992 Pembrokeshire National Trust Association. Please quote “Mint”

Or by cheque and enclose this booking form and send to Annie Weaver, Larks Rising, Kiln Park, Burton Ferry, Milford Haven

BOOKINGS PLEASE BY AUGUST 1st

I may need to open it up to Llangwm History Society to make up a viable number of 30