

Peninsula Papers

Information and news for the communities of St Ishmaels, Hasguard, Robeston West,
Walwyn's Castle, Dale, St Brides and Marloes.



Papurau Penrhyn

Gwybodaeth a newyddion am gymunedau St Ishmael's, Hasguard, Robeston West,
Walwyn's Castle, Dale, St Bride's a Marloes.

The Church in Wales

Dale, St Brides, Marloes, St Ishmael's, Walwyn's Castle, Robeston West

Fr. Andrew Johnson, Rev'd Samuel Patterson,
Rev'd. Dr Rhiannon Johnson, Rev'd Gaynor Ford

Contact Details – for Dale, Walwyns Castle, Robeston West

Fr. Andrew Johnson 01646 636966 frandrewj@outlook.com

Contact Details – for Marloes, St Brides

Rev'd Samuel Patterson 01646 690565, SamuelPatterson@cinw.org.uk

Contact Details – for St Ishmaels

Rev'd Gaynor Ford 01646 693452 gaynorford2846@btinternet.com

Church Wardens

Dale: Peter Morgan 636625 Harriet Bishop 636668

St Brides: Mary Lewis 636430, William Richards 636242

Marloes: Yvonne Evans 636251

St Ishmaels: Heather Phippen 562711 Christine Llewellyn 07813 960637

Walwyn's Castle: Jayne Edwards 01437 781575, Kate Morgan 01437 781270

Robeston West: Gill Thorne 01437 890693

Baptist Chapels: Moriah - Marloes Paul James 01646 636241

Aenon - Sandy Hill Rev'd Jon Brewer 0777 4845497 sandyhillchapel@gmail.com

LOCAL SERVICES

MARLOES STORE: Open each week day 9-1 and 4-5, closed Sunday

MOBILE LIBRARY:

Next visit **Friday 10th November, Friday 8th December**

St. Ishmaels Burgage Green Layby - 10.50 am to 11.20 am Dale - Blue Anchor

Way - 11.35am to 12.05am Marloes - Toilets - 12.15 am to 12.45 am

Contact 01437 776126 or 07774 230200 (van) or Pembs CC website for info

MOBILE POST OFFICE:

Tuesday: St Ishmaels 14:00—15:00 Dale 15:15—16:15

Thursday: St Ishmaels 11:15 - 12:15 Marloes 13:00 - 14:00 Dale 14:15—15:15

FOR HIRE

THE CORONATION HALL AND JUBILEE
SUITE DALE



BOOKINGS: WENDY KEHOE 01646 636721

EMAIL– wendykehoe@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACTS FOR HALL HIRE:

Marloes: Emma Truelove 07896 719409

mvhbookings@hotmail.com

St Ishmaels S&S Club: Deborah Cheshire 07972 732423

dlchesh35@aol.com

Walwyns Castle Village Hall:

Jean Rees 01437 929813

Dear All,

A very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you all. 2024!
How did we get to be so old!

I always enjoy looking at the Christmas adverts- the big budget ones from the major retailers that are like mini epics in their own right. A lost snowman or dragon or carrot or over-worked nurse finds a place and a family who have a table groaning with good things and much festive cheer is had by all. They tell a Christmas story about family, celebration, friendship and food with a subtle, or not so subtle, underlying message that all this can be yours if you spend enough money in their stores.

It is of course a complete lie. No amount of money spent can heal the ache of grief for the people no longer there and sometimes the 'happy families' idea of Christmas can make it worse. There is nothing wrong with the advertising so long as we see it for what it is- persuasion to influence our buying habits- and do not treat it as a goal we have to slave to try and meet. I always try to remember the glamorous woman putting the food on the table in the advert most certainly did not cook it (and it is probably stone cold and painted with food colouring to make it look right for the cameras).

There is another Christmas story. Sometimes the 'happy families' story is so loud it makes the other story seem almost irrelevant, but it shows its worth, slipping into the cracks that form when the brittle and beautiful camera-ready dream falls apart.

That story is about gift and kindness. An unprepared mother, a father racked by doubts, random people going about their everyday, humdrum lives suddenly get drawn into a normal event- the birth of a child, something that happens every day. Like all babies this one is all need and potential, but dreams and visions of angels, messages read in the stars and words remembered from ancient prophecies, suggest that this child's birth could be the proof of something amazing. The God who made the universe loves us as we are. We humans are acceptable and holy before we have bought anything and broken and exhausted as we are. He can heal us and free us and help us with no precondition other than us being willing to accept healing and freedom and help as freely as it is offered to us. It is a gift not a business transaction.

This is my comfort and strength- not just when the mince-pies are burnt and the food is less than perfect and we can't afford many of the things the adverts want to sell us- but for this New Year and all the new years to come,

With our love and God's blessing at this special time of year,

Andrew, Rhiannon, Samuel, Gaynor

St. Peter's & St. Bridget Church Notices

Sunday Services December & January - See diary list on centre page

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Carol service - St. Bridget - 5pm - Remember to bring a torch!

Christmas Day - St. Peter's, Marloes - 11am - All Welcome

Community Carol Service - This year the Service will be hosted by St. Peter's Church - see separate notice, and next year it is planned that it will be held at Moriah Chapel, Marloes. Please note there will be a **Bring & Share Tea** afterwards in the Village Hall. If there is any surplus, the food will be redistributed in the Community. New to the Community area - this will be an opportunity to meet other residents.

Christmas Coffee Morning - See separate notice. This event is held to raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of the churchyards in Marloes & St. Brides. The upkeep costs in excess of £1500 per year. It is hoped that all residents (and visitors/holiday home owners) will support the efforts to keep these areas tidy and safe to visit and tend graves, and in the case of St. Bridget's, to walk through as a public footpath passes through the Churchyard.

The grass cutting at St. Peter's is undertaken by Mr. Dave Pomfret and at St. Bridget's by Mr. Mark Gainfort. They are both thanked for the great care they exercise in keeping the churchyards in excellent condition during the year, often beset by difficult weather conditions. Best wishes to you both.

New Vicar - The Rev. Samuel Patterson has now been in post since his ordination in June. He is also the Vicar for St. David's, Hubberston, as well as having other responsibilities in the Local Ministry Area of Roose. If you are yet to meet the Vicar, he will be pleased to meet more of you at the events and services in the coming months. See contact details for both the Vicar and Church wardens elsewhere in Peninsula Papers.



Marloes & St. Brides Churches

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd December 10.00am - 12.30 pm

Marloes Village Hall

Teas/Coffees, Cake Stall, Produce Stall, Books/Puzzles
& Church Cards, Christmas Gifts, Stocking Fillers & Decorations, Local Craft Stall and Raffle.

Donations for the Christmas Hamper to be raffled, to be handed to Pat Krelle.

Raffle & 50 Club Draw at 12 Noon

Monies raised go towards the upkeep of the Marloes & St. Brides Churchyards.

Here are the results from the St Ishmael's 100 club draw which took place at the harvest festival service.

1st. Tei Tallet
2nd Moss dog
3rd Yvonne Evans



Saint Ishmaels Church

Family Crib Service

11.00 am
Christmas Eve

*Please join us in our
Christmas celebrations,
everyone welcome*



Community Carol Service

Sunday 17th December at 2pm
St. Peter's Church, Marloes

Refreshments to follow at Marloes Village Hall
with a
Bring & Share Tea.

The Hall will be open for contributions to be
dropped off before the Service.
All residents & visitors are warmly welcome to
attend as well as anyone from surrounding
villages.



The Collection at the Service will be given to a local Charity.

Community Councils

Dale

No meeting in this period

Next meeting 27th November

Marloes

Broadway Fibre Broadband PCC have been meeting with Voneus (who have taken over Broadway) – there will be a formal rollout of plans in the New Year.

Footpaths and Beach Continuing issue with dog mess on the Musslewick path. Cllr CJ confirmed National Parks are unable to support and contacting PCC would be the next steps.

Positive responses to recent beach cleaning. A proposal was made to make Red beach sacks available at specific points across the community. To be followed up. Action taken to investigate the use of stickers used by Dale on their bins asking for litter only to prevent fly tipping / misuse of bins.

Recreation Area / Playing Fields / Village Hall

The Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant was now available. Quotes will be obtained for fencing / gate work at the playing field eastern pedestrian access. Also new benches will be considered.

Clock Tower It was confirmed that the clock tower time is correct following recent winter time changes.

Electricity tariff discussed. Clerk to move away from British Gas to a company without a standing charge (Utilita Energy). Failed clock face lighting - options to be considered.

Highways Yvonne Evans provided feedback regarding the cleaning of the drains and ditches. Clerk has passed feedback to the PCC portal.

Concern was raised about parking issues in the Marloes village. LB to take photos and report back in the January 2024 Community Council meeting

National Trust National Trust work has commenced on Marloes Mere. Positive reports from Cllrs and the local community regarding the improvements being made (especially for wildlife and birds).

Toilets

PCC have confirmed the management of the St Brides toilets will continue and be the responsibility of the National Park moving forward. Excellent news for the St Brides Community following numerous attempts from the Community Council to keep the toilet blocks open for locals and tourists. Unfortunately the Marloes village toilets will close in November.

St Brides Walled Garden No updates – action points ongoing

Cllrs not happy with the responses / lack of action from PCNPA. A joint approach with the Church committee will be considered. Cllrs will take photos of lack of up keep to buildings to support actions above.

PROPOSED MERGER OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

This Community Council resolved as follows: these points will be notified to PCC as part of the Community Council boundaries consultation process.

- 1) Our preferred option is to remain a stand-alone Community Council serving the Marloes and St Brides community
- 2) If a merger is to be required / enforced we propose that, because of the special nature of this Peninsula with its wildlife islands and their visitor traffic, the marine conservation zone, and the amount of correspondence with the Park, the National Trust, Trinity House, etc, the maximum workable merger is the three community councils of Dale, Marloes & St Brides, and St Ishmaels.
- 3) PCC, in planning a merger, would have to give very careful consideration to the matter of community assets such as playing fields, to be sure that the interests of indi-

Community Councils

vidual communities were always upheld.

- 4) In any case, any merger should be planned to reflect the Coastlands School catchment area.
- 5) <https://haveyoursay.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/pembrokeshire-community-review>

Planning matters

NP/23/0514/FUL: Anchor Cottage, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62. Proposed rear ancillary gym/yoga studio. New

Community Council object to the proposal due to over development.

NP/23/0538/OBS: Winterton Farm, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3AS. Replacing overhead wires. New

Community Council are in full support.

Next meeting: Monday 8th January 2024
Marloes Village Hall 19.30

St Ishmaels

Minutes of the business meeting held on 15th November, 2023 in the Sports Club

SEWAGE PROBLEMS:

Following many meetings with Welsh Water and the clerk and after it was discovered that a chunk of wood had been found in the lower part of the system, it is hoped that the emissions from the inspection chamber in Lower Grove Road will be solved. At a site meeting with Highways Street Care dept. of PCC, the clerk was told that ongoing investigations into if, or where, road water run-off was entering the sewers were in progress. Despite a letter of assurance last year from Welsh Water that the existing sewer and treatment works at Monkhaven are capable of coping with the extra 14 houses originally planned for the Manse Field by developers, recent history, together with this addition of extra housing on the planning application, caused further scepticism by the Community Council.

FLOODING:

1. *Lower Grove Road.* In an email to the clerk from the head of the highways dept. of P.C.C., it was stated that the clearance of weed growth in the Brook Lake was legally the responsibility of the riparian owners. Letters to this effect are being sent to owners by the P.C.C.

2. *Bicton Farm.* Mr. David Llewellyn of Biction had done what was possible to minimise the flooding by lowering the nearby reservoir. It was noted that the road drains at this location were blocked, those being the responsibility of P.C.C. Highways. The removal of roadside trees had been on the instruction of Natural Resources Wales.

Lindsway Drive. The road drains were blocked and causing flooding. Highways to be notified.

STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN:

In discussion after the clerk had read a precis of the discussion document of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales,

It was felt that decisions had likely already been made concerning the amalgamation of the Peninsula Community Councils. More detail concerning councillors, clerks and precepts were required. The timetable for the consultation period was noted.

WAR MEMORIAL UPDATE:

The considerable activity of the St. Ishmaels War Memorial Action Group (SIWMAG) was relayed to the Council. Discussions and submissions with the three mason/artists involved were now coming to a head and, after presentations to the council later this month by the artists concerned, it was decided to put the Council's recommendation to the community in an open meeting at 7.30 p.m. on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th in the Sport Club.

NOTICEBOARDS:

When attempting to install the new noticeboards on the Brookside Green and Burgage Green sites, it was discovered that the exist-

Community Councils

ing posts needed to be extended. This will be done shortly.

PLANNING:

NP/23/0525/FUL Alteration to existing bungalow on Trewarren Drive. No objection recorded.

A.O.B.

I. The hedge bordering the P.C.N.P. path on the cricket field to the cliff was severely overgrown and hindering access along the path. National Parks to be contacted.

2. The bench at the stile on the coast path overlooking Longberry Point needed repair. Responsibility for this to be established.

3. It was noted that all the badger setts on the Manse Field planned housing site had recently been stopped up by the developer. Whether this was a legal move is to be established by the clerk.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next business meeting to be on Wednesday, January 17th, 2024.

Community of Marloes & St Brides

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

As has been covered in Community Council meetings, following a budget review Pembrokeshire County Council has decided as follows:

St Brides Haven W.C.s: Staying open, with responsibility transferred to the National Park Authority; this ties up with the NPA being responsible for car parking at this location.

Marloes village W.C.s: Permanently closing; the buildings will be “mothballed” (programme of minimum maintenance), with PCC retaining ownership.

A Great BIG Thank You

to everyone who kindly helped to make our
Macmillan Coffee Morning
at Marloes Village Hall on 29 September
such a huge success!



With your generous donations,
raffle prizes and kind support we raised



£2,109.45

Well done everyone and thank you again, Lorraine.



HERBRANDSTON EVENTS



HAIKU

from Chris P

The first one is a reply to the poem in last month's edition called "A write proper problem":

"Mislaidd"

Glasses disappear,
All my pens go missing too,
What a state I'm in!

"Too much weather?"

Never ending rain,
My garden is a quagmire,
When will it be dry?



Diary for December and January

Tue 28 1900 St Ishmaels Carnival AGM, Sports and Social Club

DECEMBER

Sat 2 1000 Marloes & St. Brides Churches Christmas Fayre & Coffee Morning, Marloes Village Hall

Sun 3 1200 Herbrandston Hub Christmas Fayre

Thu 7 1900 Social and Film Evening, Dale Coronation Hall

Thu 7 1830 St Mary's Church Herbrandston Christmas Bingo at the Hub

Sat 9 1000 Christmas Wreath Workshop, St Ishmaels Church

Sun 17 1400 St Brides & Marloes Community Carol Service, St Peter's Church, Marloes

Sun 17 1430 Carols & Mince Pies, traditional Carols, Christmas songs, special guest musicians, Aenon Baptist Church Sandy Hill

Sun 17 1630 Santa in St Ishmaels

Thu 21 1800 Walwyn's Castle, Carols on the Green plus mulled wine etc

Sun 24 1100 Family Crib Service, St Ishmaels Church

Sun 24 1700 Candlelit Carol Service, St Bridget's Church, St Brides

Sun 24 2100 First Mass of Christmas, Walwyn's Castle

Mon 25 1100 Christmas Day Service, St Peter's Marloes

Mon 25 1030 Christmas Holy Communion, St Ishmaels Church

Mon 25 1030 Christmas Eucharist, St James Dale

Mon 25 1100 Christmas Eucharist, Robeston West

JANUARY

Mon 8 1930 Marloes & St Brides Community Council, Marloes Village Hall

Thu 11 1900 Social and Film Evening, Dale Coronation Hall

Wed 17 1930 Coastlands Local History Group "Pembrokeshire's Pioneering Aviators" a talk by John Evans, Coronation Hall

Wed 17 1900 St Ishmaels Community Council

Thu 18 1800 Dale Seagrass Update, Dale Coronation Hall

Thu 25 1900 Social and Film Evening, Dale Coronation Hall



The next DADS show:
Saturday February 17th 2024
Dale Coronation Hall, starting 7pm



Services for December and January

St Ishmaels

10th December 11am Holy Communion

13th December Carol Service 7pm - with the Peninsula Songsters - Mulled wine and Mince Pies

24th December Christmas Eve - Family Crib service 11am

25th December Christmas Day Holy Communion 10.30am

January 14th Holy Communion 11am

January 28th Holy Communion 11am



Marloes & St Brides

3rd Dec 11am St Bridget's, St Brides – Holy Communion

10th Dec 11am St Peter's, Marloes – Holy Communion

19th Dec 11am St Bridget's, St Brides – Holy Communion

2pm St Peter's, Marloes – Community Carol Service

24th Dec 5pm St Bridget's, St Brides – Candlelit Carol Service

25th Dec 11am St Peter's, Marloes – Christmas Day Holy Communion

31st Dec 11am St Bridget's, St Brides – Holy Communion

7th Jan 11am St Peter's, Marloes – Holy Communion

14th Jan 11am St Bridget's, St Brides – Holy Communion

21st Jan 11am St Peter's, Marloes – Holy Communion

28th Jan 11am St Bridget's, St Brides – Patronal Festival Communion

Dale, Walwyn's Castle and Robeston West

December 2nd 11.00am Dale, Eucharist.

6.00pm Advent Carols in St Katharine's and St Peter's Milford Haven.

December 10th 11.00am Walwyns Castle, Eucharist.

December 17th 11.00am Robeston West, Eucharist.

6.00pm Dale Carol Service.

December 24th 9.30am St Katharine and St Peter's Eucharist.

9.00pm Walwyns Castle, First Mass of Christmas.

11.30pm St Katharine's and St Peter's First Mass of Christmas.

December 25th 10.30am Dale, Christmas Eucharist.

11.00am Robeston West, Christmas Eucharist.

December 31st 9.30am St Katharine's and St Peter's Milford Haven.

January 7th 11.00am Dale, Eucharist.

January 14th 11.00am Walwyns, Castle Eucharist.

January 21st 11.00am Robeston West, Eucharist.

11.00am Dale (Eucharist or Morning Prayer)

January 28th 11.00am Walwyns Castle, Eucharist.



Continued on next page

Aeon Baptist Church Sandy Hill

Sun 3rd Dec 10:30 All Age Worship & **Advent candle**

Sun 10th 10:30am **Christmas Jumper Sunday**, All Age Worship (followed by members prebooked Christmas meal in Milford).

Sun 17th 2:30pm Carols & Mince Pies, traditional Carols, Christmas songs, special guest musicians.

Sun 24th 10:30am All Age "Christmas Eve Morning Service" (Finishes approx 11:45am)

Sun 31st no service.

Weekly in December:

Tuesday Tea & Toast is a lovely winter warmer...from 10:30am to 12noon at chapel.

River of Life Small Groups meet locally at various times and days during the week for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Contact Jon 0777 484 5497 for info.

Special Events:

Fri 1st Dec 7:30pm Multimedia presentation from member Tony Blatcher on his **Pilgrimage** walk abroad.

Thurs 21st Dec 2pm **Hymnspiration Christmas Special**, with snacks, songs and seasonal cheer!

January 2024

Sun 7th Jan 10:30am All Age Worship

Sun 14th Jan 10:30am All Age Worship

Sun 21st Jan 10:30am All Age Worship

Sun 28th Jan 2:30pm Afternoon Worship

Weekly events in January tbc, please see our fb page @SandyHillBaptistChapel

Friday 26th Jan 7:30pm Breathe Worship Night with the band. All welcome.



SEAGRASS

'Come along on 18th January 6pm at Coronation Hall Dale for an update on the Dale Seagrass Stakeholder work. We'll have an update on how the planted seagrass is doing, engagement and plans for reseedling work within the planted seagrass area.'

Flo Taylor



MARLOES SANDS MIDWINTER BEACH CLEAN

New Year's Eve, Sunday 31st December 2023

Depart car park at 2 pm



SANTA IN ST ISHMAELS



We have been reliably informed that Santa is in the village on Sunday 17th December 😊😊😊 he will be in his sleigh at the Cross from 4.30, him and his little helpers will make their way up to St Ishmaels Sports & Social Club where there will be a party for all the good girls and boys. We would love for him to have a lantern parade to follow him through the village too, so make a lantern and light up the village.

THE PENINSULA PAPERS SUPPORTERS CLUB IS HERE!

SIGN UP NOW!

**I HAVE SPOKEN TO LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO ALL
SAY “YES I WILL SIGN UP BUT I HAVEN’T GOT
ROUND TO IT YET”**

Can I ask you to please “get round to it” before mid-December so that your Standing Order payment will be ready for January!

You can to join the Club using the **form enclosed with the previous magazine or on the Marloes Website**

www.marloes.org.uk. If you need any help or you have lost the form phone Peter on 01646 636970.

At Walwyn's Castle village hall

COMMUNITY COFFEE & CHAT - The 3C's

**Every 1st. Tuesday
of the month,
10am -12pm.**



Everyone welcome, come along to catch up with colleagues, make new friends, or simply drop in for a coffee.

Hot and Cold refreshments available.



Marloes Store Christmas opening

We will be open as usual but then:

Open Sunday December 24th 10-12

Closed 25-26th

Open Wednesday
December 27th 10-12

And then closed until
2nd of Jan.

Can we please thank everyone for their support through what has been an incredibly difficult time.

Liz and Glenn xx

Smart meters

If you have previously been told you can't have a Smart Meter Installed because there was no signal coverage - well there is now. We have just had one installed, so has the Old Stables and the local churches will be getting theirs soon.

Both OVO and SSE are offering this service now.

Walwyn's Castle Village Hall
invites you to -

'Christmas Carols on The Green'


Thursday, December 21st.

*Carol singing around the
Christmas tree,
mulled wine and
festive treats in the hall*

Starting at 6 pm.

Everyone welcome

In the case of bad weather, Carol singing will be in the hall

 Walwyn's Castle village hall

DALE W.I.

On November 7th we held our AGM. Mary Lewis retired as president after several terms in the role, her enthusiasm and leadership has been very much appreciated by us all.

Ellie Morgan was elected president, Yvonne Evans remains as secretary, and Nicola Hunt as treasurer.

This week, we welcomed Heather Phippen who led a Wreath Making Workshop, a gloriously messy evening where we all created our own versions of a table decoration or door hanging "paddle". Look out for some of these adorning doors coming up to Christmas! Thank you, Heather.

In December, we meet on Tuesday 5th for a business and social meeting. On the following week we have our Christmas party where all of us contribute to a splendid meal.

In January, we meet on Tuesday 9th; then, on Tuesday 23rd January, we will welcome Rosemary Royle talking about her latest travels "Cambodia: Birds and Rice", accompanied by wonderful photography and anecdotes no doubt.

New members are always welcome to join us and give us a try!



**Thursday
Social and Film
Evenings
2023 Autumn Season
Doors open 7 pm
Films start 7.30 pm
Coronation Hall, Dale**

**All Welcome Admission free Refreshments
Donations for running costs gratefully received.**

Dec 7 - Classic 1955 film with James Dean as a rebellious teenager.

Jan 11 - A 1969 film about a northern lad and his pet kestrel.

Jan 25 - A 2017 account of Britain's retreat from mainland France in 1940.

Feb 8 Latest adaptation (2022) of the Agatha Christie novel set on a boat in Egypt.

These are films chosen By YOU!

To be added to our mailing list please email
rosemary.meck@gmail.com



*St Ishmaels Church
Monkhaven*

*Saturday 9th
December
10am - 1:00 pm*

Christmas Wreath Workshop

*All materials provided including
fresh foliage*

*£20 per person to include
tea/coffee and mince pies*

*To book your place phone
Heather on 07792995160*

New step at St Brides

PCNPA have organised the replacement of the bottom step at St Brides which had completely broken up in the stormy weather. Thanks to Ranger Will for his efforts.



BEACH CLEANING GUIDELINES

Due to the increased interest in Beach Cleaning, both organised events and casual collecting, we are putting a new page on the Marloes Website which covers all the things you should think about and what to do with anything you collect.

There will be a link on the front page, so look out for it!

Coastlands Local History Group.

I did warn you - there are now 2 talks to report on this month. First “The Romans on our doorstep” from Mike Garlick, who is a member of a Roman re-enactment group, so gave us a very clear insight into the mechanics of Roman life and in particular that of the military. It is always a treat to have talks from members as it illustrates the range of interests held within the group as well as the expertise we can call on.

This talk was swiftly followed by an overview of “The History of Castlemartin” from one of the tour guides of the range Vicky Tomlinson. The talk gave us a wonderful chance to visit the whole range from the relative comfort of our chairs!

We are working on the 2024 programme which will be available at our opening meeting in January. John Evans of the Sunderland Trust - now part of Pembroke Dock Heritage Trust- will be coming to talk on “Pembrokeshire’s Pioneering Aviators”. This will be in Coronation Hall on Wednesday January 17th at 7.30 pm. Members will be contacted prior to this with a reminder to renew membership. This can be done at the meeting or before the meeting. Membership remains at £5.00 per year or a one off £50 for life membership.

Over the winter period, The Old Stables Heritage Centre will be open every Monday 10-12 (except Christmas and New Year) should anyone wish to come in for their own research, or to look at any of the archive material kept there.

For more details about the History Group please contact Yvonne (636251), or Harriet



The Old Stables Heritage Centre



**OPEN
MONDAYS
10 - 12**

(except Christmas Day
and New year's Day)

For more information
contact Harriet (636668)

CHERISH AND THE ALBION

The EU-funded CHERISH project, a co-operation between Irish and Welsh archaeologists and geographers, researched the impact of Climate Change on historic coastal sites. Marking its completion, on Nov 15th Dr Toby Driver of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) visited from Aberystwyth to deliver to Marloes Village Hall a CHERISH-funded display panel, which tells the story of the wreck of the Bristol paddle-steamer *Albion* in 1837. A duplicate of the one soon to go on display at Marloes Sands car park, Dr Driver was donating the display panel to the village of Marloes to recognise the assistance given to the RCAHMW CHERISH team by community members. They had researched the *Albion* story, photographed rarely-visible machinery remains when conditions permitted, and recorded, and sometimes saved from beach bonfires, wreck timbers revealed at Neptune's whim!

Dr Driver is seen here with Caroline Walmsley (Marloes Village Hall Committee) and Yvonne Evans (Coastlands Local History Group).

You can view the *Albion* painting by artist Nigel Vaughan here ([link to marloes.org.uk](http://link-to-marloes.org.uk) webpage); for the CHERISH project, see cherishproject.eu.



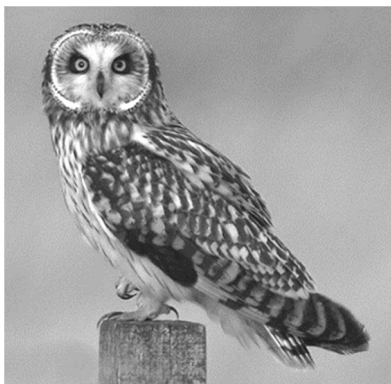
This extremely large caterpillar was found by a lady in Dale when she was putting large quantities of bindweed in the compost bin.

It is the caterpillar of the *Convolvulus Hawk Moth*, which, unsurprisingly eats *convolvulus*, also known as bindweed.

You may remember me writing here about the adult *Convolvulus Hawk-moth* and my efforts to catch them. They are a real giant but rather dull in colour. They are a migrant to the UK and rarely breed here so this caterpillar was a very interesting sighting.

Short-eared Owls

The first time I saw a Short-eared owl I had no idea what I was looking at. Peter and I were on a camping holiday in Scotland and were newly-fledged birdwatchers – we had recently purchased the Observers Book of Birds and using this had been able to distinguish Buzzards (common and sitting on telegraph poles) from Golden Eagles (huge, only seen once in the far distance). But what was this bird of prey flying like a big pale brown moth over the moorlands?? It wasn't a Buzzard – we were quite good at identifying them now – and we just couldn't find another bird of prey which fitted the bill. It was a while before the penny dropped – it wasn't a bird of prey, it was an owl! An owl with beautiful long patterned wings drifting over the moors during the day. It was a Short-eared Owl.



The Short-eared Owl regularly hunts during the day (it also hunts at night), and this makes it one of our more visible owls. There are parts of eastern England where, in winter, it is very easy to see a Short-eared Owl hunting over marshes and fields – this is because numbers in the UK are swollen by birds which arrive from Scandinavia, avoiding the harsh winters there. In Scotland in the summer they breed on the moors and again can be seen quite easily. But what about in Wales? Well Short-eared Owls are very much birds of open rough grassland and heath, nesting on the ground usually under the shelter of heather, bracken or tall grasses. They will also breed in young forestry plantations. Areas with high populations of small mammal prey and a lack of disturbance, including disturbance from ground predators are key to their success. Given these requirements, it is perhaps not really surprising that Short-eared Owls are a scarce breeding bird in Pembrokeshire. Such “optimal” breeding habitat occurs mainly on the offshore islands and for a number of years Skomer has been home to one or two breeding pairs. Once, in 1993, 12 pairs nested there – it must have been a peak year for Skomer Voles!

On one overnight visit to Skomer I was lucky enough to see the courtship display in the evening – the male flies around in circles, going ever higher, then stoops and loops whilst calling his loud hoo-hoo-hoo call and wing clapping. All quite spectacular and quite unexpected from an owl!

Short-eared Owls nest on the ground and keep a low profile when breeding. Many a Skomer visitor has been quite unaware that they are sharing the island with such a charismatic bird. And they are indeed charismatic. They have wonderful staring yellow eyes and beautifully marked plumage. It is one of those birds which makes your day better when you see it. And it is possible to see a Short-eared Owl around here. They are sometimes seen at Marloes Mere, and over the grassy areas on the south of the peninsula. We have seen one just once from our garden, hunting over the marshes below. Further afield they can be sighted at Dowrog Common, Castlemartin Corse and St David's airfield.



THE BLAME FOR THE FLAMES

Celebrating, if that is the right word, an incident on New Year's Eve 2021.

The culprit's name is Simon,
He is the one to blame:
It were his Grand Idea to greet the New Year
With a pudding all aflame.

We warned, 'Don't use much brandy
When we celebrate on Friday night!'
Because, better sense to drink it
Than set the stuff alight.

But Simon thought he knew better,
When New Year's Eve came around –
Hence, both his hands in bandages
And no eyebrows to be found.

We knew spirits need no encouragement
When it comes to getting lit;
When you learn what that there Simon
did,
You'll have a ruddy fit!

He slopped a lot of Cog-Knack
(That's the name as posh folk use)
Into a pan on a red hotplate –
Blue touch paper, very short fuse!

Simon's idea was that Cog-Knack
Needed heat to help it light...
I hope he's learned his lesson
From what then occurred that night.

With really quite a modest 'Pop!'
A great balloon of flame
Erupted from the cooking pot,
And Simon gasped in pain.

His hand, with which he held the pan
Was engulfed in beautiful blue;
And as, with surprise, he leaped in 't' air,
He'd no clue what to do.

Right then, it was, the pan took charge
And sprang free of his grasp;
And thus that flaming Cog-Knack
Reached the steaming pudding at last.

But the Cog-Knack, evidently,
Was fired with ambition:
Never mind a pudding Flam-Bee –
It would Flam-Bee all the kitchen!

Out from the pudding platter,
Off across the worktop too:
Licking leaping greedy flames
In such a fetching range of hues.

No stopping at 't' worktop edge:
Off it poured down the cupboard side –
And bent on conquering more, across
the floor
All a-seethe with igneous pride.

I could go on about that incendiary
bomb
Which the Cog-Knack had become,
Relating how alcohol reacting with air
Created a sapphire son et lumière...

But I'm sure your imaginations
Can fill in any gaps,
Replace all the asterisks I'd have to use
To relate Simon's verbals all through
these mishaps.

So – suffice it to say that he's not, to
this day,
Forgotten at all what occurred
When he thought that the idea of not
lighting brandy
Was a concept completely absurd.

Thus we're hoping that, should he ever
again
Be trusted with a Christmas pud,
He'll resist the temptation to effect con-
flagration
And accept that our advice is good:

If you're going to uncork the Cog-Knack,
Don't set light to it, don't be an arse –
Swamp the pudding with cream or with
custard,
And pour the booze into a glass!

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The 2023 Gaza Nativity by Chris Jessop

Oh, we've thousands of desperate Marys and Josephs to choose from,
And hundreds of suffering little Jesuses,
All perfect for the part;
Plus, obviously, an almost infinite supply
Of Herods of any ilk,
Every one as evil as you could wish!

Also there's definitely no room in the inn;
Or, rather, what's left of it.

But nobody can arrange a star;
And the artillery star shells they've plenty of,
Are very keen to send up for us,
Just won't do.

Meanwhile – no matter how hard we look,
However many people we ask...
Not a wise man to be found anywhere.



Tai Chi at Walwyn's Castle Village Hall



Thursday Mornings 10:00 – 11:00 am

Beginners welcome at any class

Classes are free but a donation to offset costs would be appreciated

Email simon.rptc@gmail.com for more information



Rising Phoenix Tai Chi
www.shibashi.com



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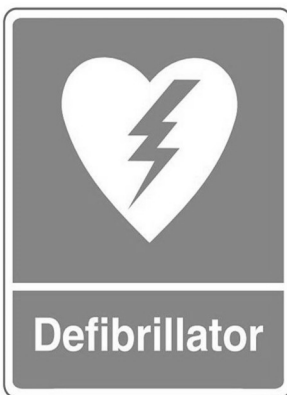
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In YELLOW CABINETS at...

△ Dale Boat House △ Dale Castle outer wall
△ St Anns Head (Old Light) △ Marloes (WCs)
△ Marloes Sands (WCs) △ Martins Haven
△ Pearson Farm gate △ St Brides Haven (WCs)
St Ishmaels: △ Brookside Green
△ Children's Play Park △ Monk Haven Church
Sandy Haven: △ Sandy Hill Chapel
△ (West) Skerryback Farm △ (East) Car Park
Walwyns Castle: △ Village Hall

ALL RECYCLING: Every FRIDAY from 6:30am (check locally for actual times).

ALL RECYCLING PLUS GREY BAGS on these dates: **December 15th, January 5th and 26th.** You may put out one extra grey bag on Jan 5th