

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

**ANNUAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – MARCH 2013**

**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 2012 –13, activities have taken place in furtherance of these aims.

**LECTURES AND TALKS:**

There have been six talks on the following topics: The Port of Haverfordwest by Simon Hancock, Tales of War-time Pembrokeshire from Derek Rees, Nelson in Pembrokeshire by Ted Goddard, Stories behind some Pembrokeshire Headstones from Owen Vaughan, an update on The Archaeology of the Peninsular, especially Watery Bay from Pete Crane and Women at Work in WW2 from Chris Stephens. We also had an evening with the Codd Family to investigate their family tree, guided by Malcolm Cullen.

**VISITS:**

With the kind permission of Mr D Palmer, Mr and Mrs R Neale and other householders, a visit was made to Butterhill Grange. The Group's visit to the Milford Haven Museum culminated in a meal.

**SOCIAL EVENING;**

A Christmas Miscellany evening was held to start raising funds for restoring The Old Stables South Street.

**CONTACTS WITH OTHER GROUPS:**

Invitations were received from Walwyns Castle History Group, The Havens History Group and The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust to some of their lectures, Pembrokeshire History Society and The Havens History Group amongst others sent notification of their exhibitions.

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

We are active participants in The PLANED Forum.

PAVS have been instrumental in guiding us on legal matters and the website, as well as helping set up a data base to streamline the catalogue of the archive.

Members have joined visits, tours and workshops organised by PLANED

PLANED is helping the group with their Oral History Project

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:**

- 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. An encouraging number of interviews are now complete. The resulting DVDs will add considerably to the archive.

- The Group, aided by PLANED, has produced a leaflet with a map and explanation of the sites to be seen in the area.
- Work continues on the Dyfed Archaeology Trust 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 Arfordir 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.
- 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:**

We now own our domain site. 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. We will increase the cover to include visitors to The Old Stables Heritage Centre. 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. The Defence of the Haven scheme, of which we hoped to be a part, has curtailed its remit to what the group is unable to gain from the funding. The Group is still investigating the possibility of creating a mobile mock up of the Barrack Room Cartoons. We have to report the death, last summer, of Mrs Gill Dashfield, widow of Lt "Dax" Dashfield who created the cartoons.

### **THE OLD STABLES, SOUTH STREET, DALE.**

Coastlands Local History Group is now the formal leaseholders of The Old Stables, South Street, Dale. The Group is indebted to Dale Castle Estate for the long term lease of The Old Stables, South Street, Dale. The executive committee appointed three trustees – The Officers – by a Vesting Deed, to sign the lease with Dale Castle Estates on behalf of the group. The building will be known as The Old Stables Heritage Centre.

The work on the exterior of the building has been completed by The Castle Estate.

The majority of the interior work is being completed thanks to grants from PLANED and PAVS. The remaining costs are being borne by Coastlands Local History Group. The opening of The Old Stables Heritage Centre is due in the early summer.

It is hoped The Old Stables Heritage Centre will house a permanent, rolling display of our material and be available to the public all year round.

### **COMMITTEE:**

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