

COASTLANDS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP (CIO)

Dale, Marloes, St Brides, St Ishmaels

ANNUAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 4th MARCH 2026.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES:

To advance the education of the public in the history, heritage and culture of Dale, Marloes, St Brides and St Ishmael and the surrounding areas through research, compiling of records, publication of books and leaflets, arranging lectures, meetings, events, exhibitions and by the establishment of an archive containing information, artefacts and photographs and the provision and maintenance of a Heritage Centre; and by such other charitable means as the Trustees shall think fit..

Again during 2025 –26, activities have taken place in furtherance of these aims.

LECTURES AND TALKS, SPECIAL EVENTS, VISITS:

2025 saw a full programme, starting with a talk by Captain Rory Smith a Trinity House Ambassador on The Story of Trinity House, followed by a History of Haverfordwest Shops by Pat Swales Barker. The use of the group's Oral History archive was the backdrop to a reflection of times past with Wendy Mamara. The talk marked the 80th Anniversary of the end of WW2 and was accompanied by an exhibition highlighting events mentioned. Captain John Pearn MNM outlined the work of the Pilots of Milford Haven. The history of The Cawdors of Stackpole was highlighted by Gareth Mills while a broader look at how the Museums of Wales came into being was explained by Hywel John, 2025 was completed by a look at the Work of The Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park by their Chair Clare Dow. 2026 began with a talk by Martin Davies exploring The Roman Routes of Pembrokeshire, while the final talk in the 2025-2026 year was by Tomos Jones on archaeological projects of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

THE OLD STABLES HERITAGE CENTRE;

Coastlands Local History Group continues to lease The Old Stables Heritage Centre from Dale Castle Estate..

Risk Assessments have been undertaken for "Fire" and "Health and Safety" by Dr Steve Morrell the appointed Safety Officer for The Old Stables Heritage Centre.

Mrs Harriet Bishop, the appointed Data Protection Officer for the group, continues to supervise adherence to the Group's Data Protection Procedures.

Other policies held by the group are on Safeguarding, Child Protection, Welsh Language and Equal Opportunities.

All policy documents are available for scrutiny in The Old Stables Heritage Centre.

The Old Stables Heritage Centre will continue to be used by the community, especially those doing their own research.

The Old Stables Heritage Centre was open in 2025 with an Exhibition "Reflections of WW2" to mark the 80th Anniversary of the end of WW2 by looking at the impact the war had on the local community in view of the large Naval and RAF presence in the area. The exhibition also covered those from the community who served during the war be it abroad or on the home front to include those who returned as well as commemorating of those who did not.

CONTACT WITH OTHER GROUPS:

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

We have liaised with other groups such as PLANED, Dyfed Archaeology Trust and Pembrokeshire County Council to showcase our area's history.

The group continue to work with RCAHMW as it continues to record and monitor vulnerable sites. We receive notification of talks and events being held by other Local History Groups.

RESEARCH:

- The recording of the archive material online continues. It is hoped, in time, it will be available to the wider community via the Group's website.
- 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 participate in projects, run by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Dyfed Archaeology Trust and The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments Wales, as they come up, monitoring our area for sites which need preserving, or investigating before they completely disappear, and would urge members to become part of the scheme.
- The Group has drawn the attention of RCAHMW to various sites of interest and Dr Julian Whitewright, RCAHMW, is working with members to record as many as possible.
- Visits from people whose families were involved with RAF Dale and RNAS Dale have increased information held by the group and gained extra items for the archive.

WEBSITE:

We own our domain site. We continue to get queries through the site and thank members who have helped to answer these.

The Group also has a Face Book page.

INSURANCE:

We continue to use the British Association of Local History Societies' Insurance policy, covering the Coastlands Local History Group (CIO) for Public Liability and Equipment. We have increased the cover to include visitors to The Old Stables Heritage Centre, and our assets. 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 Barrack Room Cartoons. Interested parties are taken to view the cartoons when requested.

COMMITTEE:

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

Members are advised by email or social media as to any items the committee may become aware of which might be of interest to them or to impact on them.

Coastlands Local History Group
Annual Meeting 04/03/26
Chair's Report

You have heard from the Secretary's report the range of talks and activities that have been undertaken during the last year. We hope you enjoyed the 2025 programme. We were grateful particularly to Wendy Mamara for making use of the oral history recordings that many of us were involved with in 2014. Editing of this material is a skilled task, and Wendy wove an interesting story around these oral memories, and we look forward to the talk planned for November this year.

In 2025 we also had visits from three families retracing the steps of family members who had served in this area during World War 2. The visit by Jacqueline Gibbons from Canada followed up on an initial enquiry in 2019. We were grateful to the many people involved over her weekend visit, who answered her many questions and also took her around the Peninsula. Harriet and I received Christmas greetings from her, and earlier in the year new photographs of the Dale Airfield were received from her sister.

We would welcome more of our members to visit, and perhaps also help out with stewarding at the Heritage Centre. This is a resource for Group members to use for their own research. Perhaps the talk we are about to receive on Place Names will encourage more individual research. You are also welcome to help out with individual projects/exhibitions.

Finally, I wish to thank all of the Committee for their hard work during the year. Thank you also to all our members for their support. Please encourage new people to come along. We have a busy programme arranged for this year, plus the exhibition at the Centre, and this year also one in Marloes Hall centred around the Clock Tower. We look forward to seeing you all at future events.

Yvonne Evans
Chair

COASTLAND LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME	
Memberships subs	345.00
Meetings donations	367.00
Donations at Old Stables	402.47
Harrier Book (incl postage)	139.62
Sales at Old Stables	48.00
TOTAL INCOME	1302.09
EXPENDITURE	
Premises	735.50
Insurance	222.56
Website and IT costs	72.12
Other printing	52.00
Subscriptions	75.00
Meeting costs	273.20
Sum Up Charges	0.88
Misc	43.62
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1474.88

Net outcome	-172.79
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BALANCE SHEET

Opening Balance	Cash	£
	Bank	6984.64
	TOTAL	6984.64
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		
		-172.79
Calculated Closing Balances		
		6811.85
Actual Closing Balances		
	Bank Statement	6834.71
	Petty Cash	5.00
	Payments not through bank yet	27.86
TOTAL		6811.85

Independently Examined



Signed

Date

17/2/2026