

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – MARCH 2015

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 2014 –15, activities have taken place in furtherance of these aims.

LECTURES AND TALKS:

There have been seven talks on the following topics: The Oral History Project update by Wendy Marmara, Schooldays and What makes Marloes Tick run by the Committee, Simon Hancock described World War 1 in Pembrokeshire, Edward Perkins talked on the History of Farming in Pembrokeshire with special reference to World War 1, while Keith Johnson described the Life of The Pop Man- Thomas Idris, a local boy made good. Simon Hancock returned to throw light on Smugglers and Pirates and the year culminated with a talk on Milford Trawlers by Ken Watson.

VISITS:

Visits were made to Caldey Island and Castell Henllys

THE OLD STABLES HERITAGE CENTRE;

The Group continue to rent The Old Stables from Dale Castle Estate.

Three exhibitions were held during 2014 covering topics as diverse as Education, Buildings under the title “Castles and Cottages” and Military History.

2062 visitors came through the doors during the season.

Risk Assessments have been undertaken for “Fire” and “Health and Safety”. Mr Derek Lister has been appointed Safety Officer for The Old Stables Heritage Centre. Data Protection Procedures, under the Data Protection Act 1998 have been drawn up based on The National Archives procedures. Mrs Margaret Copley has been appointed Data Protection Officer who asks anyone who is lending or giving items to the group fill in a Permissions Form.

All these documents are available for scrutiny.

It is hoped The Old Stables Heritage Centre will continue to be used by the community, especially those doing their own research. To help facilitate private research, The Centre is open to all every Tuesday morning.

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, Templeton History Society, Monkton History Society and The Havens History Group sent notification of their exhibitions.

Members attended the PCNP/Dyfed Archaeology Trust Archaeology Day at Pembrokeshire College.

We are active participants in PLANED Forums in Dale and St Ishmael.

PAVS have been instrumental in helping set up a data base to start digitising the catalogue of the archive.

Members have joined visits, tours and workshops organised by PLANED and PAVS.

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

Members have been actively involved with Adding Value to Tourism initiative run by PLANED.

The group has liaised with Valero and Dale Sailing to try and identify how best to stabilise a World War Two Wellington Bomber propeller.

Members have been to Tourism Ambassador Workshops run by PLANED.

We have liaised with other groups such as PLANED, 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:

- Thanks to work undertaken by Malcolm Cullen on the history of The Polish Aircrew based at Dale Airfield, the group is to take on responsibility for a propeller from the Wellington Bomber HX384 aircraft later this year.
- A leaflet for Marloes and St Brides, similar to those for Dale and St Ishmael, is being investigated.
- 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. Kevin Rogers is updating and streamlining 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. Visits were made by The Military Trail tour organised by PLANED, Pembrokeshire Historical Society, Friends of the National Park and PLANED brought a group of Sardinians who were over in the UK looking into different ways to highlight local history.

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.