

Peninsula Papers

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



Papurau Penrhyn

FEBRUARY 2024 CHWEFROR

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 9th Feb, Friday 8th March**

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,

2024 really seems to be a year in a hurry. Easter is very early, on the last day of March, so Lent begins in February. By a strange co-incidence Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is 14th February in 2024 which is also St Valentine's Day.

This calendar co-incidence has led to a certain amount of discussion in our household. Which set of customs will we keep? We normally try to keep Ash Wednesday as a quiet, reflective, fasting day, with time to consider where our lives are, perhaps, going wrong and resolve to change and be better, both as individuals and as members of society. Against that is the delight of giving and receiving cards, flowers and chocolates, going out for a fancy meal, and letting the one you love know how dear they are to you.

How to resolve this? Cards and presents first and then prayer and fasting later in the day? A day of solemn reflection and then a nice meal out to follow? Shifting Valentine's a day early and having heart-shaped pancakes? Trying to do both at the same time and ending up doing neither well?

We have still to resolve this.

But the problem is on a practical level about which set of customs to follow, what tone to set, not on a deeper level. At the base of both sets of customs is love. Love of your partner, yes, and also love of a future that is better than today. A future where all people can flourish. It is also about love of a God who wants more for us than we allow ourselves. Giving time to live simply and consider what in ourselves and our society and even in our relationships, is driving us away from that bright future is not something that goes against the joy of loving and being loved. Resolving to change for love, towards love, because of love is what the Lenten journey is about.

So, how do we show this and live this? I think I am going to have to go for heart-shaped pancakes because giving a bouquet of ashes or a card saying, 'I love you- repent!', are likely to be misunderstood.

With our prayers and blessings this month and always,

Andrew, Rhiannon, Samuel, Gaynor



St Ishmaels

Winners of the 100 club drawn at our Christmas Carol party

1st Annabel Thomas

2nd Liz Neale

3rd Jeff Bowen

Don't forget we will be around collecting your £5 for the start of the new 100 club year

St Ishmaels church will be holding their **Potato Challenge** on Saturday 17th February 2024 at Trewarren Farm 10am to 12.00noon.

Come along and buy a bucket and potato for £5 then return in June and have your crop weighed. Prizes for the heaviest crop in adult and child class and one for the most mis-shaped one. Please come along - it's great fun to see what you can grow..



Public Meeting

ALL WELCOME

At the invitation of Marloes & St Brides Community Council

Justin Davis of the Câr Y Môr Community Benefit Society

will be giving a presentation to introduce the organisation and discuss ideas for a new site in St Brides Bay, west of Newgale. They are hoping to develop this so that Câr Y Môr can expand its production of seaweed and shellfish, which they are already farming at sites in Ramsey Sound. This scale-up will allow the society to become truly viable.

This presentation will be part of Câr Y Môr's initial public engagement programme.

Monday 26th February 7pm

Marloes Village Hall

Marloes and St. Brides Churches 50 Club Draw; Dec 2nd 2023

First Prize £95

Second Prizes £45 each:

Third Prizes £25 each:

Steve Powell

Margaret Brace, Hugh Richards, Jennifer Gillespie

Geoff Lewis; Sash Tusa, Cathy Powell

Confirmation

Often I find myself rather reflective around the New Year, reflecting back on the year or years past, and reflecting ahead on what my life might look like come the end of this year, the things I might change or explore.

And perhaps you have found yourself doing the same, and perhaps you have big questions, questions of identity or belonging, about life or faith. Perhaps you grew up in a church and have since stopped coming for whatever reason, or you've never been inside one before. But perhaps this new year has you asking questions about faith and belief and God. Perhaps thinking about rekindling a faith which has grown dim, or looking for the spark to ignite one.

If that's you, I know that myself and my colleagues would love to chat with you about that, and that you'd receive a warm welcome at any of the churches and chapels should you wish to come along. But from a Church in Wales perspective I wanted to raise an event we have coming up. Later this year, in June, the Bishop of St David's will be coming to lead a service of Confirmation, it's a key moment in the life of faith where the candidates commit themselves to following Jesus, where they receive the Holy Spirit to enable them to do that, and rejoice as they are drawn deeper into God's family, the Church. It's a key moment, a wonderful moment, and it's a moment which, like Baptism, only happens once.

To prepare for such a key moment we'll be running a time of preparation over a number of months to explore faith, explore those big questions and think about what it means to be a Christian. So if you recognise in yourself what I was talking about in the opening of this article I'd like to invite you along. Coming along to the prep doesn't mean you have to be Confirmed at the end, you may not feel ready, but why not come and explore, come and see if what you're feeling is God's call to you this year.

If you'd be interested in exploring Confirmation, or have more questions please get in touch with myself, Gaynor or Andrew, our details are inside the cover, we'd love to chat with you about where you're at and taking this step.

Samuel

Sean and Wendy Kehoe & Project Seagrass

We are having Art workshops in the Coronation Hall, Dale, sponsored by the 'Project Seagrass Organization'. These are free, and the first session will be held on Sunday 11th February, 10.30-2 pm.

There will be wonderful wood carving and fabulous fabric painting! Any items created can be taken home, or used as an advertisement for 'Seagrass'. These sessions are open mainly to adults, though one child accompanied by an adult, would be fine. Numbers are limited, so to book, or for more information please email: wendykehoe@yahoo.co.uk.



Community Councils

Dale

Items discussed at the last meeting in November included:

Planning

The response from PCNPA about how they plan to police conditions where home owners have to live there as a main residence for so many days of the year, was pretty poor and did not clarify any of the Councilors concerns. Clerk is to look further into this.

NP/23/0144 – 71 Blue Anchor Way

Approved

NP/23/0342 – 77 Blue Anchor Way

Approved

NP/23/0505 – Post House Remains undecided

NP/23/0403 – 141 Castle Way Remains undecided

Village Matters –

A number of dinghies have been left at the top of the beach and are at risk of being smashed up which will cause a hazard to the public. It was agreed to notify the owners where known to ask that they be removed asap.

Thanks was expressed to Colin Harrison. Although contracted by PCC, previous contractors have not taken the same care and attention that he does. A letter of thanks was sent from the Councillors.

Boundary Commission – Councillors have been frustrated to learn via a letter, that although they were told that mergers of councils would be voluntary, it has now been said that the commission is not bound by this policy meaning that mergers could be forced. Our Councillors feel very strongly that Dale should remain separate. St. Ishmaels and Marloes & St. Brides are similar communities in size and amenities and they both struggle to fill seats at elections.

Whereas Dale has always had a good turnout for elections and hasn't had to co-opt

for a few years due to a keen interest from locals. It also has a very different tourist trade during the summer months and very different make up of residents.

Highways - The speed in the village still seems to be much slower since the new limit came in to force. However, the speed along Castle Way still seems to be faster. It was suggested that additional 20mph signage could be placed just after the junction up behind Dale Castle to remind people, especially those who have come from St. Anne's Head and West Dale.

The resurfacing works carried out by the Council this year were not as well done as previous times. There is still a lot of loose grit along the edges of the roads, especially on the corners and the signage has been left behind stating that there are no markings, however the lines were re-done some months ago. The spots that could not be done where cars are parked have not been revisited. Clerk is to contact PCC about this.

Recycling waste containers/bags

You can request replacement recycling bags/containers to be delivered to your home via your PCC My Account online. Broken or damaged hard containers and caddies can be taken back and recycled when the new one is delivered. Alternatively, you can check where replacement bags/containers can be collected from on the Council's website such as Pembrokeshire Frame and Leisure Centres.

Next Meeting

*The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 22nd January 2024** commencing at 7pm in the Jubilee Suite, Dale Coronation Hall. Please see dalevillage.co.uk for further Community information.*

Community Councils

(Clerk has made National Trust aware).

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 are now closed.

Bus Service

Cllrs discussed the PCC bus service consultation and issues the new flexi bus service is having on the St Brides and Marloes communities and residents.

Consultation response drafted and sent to PCC and local Councillors and MPs. See the full minutes for the full and very critical consultation response. (Ed: This is also available on the Marloes website)

Next meeting: Monday 11th March 2024.
Marloes Village Hall 19.30

St Ishmaels

Notes from the meeting held on 17th January
MATTERS ARISING and AOB

- Cllr. Stuart to find out dimension for, and prospective suppliers of, the bench on the cliff top by Lindsay Bay.
- The clerk to ask P.C.C. why many street lights in the village remained on for the duration of the night, when some were turned off from Midnight to 5.30 A.M.
- Badger setts on the earmarked development site in the Manse Field have been stopped. Natural Resources Wales will be contacted by the clerk to ascertain the legality in this case.

SEWAGE: The clerk reported his continuing contact with Welsh Water, impressing on them yet again the severity of the problem for the inhabitants of the village. There has been much activity recently by Drainforce Ltd, acting as contractors to Welsh Water

Marloes

8th January 2024

Footpaths and Beach

Cllr CJ confirmed beach clean was a success and the next beach clean is March 2nd. Positive responses to recent beach cleaning from the local community.

Cllrs would like to make the community aware the footpaths are extremely muddy at present due to the unprecedented bad weather over the Christmas period and to take extra care on the coastal footpaths.

The Marloes Mere work complete and planting will be ongoing. Positive response to the work from the Community Council.

Recreation Area / Playing Fields / Village Hall

Cllr CJ confirmed the Enhancing Pembroeshire Grant was now available. Cllr CJ and PS have met with the fencing company to gather quotes for fencing / gates project with the playing field.

Cllr CJ to apply for new benches within same grant application to support action point 4.9 Village Benches.

Clock Tower

Cllr PS has applied for a pot of PCC funding for the broken light issue in the clock tower and Cllrs CJ and PS will organise repair.

Chair Cllr LB paid thanks to the community for supporting the Christmas lights. Cllr PS recommended adding more lights next year.

Highways

Chair Cllr LB pointed out the issues with the drains in Glebe Lane. Water has been coming through the drains. Cllrs to take photos and Clerk to report to the PCC portal. Cllrs discussed a number of pot holes in the roads. Cllrs will email Clerk 3 word road reference for Clerk to report to the PCC portal.

National Trust

National Trust parking permit date announced (24th February 2024 between 1pm and 4.30pm). Cllrs LB and CJ to support

Community Councils

and the clerk was told that extensive camera investigations of the whole of the village sewage system was underway and, on the strength of the results of those investigations, major work would be initiated. The result of recent conversations with W.W. and the clerk were posted on Tish Topics in precis form with numbers for residents to contact. However, irrespective of Welsh Water's assurances, combined with former assertions by Welsh Water about the ability of the Monkhaven treatment work to cope, councillors remained extremely sceptical. Even if the Monkhaven works were able to process the current sewage load, notwithstanding the possible future extra load of the Manse Field planning site, it is supremely evident that the pipework leading to the works is not fit for purpose. The clerk was

asked to contact Steven Crabbe MP to enable pressure on WW to be maintained. **WAR MEMORIAL:** Howard Bowcott had been contacted by the clerk and the programme of operations is currently on schedule. The first tranche of four agreed payments to the architect has been paid, Hayston Developments Ltd have presented a planning application to National Parks and await a decision. Confirmation by the Sports Club Committee of contact with the architect awaits their next committee meeting. (Cllr. Graham). To ensure that all qualifying names for the memorial are known, the following has been included in Peninsular Papers and included in Tish Topics.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Wednesday, 20th March at 7.00 p.m. in the sports club.

Dear Reader,

As you may know there is to be a new War Memorial erected at the entrance of St. Ishmaels village (near the Sports Club). In addition to the WW1 names known, we now need to add those for WW2.

They are: William John Ormond, William James Sharpe and William Allan Devonald.

Unless we hear anything to the contrary by or before 10th February 2024, these will be the added names.



Beans on Coast!

Found this on Musselwick Sands today: a Sea Heart, a seed from the Monkey Ladder vine *Entada gigas* which grows in Central American rainforests. It has come a long way, but looks very well with it. "Sea Beans" such as this are much rarer on West Wales beaches, compared with finds on the Cornish coast.

CJ 17th Dec 2023

**MARLOES & DALE PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATION SCHEME
(CIO)
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT
THE CORONATION HALL, DALE
AT
1800 HRS TUESDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2024.**

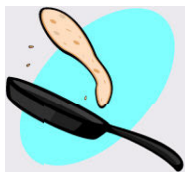
All residents of the parishes of Dale, Marloes and St Brides who are over 18 are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting – and they are encouraged to attend, and take part.

There are 3 vacancies on the committee.

Volunteers who would like to put their name forward to join our team are most welcome.

All nominations. enquiries or questions should be made to the Secretary of the Scheme.

Hugh Bishop Secretary 636668



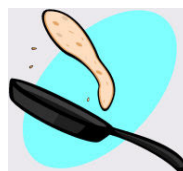
DALE WI is organising

Pancake Races

**SHROVE TUESDAY
13th FEBRUARY 2024 6.00 pm
DALE SEA FRONT or HALL IF WET
Just bring your frying pan**



Races for all - children, adults - old, young,
runners, walkers, tossers....
Pancakes to eat afterwards -



Diary for February



- Thu 8 1900** Dale Social and Film Club - see advert for film shown
- Sun 11 1030 - 1400** Project Seagrass art workshop with Wendy & Sean Kehoe, Dale Coronation Hall
- Tue 13 1800** Dale WI Pancake Races, Dale Sea Front (or Hall if wet)
- Sat 17 1000 - 1200** St Ishmaels Church Potato Challenge, Trewarren Farm
- Sat 17 1430 - 1630** Pop-up Pudding Party, Marloes Village Hall
- Sat 17 1900** DADS "February Frolics", Dale Coronation Hall (see advert)
- Mon 19 1930** Coastlands History Group, "The Sea Empress" by Simon Moffett, Marloes Village Hall
- Thu 22 1900** Dale Social and Film Club - see advert for film shown
- Fri 23 1900** "Pembrokeshire to the Pacific and back again" by Will Whittington, Walwyns Castle Village Hall - see advert
- Mon 26 1900** "Câr Y Môr" presentation and public meeting - see advert. Marloes Village Hall

MARCH

- Sat 2 1400** Beach Clean for St Davids, meet Marloes Sands Car Park
- Tue 5 1800** MADPADS AGM, Coronation Hall, Dale
- Thu 7 1900** Dale Social and Film Club - see advert for film shown
- Mon 11 1930** Marloes & St Brides Community Council, Marloes Village Hall
- Fri 15 1800** Coastlands School Easter Bingo, Sport & Social Club
- Wed 20 1900** St Ishmaels Community Council, Sports & Social Club
- Thu 21 1900** Dale Social and Film Club - see advert for film shown

It is the responsibility of each organisation to inform the editor of events for inclusion in the diary.



Our annual Beach Clean for St David Marloes Sands Saturday March 2nd

Depart car park 2pm

EVERYBODY WELCOME ALL COME AT OWN RISK

U16s accompanied, please

Services for February

St Ishmaels

11th February 11am communion

25th February 11am communion

St Brides & Marloes

4th Feb 11am - St Peter's, Marloes – Holy Communion

11th Feb 11am - St Bridget's, St Brides – Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday 14th Feb 10am – St Peter's, Marloes – Service of Ashing & Communion

18th Feb 11am - St Peter's, Marloes – Holy Communion

25th Feb 11am - St Bridget's, St Brides – Holy Communion

3rd March 11am - St Peter's Marloes – Holy Communion



Dale, Walwyn's Castle & Robeston West

4th Feb 11.00am Eucharist Dale

11th Feb 11.00am Eucharist Walwyns Castle

18th Feb 11.00am Eucharist Robeston West

11.00am Eucharist /Morning Prayer Dale

25th Feb 11.00am Eucharist Walwyns Castle

Aenon Baptist Church Sandy Hill

4th 10:30am all age worship followed by Shared Lunch Sunday

11th 10:30am Worship

18th 10:30am Worship

26th 2:30pm Afternoon All Age Worship.

Tuesdays:

Tea, Toast & Chat 10:30-12noon

Hymnspiration 2pm Thurs 22nd Feb

Breathe Worship Night: last Friday of the month.

River Of Life Small Groups meet for Bible Study/Prayer/Support in various places and times during the week. Contact Revd Jon Brewer 0777 484 5497 for more details.

Planning a wedding 2024/25? The chapel is a beautiful location for your marriage ceremony. Contact the Minister: Jon Brewer for an appointment to discuss your special day.

Sandyhillchapel@gmail.com 0777 484 5497

Coastlands Local History Group.

Pembrokeshire could, even now, be claiming to be the home of flying!

In Saunderfoot, on or around 24th September 1896, Mr William Frost flew his flying machine 500 meters before crashing into a hedge....7 years before the Wright Bros! Sadly this feat was not witnessed by independent people and so Pembrokeshire and more importantly Mr Frost miss out. Mr Frost had designed and patented his "Frost Airship Glider" but gave up ambitions to become a flyer after the destruction of his machine. This and many other fascinating facts came to light during John Evans talk on Pembrokeshire Pioneering Aviators" A magnificent talk about flying machines and their aviators was much enjoyed by those who braved the freezing temperatures . We now move on to our next talk in February. Mr Simon Moffett, with inside information - will be coming to Marloes Village Hall to talk about The Sea Empress disaster of 1996. This should get our memories stirring as to events down here at that time. The 2024 programme is now available for members. It is a full programme with a good mix of talks and a visit thrown in for good measure! If you wish to renew your membership and have not yet done so, you can do this at the next meeting or contact the Secretary.

If you would like to become a member please contact us. It costs just £5.00 per person a year

If you need any further clarification please contact Harriet (636668) or Yvonne (636251)

THE PENINSULA PAPERS SUPPORTERS CLUB IS HERE!

SIGN UP NOW! THERE IS JUST STILL TIME BEFORE THE FIRST DRAW!

Sign up NOW so that your Standing Order payment will be paid before the first draw in February!

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.



Pop-up Pudding Party



Saturday 17 February 2024

Marloes Village Hall

2.30pm to 4.30pm



£5 per person (payable in cash at the door)

includes a choice of puddings, a glass of Prosecco & tea or coffee

All monies raised for Marloes & St Brides Village Hall

Raffle: "Afternoon Tea" Hamper - make sure you're in it to win it

Everyone is welcome, so indulge yourselves!

Dale Amateur Dramatic Society presents...

FEBRUARY FROLICS

A variety show for all the family

Dale Coronation Hall

Saturday 17th February 7pm

All welcome U16s accompanied please

No advance tickets: pay what you feel on the door

•Raffle • Licensed bar

Proceeds shared between

Paul Sartori & DEC Ukraine Appeal

Enquiries: Chris Jessop 01646 636789 / Anne Meeke 01646 636716

Following on from the recent weather, you might be interested to know that you can report potholes and any other road damage on the PCC website here:

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/report-a-problem>

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.

"Pembrokeshire to the Pacific and back again"

Tales from a decade of conservation.

At Walwyn's Castle Village Hall

Friday February 23rd, 7 pm .

**An evening of slides, and stories, as National Park warden
Will Whittington, shares his experiences of projects he
has been involved with, from islands to The National Park.**

**Followed by choice of seasonal soups,
cheese and breads Bring your own tippie !**

All welcome.

A donation towards refreshments appreciated.



Easter Bingo

In aid of Coastlands School PTA

Friday 15th March 2024

St Ishmaels Sports & Social Club

Doors open 6pm, eyes down 6.30pm Tickets on the door.

Prizes include Easter goodies, meat vouchers and veg boxes



Being grandparents (1)

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6." (WOW! I really like this one -- it says I'm only '38'!)

A young child came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and whenever we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."



**Thursday
Social and Film
Evenings
Winter 2024 Season
Doors open 7 pm
Films start 7.30 pm
Coronation Hall, Dale**

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

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

Feb 22 - Ridley Scott's first film (1977) set during the Napoleonic Wars.

March 7 - 2022 film based on a true WW2 espionage mission involving a dead man to give the enemy false information.

Mar 21 – A 'bumpy night' is expected in this 1950 Bette Davis classic.

These are films chosen By YOU!

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

Marloes Sands 2023 Midwinter Community Beach Clean

Very fortunately New Year's Eve afternoon wasn't just rain free: the sun came out! About 40 people took part, including a visiting family with keen children who joined in on the spur of the moment and all worked hard. We also had some strong younger people who cut free and dragged back large trawl rope tangles which had been defying others' attempts to shift them for a long while. Many thanks to the Fords and the Smithies for quad haulage; we estimated the resulting "stash" at Marloes Sands car park bins to be 45 red sack equivalents. Thank you also to Pembrokeshire County Council for prompt on-wards disposal. No surprises, the majority of the plastic pollution was pot fishing- or trawling-related.



Windswept CIC

2023 end of season update



After another fantastic, yet stormy season at Windswept CIC, we are pleased to share that over 600 individuals have taken part in our community outreach programmes! During this year we have seen 88 children join our subsidised weekly kids' clubs, and have successfully delivered a project with Coastlands School, focusing on building water confidence, water skills and outdoor education.

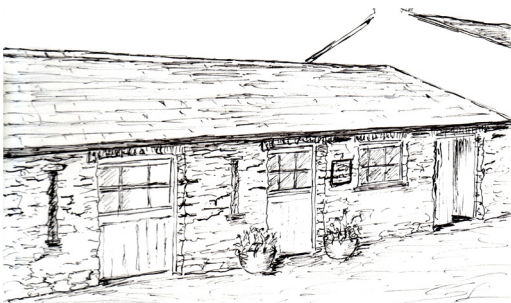
With plenty of wind this season, our kids and adult windsurf club has really taken off, with a big thanks to volunteers Bob, Leslie, Graham and Simon for all your hard work and commitment.

We've had big uptake in participants joining Paddle-Ability this year and we are pleased to now have additional adaptive equipment to offer our clients. We would like to give a massive thank you to our Paddle-Ability volunteers; Kerry, Rob and Gail, for all your time and effort that made these sessions smooth sailing.

We are blown away by the support of the Dale community and would like to give a special thank you to the individuals who helped subsidise the village hall costs, to Jim and Dan for installing our hoist base foundations and load testing, and for the donation of a manual sling from the pirate day fund.

The Windswept team are looking forward to next season, with lots of new and exciting projects in the pipeline and we hope to see you all on the water soon! Keep updated via our website windsweptwatersports.com

The Old Stables Heritage Centre



**OPEN
MONDAYS
10 - 12**

Contact Harriet (636668)

Dale W.I.

On December 5th we held a business meeting which was a little more subdued than normal. This was because the previous morning one of our members, Mary Owen, passed away peacefully in her house in Dale. During the meeting members stood in memory of a much loved and valued lady. She is missed by all of us.

Our Christmas Party was held on 12th December. Those members preparing and decorating the Jubilee Suite prior to the party felt quite emotional as this was one of Mary's annual jobs within the group. She was a very talented, artistic lady. However, as usual, the party was a great success with all the members bringing and sharing food. Particular thanks go to Elli Morgan who cooked the Turkey.

At our first meeting of the year Yvonne Evans gave us an overview of a rather unusual old local tradition which involved a wren box being carried round Dale and Marloes villages on 12th Night. This is expanded upon in a separate article in Peninsula Papers.

We will have a talk from Rosemary Royle on 23rd January about her latest travels called 'Cambodia: Birds and Rice'. Our next business meeting is on Tuesday 6th February at 19.30 with a Pancake Race to be organised for Shrove Tuesday 13th February.

Potential new members are welcome to attend a few meetings to see if it is for them. Meetings are normally on the first and third Tuesday evening in the Jubilee Suite of the Coronation Hall. However, dates and times are subject to change. Details of the next two meetings are above.

For further information you can always contact me on 07854 854838. Gail Smith

Being grandparents (2)

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I really think you should try to figure out some of these colours yourself!"

Candlelit Christmas Eve service, St Bridgets at St Brides

On our arrival, already dusk; but as in good time,
Before church let's visit that red-stoned shore
Which sea-nudges the cliffsturdy cottages

Here's a greengrowly short chop: foamlively, such zest of kelp!
Over west, we see below the big house's fanciful battlements
Affluent windowsparkles; but far prettier,
Those Rackhamy wind-stirred woodland silhouettes beyond.

We, early; and just as well, for soon
The pews are filling, all, and then the extra chairs
Until there come to load the choirstalls
Our lass and lad young farmers drustling up the aisle –
Some still vibrating, I'm sure, they are that fresh from the tractor.
Floor mudding and diesely, it is good to have their reminding reality:
Far better the world's nows for Noel, than cardsweet neverwas nostalgia.



Now, that treat so awaited: dousing of electric light
To leave each pew end Trinity tallow flared.
By the time Samuel adds the final advent flame
Such a heat already, with everyone late in now and thus
Anticipation-glowed cheeks crammed all about, old and young.

So begins the singing: well tuned, stronged by our standing close.
Of course, those ancient words remember themselves
As they do unfailing every year.
And once again, all the usual musical unsurprises:
Men like me having to octave jump mid-verse
For some keys will always defy;
Meanwhile certain ladies, possibly tippie-fired,
Delight us, nudged and winked, with descants true.

As for the readings–
Old-friend familiar in Shakespeare's English, of course;
Then so lyrical in Welsh,
The Celtic tidings gladsounding almost sung.

Service ended, all blessed; and one last glance
At the special geometry of Bridget's cross;
Then, the afterwards: spilling into surprisingly dry dark, for
Handshakes and local jokes,
Shared thoughts of those who couldn't come.

And most of us, I hope,
Think of those aboard that ship we know is out there in the bay:
Now dark-hidden; and had it still been day
She would have been mist-wreathed.
While she safely anchor-rides,
Perhaps her crew would be happier voyaging, entasked –
Rather than engine-idle waiting far from home,
Under perpetual indenture to the price of earth-hurting oil...

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The Tradition of the Cutty Wren

Pembrokeshire has some very ancient and curious customs, one of these being the “Hunting of the Cutty Wren” which took place on Twelfth Night, January 6th. This custom was practised in Dale up until the late 1920’s, and even today, one of the little Wren boxes can be found in the village. This was a wooden structure shaped like a little house with a window at each end and a small opening to insert a wren. Some of the youths and men of the village would form into groups of three or four on the evening of January 6th.

They would proceed around the village, singing at each cottage, where they would be welcomed with food and drink. Of course, there was great competition amongst the groups of lads as to who had the best decorated box. Before the night, their sisters and girlfriends would have been busy decorating the box with all manner of bits and pieces – strips of velvet, silk, ribbons, lace... you name it and it would be found draping the box. There was great excitement with the children all wanting to see the arrival of the Cutty Wren. Even if in bed, they would be brought down to see the wren, while the box was held up against the light to illuminate the wren inside. The poor bird must have been petrified!

The song was sung as follows:

Over hedges and stiles,
We have travelled many miles,
In search of our king
Unto you we now bring.
Our king is well dressed
In the silks of the best
With ribbons so rare
No king can compare

Apparently, this custom has been practised in Pembrokeshire as far back as the 18th century and there is a much longer song of many verses – the first as follows:

O, where are you going says Milder to Melder?
O, where are you going says younger to elder?
O, I cannot tell, says Festel to Jose
We’re going to the woods, says John the Red Rose

One nice little touch to the Dale antics, which leaves a warm glow in our hearts is that a certain gentleman living in Dale in the early 1900’s promised the lads that upon returning the wrens safely to him at the end of the evening, he would give them each a sixpence. This ensured the safe release of the wrens as in those days, sixpence was quite a lot of pocket money.

The above account, written by Mrs. Marjorie Johnson, was published (1999) in the Pembrokeshire W.I. "Village Book", which records stories from the history and traditions of over fifty Pembrokeshire villages.

The box was shown and discussed at the last WI meeting.

Yvonne demonstrated the Dale Wren Box which is now stored by Coastlands Local History Group. She read the statement by former member Marjorie Johnson (see above). The Box was passed to the Group following her death by her daughters. Members were pleased to hear that in this village that the youngsters concerned were rewarded for returning the wrens alive. Noted that the box is very plain – it may have been made by one of Marjorie's relatives.

There was also a Wren Box in Marloes which was given to the Folk Museum at St. Fagins, Cardiff. The History Group will ask for confirmation of this and request a reference number if anyone wishes to ask to see the Box in future. (Nicola had asked when she visited without success).



☯ Tai Chi Classes ☯

Walwyn's Castle Village Hall
Broad Haven Village Hall

Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00 am
Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Open to All - Beginners and visitors welcome at any class

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

Contact simon.rptc@gmail.com for more information



Rising Phoenix Tai Chi
www.shibashi.com



Woodpigeons

On 30th November I received an email as follows:

“There are literally hundreds of wood pigeons sitting in the sun in the tall trees behind our house. Is that normal? We normally have 2!”

Well, the answer is, as usual, yes and no!

In the summer it is very likely that you may have two Woodpigeons in your garden, doing their best to raise one or two chicks on a ridiculously flimsy nest platform of twigs in a low tree or large shrub. (The nest is so flimsy that you can often look up through it and see the egg or chick, and how it all stays together when a sitting Woodpigeon takes off with the familiar clatter of wings I shall never know!).



In the winter your garden Woodpigeons may monopolise the bird feeders, especially if you put out food on a table. But they are also happy to take the fallen food from seed feeders.

But in the winter, something else happens too. Woodpigeons form into flocks, which may be very large, and roam around feeding on kale, cabbages, newly sown seeds and other goodies which make them rather unpopular with farmers. (The garden veg. patch is also not immune to this appetite for juicy green leaves.) Incidentally farmers are allowed to shoot pigeons in order to restrict damage to crops but the law is quite complicated – you can’t just pop at a passing pigeon for fun.

Some of these large flocks are not local. I quote from the BTO website

“From late October through most of November, large flocks, sometimes numbering in the tens of thousands, can be seen on migration, flying high and south on clear, sunny days. Where they are going is open to debate but many thousands arrive in the Iberian Peninsula at this time.” These flocks are assumed to be from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe where there is little for a Woodpigeon to eat in the winter.

Three last Woodpigeon thoughts. Do you know how to recognise a Woodpigeon’s call? Many people confuse the call with the Collared Dove but Woodpigeons have a longer and more complex sequence of notes consisting of a “tune” of about 5 notes – coo **coooo** coo, coo coo – which is repeated 5 or 6 times and ends rather suddenly with a single “cuck” note. They also make a low growling noise when on the nest.

And do you know how to recognise a young Woodpigeon? It looks just like an adult – same size, same plumage – except that it does not have the white mark on the side of the neck.

And lastly, these attractive pink and grey birds feed their young on “pigeon milk” - this is a secretion from the lining of the crop of parent birds that is regurgitated to young birds. This is because the young birds would not be able to digest the parents’ usual diet of seeds.

Rosemary Royle

ABSOLUTE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE
March ISSUE IS
Wednesday 21st February 2024

This is **your** church & community publication - so why not contribute something?
Articles should ideally be no larger than 2/3 A5 page or about 350 words.

Adverts for events should be ideally no more than 1/4 A5 page size or maximum 1/2 A5 page

Please submit all copy (in English or Welsh) by email or hardcopy as follows:
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For St Ishmaels & Hasguard: **Sandra & Steve Morrell:** 2 Mabes Gate, St Ishmaels
SA62 3TL sandymorrell1@gmail.com Tel: 07544 705317

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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/BLACK BAGS on these dates:
February 16th, March 8th and 29th