

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – MARCH 2014

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 2013 –14, activities have taken place in furtherance of these aims.

LECTURES AND TALKS:

There have been six talks on the following topics: Early Monasticism as described by Father Gildas, House Histories by George Edwards, Edward Perkins talked on the Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire, Martin Roberts gave us new facts regarding the sinking of “The Queen”, Mike Bennett talked on Mills, and Martin Roberts returned to talk on the Iron Age Fort at Castell Henllys.

VISITS:

A visit was made to Chapel Bay Fort, and the group’s visit to Penrhos Cottage culminated in a meal.

THE OLD STABLES HERITAGE CENTRE;

The Group is indebted to Dale Castle Estate for the long term lease of The Old Stables, South Street, Dale.

The Grand Opening, in June, was an occasion to thank all those who have helped turn the near derelict building into the Heritage Centre it is now. A small exhibition was displayed to highlight the areas the group covers at present. The main exhibition during the summer season was a broader look at all aspects of the history of the area. We are indebted to Sophie Dobson who brought a small exhibition on Welsh Costume for the later part of the season. Over 1600 visitors came through the doors during the season.

It is hoped to use The Heritage Centre to encourage links with the wider community, to that end some pupils from Coastlands School came for what is hoped to be the first of many trips by the pupils, and a visit was made by The Friends of The National Park.

A couple of workshops on tracing house histories were held.

The Old Stables Heritage Centre has been successful in gaining the National Place-making Award in the “Heritage” category. PLANED nominated The Old Stables Heritage Centre for the award. The citation by the judges commended the re-use of an old “heritage” vernacular building and the high level of volunteer input.

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, Pembroke 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 start digitising 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.

RESEARCH:

- The group, aided by PLANED, continued with the Oral History project - working 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 DVD will add considerably to the archive.
- The Group, aided by PLANED, has produced a leaflet with a map and explanation of sites of interest 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. 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 own our domain site. PAVS have helped to update and streamline the website. 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 have increased 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 on Dale Camp containing the cartoons. The Group is still investigating the possibility of creating a mobile display of the Barrack Room Cartoons. We are indebted to the Dashfield family, for generous donations to the group of artefacts belonging to Lt. "Dax" Dashfield, the creator of the cartoons.

There were visits to the Hut from LLangwm History Society and The Friends of The National Park.

COMMITTEE:

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