

COASTLANDS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
Dale, Marloes, St Brides, St Ishmaels

ANNUAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – MARCH 2012

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES:

To advance the education of the public in the history, heritage and culture of Dale, Marloes, St Brides, St Ishmaels and the surrounding areas through, but not exclusively, research and compiling records, publication of books and leaflets, arranging lectures, meetings, events and exhibitions and by other such charitable means as the Trustees think fit.

Again during 2011 –12, activities have taken place in furtherance of these aims.

LECTURES AND TALKS:

There have been six talks on the following topics: Bring and Show with Duncan Schlee of Dyfed Archaeology Trust, Rowland Laugharne by Terry John, Military Forts by Nic Wheeler, Milford Haven Port and Harbour by Derek Davies, St Brides Dig update by Duncan Schlee, German Prisoners of War in Pembrokeshire by Mark Muller.

VISITS:

With the kind permission of Mr and Mrs G Lewis, a visit was made to Pearson Farm. With kind permission of Mr and Mrs Mathias we had a walk and talk round Monk Haven and the History of St Ishmaels Church, with kind permission of The Landmark Trust a visit was made to The West Blockhouse. The year concluded with a trip to The Public Records Office in Haverfordwest.

MEMORIAL SERVICE and EXHIBITION:

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the closure of HMS Harrier a Memorial Service was held in St James Church, Dale attended by former personnel of HMS Harrier, RN Assoc. Pembrokeshire, RN Assoc. Cardigan/Ceridigion, RN Assoc Pembroke Dock, WRNS Association, Milford Haven Sea Cadet Corps of TS Harrier, Cloud Observers Organisation- Met Assoc, and members of the local community. An exhibition on HMS Harrier was run concurrently in Coronation Hall Dale.

SOCIAL EVENING;

An evening with John Archer Thompson showing “A Tour round Pembrokeshire” was held to start raising funds for restoring The Old Stables South Street.

CONTACTS WITH OTHER GROUPS:

Invitations were received from Walwyns Castle and The Havens History Group to some of their lectures.

Coastlands School came to view the cartoons in the hut and launch The Military Trail leaflet with PLANED.

Members liaise with other history societies at The PLANED Heritage Day.

Several members attended the PCNP/Cambria Archaeology day at Pembrokeshire College.

We are active participants in The PLANED Forum.

Members have attended PLANED pre-historic group activities

Members have joined visits, tours and workshops organised by PLANED

PLANED has worked with Community Heritage groups in Dale and St Ishmaels doing work on a Military Trail leaflet.

PLANED is working with the group to produce six panels depicting the history of the area.

Members are part of the team leading the ‘The Defence of The Haven’ project, which is hoping to promote various sites in the Haven dedicated to its defence.

PLANED is helping the group to launch their Oral History Project

PAVS is working with the group to update the website

We are a member of The Federation of Pembrokeshire Local History Groups, which aims to provide support for local history groups in the county.

We have liaised with other groups such as The Sunderland Flying Boat Trust, Milford Branch of The Royal British Legion and Local History Fairs to showcase our area's history. We try to notify all members of these "extra" activities, by email, where we have an address and by mentioning the events at our meetings. We apologise if some members have not been aware of them. If you would like to be notified by phone of any forthcoming events, organised by other groups, please let the Secretary know.

RESEARCH:

- Dale and St Ishmaels Community Forum Heritage Groups completed work on the Military Trail leaflet
- We are involved with creating six panels depicting aspects of local history.
- The group aided by PLANED has initiated an Oral History project - to work within the communities to record the memoirs of individuals about their lives in a "bygone era". The aim is to strengthen the communities' sense of place and pride in their locality.
- Work continues on the Cambria Archaeology Local Sites Survey, in which members are asked to visit sites listed on the database to check if the information given is up to date and correct. We are also asked to notify Cambria Archaeology of any other sites we know of which are not listed on the database.
- We are actively participating in the Adffordir project, run by Pembrokeshire National Park and Dyfed Archaeology Trust, monitoring our area for sites which need preserving, or investigating before they completely disappear, and would urge members to become part of the scheme.
- Dale and St Ishmaels Heritage Groups are continuing to do research into farms and buildings of note in their area.
- Work on Maps and field names in the Coastlands area is an ongoing project.
- Tracing house and family histories is a form of research we are often asked to undertake. Unfortunately, it is very time consuming, though extremely interesting, so we would welcome any assistance and also thank those members who have already helped in this work.

WEBSITE:

Our new server, ATTACHE is proving satisfactory. PAVS have helped to update and streamline the website. We are once more in a position to add new information – the events page gives details of forthcoming meetings and activities. We continue to get queries through the site and thank members who have helped to answer these.

INSURANCE:

We continue to use the British Association of Local History Societies' Insurance policy, covering the Coastlands Group for Public Liability and Equipment. Members are reminded that they should cover themselves for Personal Accidents.

AIRCRAFT CARTOONS, DALE CAMP:

The group continues to rent the premises containing the cartoons. It is now a listed building. It is hoped as part of The Defence of the Haven scheme, to have a 'travelling' exhibition created to make the cartoons more readily available.

THE OLD STABLES, SOUTH STREET, DALE.

We are indebted to Dale Castle Estate for the long term lease of part of The Old Stables, South Street, Dale. The work on the exterior of the building has already been started by The Castle Estate. We will be looking for help from members to fit out the interior. It is hoped to house a permanent, rolling display of our material, to be available to the public all year round.

COMMITTEE:

The committee have met seven times during the year to plan the programme, take administrative decisions, co-ordinate research work and ensure that records are preserved.