

Summer2012



# The Heritage Herald



Researching local heritage increases a community's knowledge of what is in its area and reveals what makes a place special, distinctive and gives it its "[Sense of Place](#)". PLANED's work with heritage and tourism is focused on increasing the enjoyment and appreciation of Pembrokeshire for both locals and visitors.

PLANED, The Old School, Station Road, Narberth, SA67 7DU



The Caldey Island  
Ogham stone

Welcome to the summer edition of our biannual heritage newsletter. This newsletter will keep you up to date on the projects PLANED supports across the county.

We are continuing our work celebrating and appreciating local heritage under two of our projects, 'Sustainable Communities' and 'Adding Value to Community Tourism'.

These projects are funded through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

## More on military

The research into the military past of Pembrokeshire is on-going. The following communities are being researched: Begelly, Burton, Cilgerran, Llanddewi Velfrey, Llangwm, Narberth, Penally, Puncheston, Rosemarket, Slebech, St Dogmaels, Tenby and Trecwn.

The research is progressing well and we are hoping to launch the next section of the guide in autumn, so watch the space!

If you have any information which relates to the military heritage of these communities or would like to find out more about the project please e-mail: [militaryheritage@planed.org.uk](mailto:militaryheritage@planed.org.uk). We are also keen to hear from communities that have already been included in the guide and wish to update the information.



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer  
Datblygu Gwledig; Ewrop yn Buddsoddi  
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
The European Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development: Europe Investing in  
Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# 'Hook'ed on Heritage

Hook Heritage Society had an overwhelming inaugural meeting with over 70 people turning out on a rainy night in April.

The first part of the evening was the viewing of a HTV film made for television in the 1970s, 'The Gift of Ormond and Edwards' told the story of the compass salmon fishermen of Hook and Llangwm. Each day, four men were allowed to fish from each village using black tar boats. The tide made it a dangerous business even for experienced fishermen and they only had 2½ hours of fishing before low tide. The distinction between the two villages is expressed quite bluntly in the film as the fishermen from Hook were all ex-collierymen and the Llangwm men regarded them with distrust.

The second part of the evening featured a lovely ensemble of photographs from the opening ceremony of the Miner Memorial Garden in July 2011 when the whole community turned out, accompanied by the Royal British Legion, to commemorate those who lost their lives.

Following on from that was a wonderful display of old photographs of the village which caused plenty of laughter and evoked many happy memories. To accompany all of this were displays of old photographs around the room and tea and biscuits too!

Hook have got big plans for the next couple of years with an update to their book, *Where the River Bends*, the village school and First World War centenary and a pictorial history of Hook. If you have any old photographs of Hook, please let us know.

*Acknowledgments to Hook Heritage Society, Richard Howells and The Black Diamond, Hook Village Newsletter.*



A model of a compass net boat in the West Wales Maritime Heritage Museum

In the film Howard Jenkins shows



viewers how to make a compass net which is hung from a birch A-frame. The boats row out to mid-channel where the fishermen lower the poles and net into the ebbing tide. A rope is stretched from the river banks to help keep the boat in place.

## Tracking down county's industrial past

The Pembrokeshire's Industrial Past Group went on another exciting adventure. As part of their research into the industrial landscape along the Whitland to Fishguard train route, the group boarded a train in Whitland on one murky Friday morning in March. The group looked at the landscape and sites visible along the route. Getting off at Fishguard Harbour they were welcomed by Carl Milne, the Stena Line port manager, who gave the group a tour of the harbour areas that are not normally accessible to the public. The north side of the 3/4 mile long breakwater was completed in 1918 and consists of stone and rubble as well as huge concrete blocks weighing around 40 tons each. In the lighthouse the walls bear marks of staff working there going back to early 1950s. Names, dates, notes and prices of beer and cigarettes over different years are still visible.

Officially opened in 1906, the port of Fishguard was once a bustling place. It was visited by Mauretania, the first Cunard liner to use the port, on 30 August 1909. The port was mainly used for shipment of passengers, goods and cattle to Ireland. The Industrial Past group were lucky enough to explore the original subway below the passengers' platform, through which cattle used to embark and disembark.



The group in front of the Charter House lifeboat built in 1910, recently restored by local people

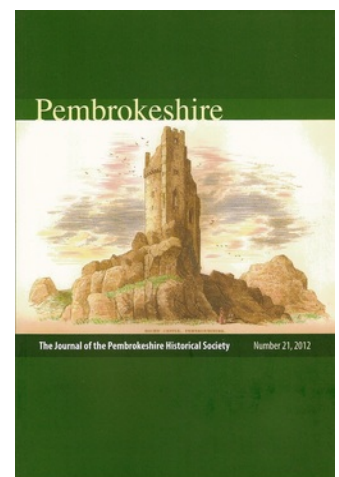
After lunch the group looked at photographs of the harbour being built and the personnel working on site over the years. The group caught the 1.30pm train back and further explored the industrial landscape on the way back to Whitland.

Have you read the latest Pembrokeshire Historical Journal? Find out more about the work of the Industrial Past Group when you pick up your copy.



The group looking at Carl Milne's collection of old photographs of the port

After lunch the group looked at photographs of the harbour being



The Experience Pembrokeshire Festival took place between 19th May and 9th June. There was a variety of events ranging from bread making in Maenclochog to folk music in Fishguard, from sea kayaking in Abercastle to gentle walks through Llandissilio, so something for everyone. The following accounts are some of the heritage-themed events that took place during the festival.

### ***The Last Invasion***

Two visits were organised to the tapestry in Fishguard Town Hall for the Festival. The 30 metre long tapestry tells the story of the Last Invasion of Fishguard. It was drawn by artist Elizabeth Cramp in two weeks but then it had to be traced onto paper and then overlaid onto the tapestry with a sheet of carbon in between and traced again. Finally those volunteers with steady hands drew over the carbon imprint with waterproof pen before the stitching could even begin! The whole project took 3 years to complete but the final tapestry is amazing and definitely worth a visit.

### ***Sense of Place Tour***

On a lovely sunny day, a bus-full weaved its way down to Carew Control Tower to spend the morning with the very enthusiastic team there. After learning about the history of the airfield and having a tour of the old Milton Post Office and the memorabilia that has been collected and donated over the years, the group headed across to the control tower itself for stories of the Second World War and to meet Winky the pigeon. After singing a number of rousing tunes in the air raid shelter it was already time to get back onto the bus. After lunch, Pauline from Pembroke and Monkton Historical Society, gave us a tour of Monkton Priory, a beautiful church, the old priory, the 15th century farmhouse and a dovecote gave us all plenty to see and discuss. But once again time was too short and we visited our final destination in Pembroke Dock, West Wales Maritime Heritage Museum and workshop, to learn more about the Tenby Lugger and the group's future plans.



## *Military Marvels at Templeton*

Templeton Heritage Group led a guided walk on Templeton Airfield as part of the Experience Pembrokeshire Festival. It was well attended by over 40 people. Basil Foraud welcomed everyone on behalf of the group and he went on to explain that the research was an ongoing project and that any input would be most welcome. After a brief history of the whole site, Basil pointed out the position of the bomb stores and the Nissen hut, which were both situated opposite the airfield on private land, and the Microwave Communication Bunker built in the Cold War period at the Thomas Chapel entrance.

The first stop on the walk was to the perimeter runway and it was explained why the concrete was covered in bitumen. Next we walked to the main runway and heard how wind directions affected the construction of airfields in Pembrokeshire. The next stop was at the fuelling bay where there were some remains of the bases of the giant fuel tanks.

During the walk Basil described the aeroplanes that had used the airfield during the Second World War and their functions. Also the different units that occupied the airfield from its opening in January 1943 to its closure in 1945 and its subsequent use.

On the last leg of the walk we saw the Battle Headquarters situated on the top of the hill. The control tower was demolished and the site is now overgrown and cannot be seen from the public footpaths.

Two accidents were recorded for RAF Templeton; one when a plane skidded off the main runway and ran into the hill. Fortunately only the plane was damaged. The other was a tragic accident when a plane with four airman crashed at Redstone killing three members of the crew and seriously injuring the other, he subsequently died of his injuries.

*Written by Sue Lloyd,  
Templeton Heritage*



## *Sharing Memories*

Wendy Marmara has been working with us to develop a number of community oral history projects. Initial contact has been made with a number of heritage groups that expressed an interest in the oral history



The members of the Coastlands group at their first session

projects through their community action plans.

The Coastlands Local History Group were keen to record local memories and an introductory session into how to conduct an oral history project, interviews and so on took place at the end of January.

They underwent their first interview practice session in February, where they learned about the different

interview techniques as well as how to prepare for an interview and practised their new techniques on each other. The group have now started the community interviewing process with the eldest members of the community and a number of strong themes are emerging such as agriculture, Kensington Hospital and wartime. The next steps in the project development will include editing the interviews and sorting them into themes.

The Dinas community wanted to build on an earlier project started by Mair Davis to record local memories. A quick poll during the community's regular Luncheon Club session confirmed that there was sufficient interest to start a new interview programme. The first interview at Dinas was carried out by Mair Davis in Welsh. Three local residents, Norman, Ralph and Meredith, recalled attending the village school in the 1930s (now Yr Hen Ysgol Community Centre) and other memories relating to community life and how times have changed.

Both of these projects are continuing with more interviews taking place in both areas.

## *Mathry Memories*

A new heritage group in Mathry has started up a Facebook page in order to encourage people living near and far to share their photographic memories. Search for Mathry Memories or Atgofion Mathri on Facebook and if you have any old photos of the Mathry area, please upload them.



## *Celebration of heritage continues...*

In the December issue of the Heritage Herald you heard about the interpretation of the industrial heritage story in the Kilgetty and Saundersfoot area that had started in 2011. All the work has now been completed and if you are out and about in Saundersfoot don't forget to look out for the new interpretation panel with stunning photographs of the old harbour or learn more about the unique landscape in the Plantation woodland. At the New Inn end of Amroth you will find another interpretation panel, which gives you more information on sites associated with coal mining in the area.



Saundersfoot Harbour panel

## *Leaflet launch in Pembroke*



Linda Asman, George Lewis and Kate Lindley at the official launch of the leaflet

A leaflet celebrating Pembroke's rich history produced by the Pembroke and Monkton Local History Society with the help of PLANED was launched in February with an exhibition on Pembroke's history. Linda Asman, chair of the Society, said: "Pembroke has many fascinating aspects to its past: the Sense of Place leaflet gives a flavour of the town's rich history

and we hope it will encourage people to go on and explore further. We are proud of this leaflet and believe it will be a useful tool for local people and visitors alike."

Illustrated by local artist George Lewis, the leaflet can be picked up from Pembroke Tourist Information Centre, Pembroke Town Hall and Pembroke Castle or visit [www.pembrokeandmonktonhistory.org.uk](http://www.pembrokeandmonktonhistory.org.uk) for more information.

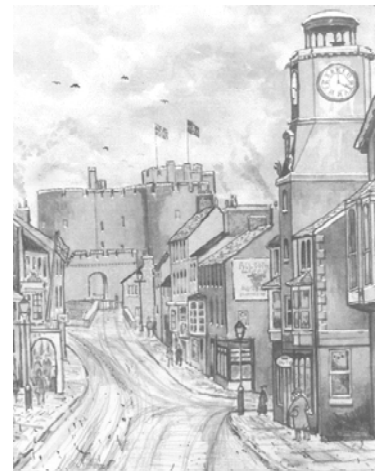


Illustration of Main Street by George Lewis

## Trip to Anglesey

An enthusiastic group journeyed to Anglesey recently to visit Amlwch Industrial Heritage Trust (AIHT) who manage Parys Mountain - now designated as one of the 'Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest' and also soon to be considered as a World Heritage Site.



The Copper Kingdom, Anglesey

David Jenkins, a founder member of the trust and senior lecturer in soil science at Bangor University shared his knowledge and enthusiasm about the history of the mine. Copper was first worked here during the Bronze Age, 3500 years ago. In Roman times, it was forged into tools to fuel their ambitions for empire. In 1768 a rich vein of copper was found and the mine was catapulted into being one of the most important mining sites in the world. Today AIHT are keen to attract tourists to their wonderful industrial legacy and create a story from the mine through to Amlwch Port, where many of the original buildings still exist. It was from this port that the copper was transported to Swansea for smelting.

The trip explored how industry and tourism can be intertwined successfully and the group all agreed that it was a 'not to miss' if you are visiting Anglesey.

**If you would like further information about any of the projects in this bulletin, please contact Bethany Lloyd on 01834 862105 or [bethanyl@planed.org.uk](mailto:bethanyl@planed.org.uk)**

We look forward to seeing you at our events over the next six months



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Mae fersiwn Cymraeg o'r daflen hon ar gael. Os nad ydych yn gallu dod o hyd i un, ffoniwch 01834 862105 neu rhwch glic ar [www.planed.org.uk](http://www.planed.org.uk) i lawrlwytho copi.