

FRIENDS OF PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK

England & Wales · Charity number 1201905

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-02-10

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Friends Of Pembrokeshire
Coast National Park
Tourist Information Centre
Oriol Y Parc
St. Davids
HAVERFOR

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Website fpcnp.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ASSIST FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK.TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS CONCERNED WITH THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK, BOTH LOCALLY AND IN ITS WIDER NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXT, ESPECIALLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MEANS “DEVELOPMENT WHICH MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS.”

Activities: Environment, heritage and conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.For the benefit of the Park and general public.Operates in Pembrokeshire.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Pembrokeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£14,946	£10,703	-	-
2024-04-30	£9,865	£8,052	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Clare Dow	Chair	2023-08-09
Caroline Potter BSc, TC		2024-04-03
Dr Ceri Michelle Powell		2024-11-13
Edward William Morris Holdaway		2024-09-05
Ian Chambers		2023-02-10
Ian Howard Pattinson MSc		2023-02-10
John Hugh Dow		2023-02-10
John Matthew Leigh Collis		2026-01-09
STEPHEN FRANK DRINKWATER		2023-02-10

FRIENDS OF PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1201905

Accounts



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May
2024 To 30 April 2025

Reference and Administrative information

Charity Name: Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Working name: Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast

Charity registration number: 1201905

Address: Oriel y Parc, St Davids, Haverfordwest, SA62 6NW

Trustees

Ian Chambers

Clare Dow

John Dow

Russell Downs (resigned 5 October 2024)

Steve Drinkwater

Janet Hazell (resigned 5 October 2024)

Edward Holdaway (appointed 5 September 2024)

Andrew Milne (appointed 13 November 2024)

Ian Pattinson

Caroline Potter

Ceri Powell (appointed 13 November 2024)

Angus Stott

Susan Weber (appointed 13 November 2024)

Secretary: Sarah Codrington

Objectives

The purposes of the Charity as set out in our constitution are as follows:

To assist, for the public benefit, in the protection, conservation and enhancement of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

To advance the education of the public on matters concerned with the conservation and sustainable development of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, both locally and in its wider national and global context, especially among young people.

Membership



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May 2024 To 30 April 2025

The Charity has the following types of membership:

- Single Adult Membership
- Joint Adult Membership
- Young Person Membership - for those aged 18 to 25
- Business Membership

Main activities of the Charity:

Events

We arrange a varied programme of events, with one or two events each month. Our programme contributes to the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Some events are only open to members but most are available for any interested member of the public to attend

Communications

One of our core purposes is to raise awareness of the Park. This can include promoting its special qualities and heritage. It also covers highlighting the issues, threats and challenges affecting it.

Twice a year, in April and October we produce a full colour magazine (*News and Views*) which is distributed free of charge to our members. Members can receive the magazine in either paper form or electronically. The magazine contains in-depth articles on themes ranging from nature, history, local businesses, developments in policy at local and national levels and other national parks in the UK. The latest version is exclusive to our members for 3 months after publication, but then is added to our e-magazine archive which can be accessed by any member of the public via our website.

We keep our members, business members and partners informed about the latest news concerning the Friends, the Park and external issues impacting the Park through our email newsletter, *Friends News Update*. This is published every two months throughout the year. All issues can be accessed via our website.

We promote both the Park and the Charity to the public with a view to raising awareness and recruiting new members. We advertise in the National Park newspaper, *Coast to Coast*, every year and issue local press releases on important



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May 2024 To 30 April 2025

news and policy matters. Members of the Executive team also give presentations to other community groups and run promotional stands at events. We maintain a presence on selected social media platforms, posting on Park issues and our work.

Work Party

We arrange and undertake weekly conservation work parties which make a major contribution to the conservation and enhancement of the Park and we are regarded as safe and able hands, willing to do any task anywhere in the Park.

Projects are usually performed in collaboration with National Park rangers, though we also do work for the National Trust, especially on the Stackpole estate, and with other conservation charities.

Typically, our work party contributes the equivalent of some 3 00 volunteer days in the Park each year.

Campaigns and Policy

One of our purposes is to assist, for the public benefit, in the protection, conservation and enhancement of Pembrokeshire's National Park.

To achieve this:

- We act as a 'critical friend' of the National Park Authority as it carries out its statutory role.
- We act as watchdog on other authorities whose activities affect the Park.
- We act as a consultee to the Welsh Government and UK Government on issues affecting the Park.

We are a member of the Campaign for National Parks and a founding member of the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes. We also work with other groups who seek to conserve our countryside.

We monitor local policies and developments which have an impact on the Park, aided by our vigilant members and the public.

We only get involved with local planning applications where we feel they will have a detrimental effect on the environment of the Park and its enjoyment by the public



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May 2024 To 30 April 2025

We also respond to Welsh Government and UK Government policies, often as part of a campaign led by one of our partner organisations, but also in our own right, where the impacts to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park are specific.

Community Projects

An important part of our work is engaging with the local communities in Pembrokeshire and surrounding counties to promote a deep appreciation of the special qualities of the National Park, especially among young people and families. We also seek to engage with the tourist community, a vital part of the local economy, seeking to get visitors to look beyond the beaches and appreciate the special qualities of the National Park.

Project Fund

Our Project Fund provides small grants for up to £1500 for projects aimed at schools, community organisations working with young people and other charities for projects or activities that further the aims of the Charity.

We support projects that:

- Conserve or enhance the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park; and/or
- Enhance understanding of the special qualities of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park or nature.

These may be capital projects, such as:

- the building of an outdoor classroom at a school
- the provision of outdoor learning equipment, such as gardening tools;
- planting trees or wildflower meadows; or
- equipment or facilities for conservation charities.

We will also consider applications to cover expenses, such as transport or attendance costs for pupils to an activity within the Park or an outdoor learning experience.

A panel from the FPCNP Executive Committee will assess applications against the following criteria:

- Promotes understanding of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
- Furthers conservation or biodiversity improvement in the National Park and/or Pembrokeshire



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May 2024 To 30 April 2025

- Furthers sustainable development within the National Park and/or Pembrokeshire
- Value for money

In recent years, the Project Fund has been providing funding to the National Park education programme where we have helped to fund additional visits to corners of the National Park that schools may otherwise not have access to.

St Brides Pump House

In 2000/2001, the Charity carried out the restoration of the St Brides Pump House and its 100-year old pump and engine and continues to be responsible for the maintenance of the building, the surrounding garden, the engine and the pump.

Highlights from 2024 - 2025

Completion by the Chair walking the whole of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path and videoing this so all of the membership are able to experience the landscape and history of the National Park. Videos are available through our website and YouTube channel.

Membership

The introduction of a new free Youth membership category (18-25 yrs) to encourage Youth engagement together with the appointment of a Youth Champion. Nine Youth members had joined by May 2025.

Membership numbers remain broadly level at around 400. 40 members did not renew their membership this year, fewer than non-renewals last year (when we increased subscriptions), but higher than historical records. A trend in the last two years is that, increasingly, long-standing members are citing advanced age as a reason for leaving.

Transfer of our membership system from a basic spreadsheet to a cloud-based service which can be accessed by the members to view and maintain their own data. This has greatly streamlined the member management process and has facilitated adoption of improved interfaces for payment collection.

Policy and planning



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May 2024 To 30 April 2025

We responded to the consultation on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Partnership Plan 2025 - 2029. The Plan sets out how the National Park Authority (PCNPA) will care for the Park and its iconic landscape over the next five years.

Our response to the consultation document can be read via a link on the Policy and Campaigns section on our website.

In particular we commented on the role of partnerships in preparing and delivering plans. Already, several National Parks, especially Eryri and Bannau Brycheiniog, have involved stakeholders in the whole process to good effect, through the formation of Partnerships. We are supporting the establishment of such a forum

We have been monitoring the position of major developments which are likely to have an impact on the National Park and which will be the subject of formal planning applications in the near future.

The Newgale Coastal Adaptation Project, led by Pembrokeshire County Council, has been the subject of a statutory pre- application consultation, to which we responded. It is expected that a planning application will be submitted to the National Park Authority during 2025.

The MoD is proposing to redevelop Cawdor Barracks, Brawdy as the UK host site for the DARC (Deep Space Radar Capability) radar programme. Although this is outside the National Park area, the erection of the radar station is likely to have a visual impact on the Park. The proposal will be the subject of a planning application to Pembrokeshire County Council to which we will be responding.

The Friends broadly support the Campaign for National Parks project on National Marine Parks as the Friends have long held the view that the marine dimension of the National Park could be included within its boundaries and recognised as such nationally and should be planned and managed as one with its land area.

Workparty

With over 1400 hours worked across the Park, and the equivalent of over 300 volunteer days, the Workparty have carried out the usual variety of jobs. The biggest winner, as always, is helping with the eradication of Himalayan Balsam - either sessions pulling balsam or sessions doing winter clearance work to open up areas to focus on in the following growing season - 15 sessions in total. We have been working regularly with the Park Community Archaeologist - 11 sessions on a mix of sites - mostly helping to keep iron aged forts clear of bracken and bramble so they are preserved and more obvious for people visiting sites. On one day, we dug hard



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May 2024 To 30 April 2025

and planted over 2000 trees as part of the Connecting the Coast project. We helped The National Trust at Southwood with their continuing programme of fence removal to allow their 'no fence cows' roam further over the estate. And with a nod to one of the first ever Workparty jobs, we gave the Strumble Head Lookout a much needed lick of paint.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 10 February 2023.

All the remaining funds of the unincorporated charity Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (No 10120911) were transferred to the Charity by the end of April 2025, prior to the removal of the old charity from the Register of Charities.

The governing document of the Charity is the constitution as approved by the Charity Commission on registration (available on our website).

New charity trustees can be appointed either by the members at the AGM or by co-option of the trustees, in accordance with clause 13 of the Constitution

The trustees have delegated the day to day management of the Charity to an executive committee, which includes trustees. The Charity therefore has some non-executive trustees and some executive trustees.

The executive committee may exercise all the powers and functions of the trustees except the powers to:

- Employ and remunerate staff
- Appoint a new charity trustee
- Approve the annual statement of accounts and the trustees annual report

The executive committee meets once per month and the full trustees meet once every six months, with other ad hoc meetings as required.

The Secretary is not a trustee but attends executive committee meetings and full trustee meetings.

According to the constitution, one third of the trustees are required to retire by rotation at each annual general meeting.

Vision and Strategic Objectives



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May 2024 To 30 April 2025

We carried out a review of our Vision and Strategic Objectives in 2023. These are described as follows:

Vision

'FPCNP, as an independent charity, works with local organisations and communities to protect, conserve and enhance the PCNP for all to enjoy. FPCNP also supports a wide-ranging education and events programme which appeals to its diverse membership and the wider public.'

Strategic Objectives

SO1 - Engage with external organisations in order to 'position ourselves', develop our USP and guarantee our future.

SO2 - Restructure our Trustees/Exec and those engaged in 'delivering' in order to be more robust in the face of future challenges and work strands.

SO3 - Develop and communicate an educational element to future events and publications which reflects PCNP and wider environmental issues.

SO4 - Undertake a membership recruiting programme targeted at a younger and ethnically diverse demographic.

The components of a plan to meet these strategic objectives are kept under review and the actions taken are reported regularly to the full trustees.

Financial Review

The charity increased its reserves during the year by £4,242.95.

The charity holds reserves enough to cover running costs for a year which we estimate on average to be £10,000. Any reserves held over that amount are used for project expenses.

Total reserves held £42,431.27

Treasurer's report and statement of accounts for the year 1 May 2024 to 30 April 2025

The annual statement of accounts is annexed to this report.



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May 2024 To 30 April 2025

Overall performance and reserves.

- The operating surplus for the year was £4,243 made up of a general surplus of £5,938 and a deficit of £1,695 on project expenditure. We have accumulated significant reserves for projects and the deficit merely represents the decision to spend the reserves.
- Our total reserves at the end of the year were £42,431. We made a decision to maintain a general reserve for approximately £10,000 and keep the balance for project expenditure.

Income

The significant income items in the year were:

- 100 Club income net of prizes £1,607.
- Membership subscriptions totalled £8,290, an increase of nearly £800 on the subscriptions in the previous year.
- Donations totalled £1,031.
- Gift Aid claims for the previous and the current years totalling £3,157.

Expenditure

Our key items of expenditure are as follows.

- News & Views net of advertising revenue cost £2,224.
- AfWDL and Campaign for National Parks membership fees and costs of attending conferences totalled £1,568.
- Working party expenses of £1,309 which are part of project costs.
- We supported the Schools' Project with £2,174, also part of project costs.

Balance sheet

Our balance sheet represents accumulated reserves held in cash at Lloyds Bank and a 95-day account with Redwood Bank. Our accounts at Barclays Bank and CAF were closed after the old charity was closed down.

Declarations

In accordance with Charity Commission requirements, the Trustees of the Charity confirm that the activities of the Charity have been, and are being, delivered for the



Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the Period 1 May 2024 To 30 April 2025

public benefit and that they have had due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers and duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	John Dow
Full name	JOHN DOW
Position	Trustee
Date	11 January 2026

**Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Balance Sheet as at 30th April 2025**

	2025	2024
Current Assets		
Lloyds Current -Treasurers a/c	4,495.87	9.99
Lloyds Deposit - Instant Access a/c	14,264.68	20,000.00
Redwood Bank	25,000.00	0.00
Barclays & 100 Club a/c	0.00	2,802.00
PayPal	144.08	29.38
CAF & CAF Gold a/c	0.00	18,614.87
Debtors & Prepayments	188.64	0.00
Total Current Assets	<u>44,093.27</u>	<u>41,456.24</u>
Current Liabilities		
Accruals	540.00	1,401.61
Life Members Income	990.00	1,350.00
100 Club Monies	132.00	516.31
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,662.00</u>	<u>3,267.92</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>42,431.27</u>	<u>38,188.32</u>
Reserves		
General reserves	10,451.80	28,188.32
Project reserves	31,979.47	10,000.00
Total Reserves	<u>42,431.27</u>	<u>38,188.32</u>

The above accounts have been prepared by the Treasurer of the Friends. The books, vouchers, balance sheet and totals of income and expenditure have been independently verified, and overall, give an accurate position of the assets of the Organisation as at 30th April 2025.



Sue Weber
Treasurer
12th August 2025

Gemma James
Gemma James
Independent Examiner
12th August 2025

**Income & Expenditure
Year to April 25**

Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

	General	Projects	Total
Income			
N&V Advertising	245.00		245.00
Gift Aid	3,157.35		3,157.35
100 Club		1,606.51	1,606.51
Membership Subs	8,290.00		8,290.00
Donations	91.80	939.28	1,031.08
Bank interest	616.01		616.01
Total Income	<u>12,400.16</u>	<u>2,545.79</u>	<u>14,945.95</u>

Memb'ship & Affils	1,567.60		1,567.60
Admin costs	1,279.05		1,279.05
Honorary Member	45.00		45.00
Rebrand & leaflets	419.49		419.49
Meeting Rooms	115.00		115.00
AGM Costs	203.55		203.55
Xmas Lunch	140.50		140.50
News & Views	2,469.48		2,469.48
Bank Chgs	222.31		222.31
Schools Project		2,173.50	2,173.50
Skomer Equipment		385.99	385.99
Competition prizes		105.00	105.00
Working Parties		1,309.39	1,309.39
Pump House Costs		267.14	267.14
	<u>6,461.98</u>	<u>4,241.02</u>	<u>10,703.00</u>

Surplus/(Deficit) for year:	5,938.18	-1,695.23	4,242.95
Reserves 1st April 2024	28,188.32	10,000.00	38,188.32
Transfer between reserves	-23,674.70	23,674.70	
Reserves 30th April 2025	<u>10,451.80</u>	<u>31,979.47</u>	<u>42,431.27</u>

Memb'ship & Affils

AfWDL meeting travel costs	111.60
AfWDL membership 24/25	150.00
AfWDL membership 25/25	150.00
Campaign for National Parks	536.00
National Park Conference	620.00
	<u>1567.60</u>

Admin Costs

Postage stamps	13.60
Flowers for Trustee leaving	28.50
Projector Screen	30.00
Member Mojo subscription	95.00
Various admin costs May 24	126.09
Website licence	144.00
Annual insurance	841.86
	<u>1,279.05</u>

FRIENDS OF PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK

England & Wales - Charity number 1201905

Accounts

Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (Registered Charity No 1201905)

Trustees annual report for 2023 – 2024

Introduction (Clare Dow)

This year is the 75th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

For our part we have established a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation becoming active on 1st December 2023. It continues with the same aims and objectives as the old charity but administratively will allow the charity to expand and move forward should we be in a position to do so for example take on paid staff (we currently run totally with the time given by volunteers). In line with this we have also adopted a shorter more user-friendly working name “Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast” (although the registered name remains the same Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park).

Our updated logo features not only the Pembrokeshire Coast but also the Preseli Hills and River Cleddau which are an integral part of the National Park and environment we wish to protect.

As new Chair from October 2023 I chose to walk the whole of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path from start to finish – from North to South – all 186 miles. I met many people on my way including locals and those visiting and walking the path from all over the world. The Pembrokeshire Coast is much appreciated by all.

I am considering establishing a circular route back to my start on the coast path at St Dogmaels (from Amroth – the end of the coast path) via these inland areas of the National Park.

The Friends continue to work towards its aims of protecting, conserving and enhancing the National Park for all and advancing the education of the public on matters concerned with the conservation and sustainable development of the National Park. (The objects of the Charity are set out in full in the Charity's Constitution).

We have a volunteer work party which works with other agencies to protect and conserve the fabric of the National Park.

We have a very active events programme which not only includes walks in and around the National Park but also visits to places of interest which are not necessarily open to the general public and information talks to educate our members about the National Park environment.

We are a critical friend to the National Park Authority; provide support to the Campaign for National Parks and contribute to the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes.

We aim to extend our membership to the next generation, encouraging younger members to become active so that everyone can share in the social, wellbeing, and environment benefits of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park into 2025 and beyond.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission on 10 February 2023. The governing document of the charity is the constitution as approved by the Charity Commission on registration (available on our website).

The following persons have served as trustees from the date of registration:

Ian Chambers

John Dow

Russell Downs

Steve Drinkwater

Janet Hazell

Ian Pattinson

Angus Stott

In addition, Clare Dow was appointed as a trustee on 9 August 2023; Caroline Potter was appointed as a trustee on 3 April 2024; Edward Holdaway was appointed as a trustee on 5 September 2024

New charity trustees can be appointed either by the members at the AGM or by co-option of the trustees, in accordance with clause 13 of the Constitution.

The charity trustees manage the affairs of the charity and for this purpose delegate the day to day management of the charity to an executive committee. The executive committee may exercise all the powers and functions of the trustees except the powers to:

- Employ and remunerate staff
- Appoint a new charity trustee
- Approve the annual statement of accounts and the trustees annual report

Transition from the old charity to the new charity

By a special resolution passed at an extraordinary general meeting held on 19 July 2023, the members of the Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (Registered Charity No 1012091) (“the old charity”) agreed to the dissolution of the old charity and the transfer of its assets to Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (Registered Charity No 1201905 (“the new charity”)

The trustees of the old charity and the trustees of the new charity agreed between themselves that the new charity would start its work from 1 December 2023. With

effect from that date, the new charity took over the business, trade and affairs of the old charity. Details of the activity carried out by both charities during the period 1 May 2023 and 30 April 2024 (the last financial year) are contained in this report. This includes the activity carried out by the old charity in the period between 1 May 2023 and 30 November 2023.

Financial Review

This report relates to the financial year 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024

The final reserves of the old charity were transferred to the new charity in December 2023. The value of the transferred reserves was £36,374.42. The net income for the period from December 2023 to April 2024 was £1,813.90 increasing the overall reserves to £38,188.32.

See accounts attached

The Trustees have agreed to maintain sufficient reserves to cover running costs of the organisation for a year which they estimate as £9,500.

Policy and Planning (Gus Stott and John Dow)

A. National Issues

- **We work with the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) on issues affecting all the national parks in England and Wales.**

To mark the 75th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, CNP published a Health Check report on the state of nature in the 13 National Parks of England and Wales. CNP ran a high profile campaign, which featured on Channel 4 and the Guardian. Using the CNP material, the Friends issued our own local press release, highlighting issues which affected Pembrokeshire Coast NP in particular.

- **We work with the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes (AfWDL or “the Alliance”) which campaigns on issues affecting the Welsh National Parks and Welsh National Landscapes (formerly AONBs).**

In February and March this year, the Welsh Government carried out a public consultation as a final step in their preparations for the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS/Scheme) which is the start of a new long-term programme to support the agricultural industry in Wales. This proved a highly contentious exercise, especially in the farming community in Wales. The Friends worked as part of the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes (the Alliance) to agree a common approach to our response to the consultation, which was broadly supportive of the scheme, whilst also recognising the need for continued flexibility in how the 10% woodland and habitat thresholds are reached.

In April this year, we worked with the Alliance to develop a response to the Welsh Government consultation on their proposals for legislation on Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets.

B. Local Issues

We monitor local policies and developments which have an impact on the park.

Examples of local planning issues

- **Application to construct a 51-metre-high telecommunications tower at Pantmaenog in the Preseli Hills.**

We lodged our objections to this application in 2022. The application was rejected by the NPA on the basis that the mast would have an unacceptably adverse impact on the visual amenities and landscape character of the National Park. This decision was the subject of an appeal to the Welsh Government and we reiterated our strong objection to the application. The appeal was dismissed in November 2023.

- **Response to the Llyr 1 floating offshore wind farm proposal**

In January 2024, there was a consultation on plans for the first of the offshore floating wind farms in the Celtic Sea. The turbines will be 36km offshore but the cabling is planned to come ashore at Freshwater West with a substation located towards the Pembroke Power station.

In view of the impact that the project will have on the National Park, the Friends responded to the consultation.

We broadly supported the aims of the proposed development, recognising that wind power will contribute to the UK and Welsh Government target of achieving net zero by 2050 and that an offshore floating wind farm will have a reduced visual impact compared to wind farms closer to the shore.

We commented specifically on the following matters:

- the impact of the onshore proposals on Freshwater West particularly during the construction phase and the impact of the onshore proposals on the possible sites for the substation near Pembroke Power station.
- the impact of the offshore proposals on sea bird populations
- the employment opportunities created by the project
- the establishment of a community fund

C. NPA consultations

We respond to consultations by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (NPA).

This year, we have been considering the consultation on the NPA's draft management plan for 2025 to 2030 and will be responding before the end of the

consultation period (30 September). As this is outside the period covered by this report, information about our response is not included here but will be reported to members via Friends News Update.

We have also been considering a NPA consultation on the issue of temporary campsites. Again the end of the consultation period (20 September) is outside the period covered by this report.

Press and communications (Ian Chambers)

Transition, renaming and rebranding

This has been a busy year for the communications team. Alongside ‘the day jobs’, covered below, we have supported the charity’s transition to CIO, managed the increase in subscriptions and the switch to payment by direct debit, facilitated the introduction of the new name and logo and the production of the new leaflet and illustrated map. Each of these has involved considerable redevelopment of our processes website and other media channels.

Friends News Update

Six editions of Friends News Update (FNU) have been produced by George Allingham and circulated to all members, associate members and interested parties over the year. John Pearn has sent out timely emails announcing and reminding members of each of the many excellent events he has organised.

News & Views

Editions of News & Views (N&V) went out in early November 2023 and late April 2024. The next edition should be nearing completion when you receive this report. We have stuck with the 32-page length adopted when inflation was running high in 2022. We have a small number of members who have opted for the e-magazine option. In addition, non-members (such as our sister societies and local councillors) now get an e-magazine rather than a printed magazine. The reduction in the costs of producing the printed magazine more than covers the costs of the e-magazine service. The cost of producing a printed magazine has stabilised, but not dropped, so we will stick at 32 pages for now.

Website

Apart from switching to the new branding and logo, the website has continued to develop and improve over the year. This has involved a lot of work by Mark Vincent and me. It is now becoming a repository of useful information about the Park, accessible to all and promoting the Friends.

Recently, all issues of News & Views back to 2017 have been made available in e-magazine format through the website (we have long had recent editions of FNU online). All of the N&V walk notes articles are also available to download and to either print or use directly from a phone during a walk. Last but not least, the videos of the Chair’s Coast Path walk are slowly becoming available through the website, though getting the videos ready takes a lot of effort and we have a backlog at time of writing.

Social Media

Little has changed on Facebook. We continue to use it primarily to publicise the Children's Competitions and to re-post items put up by affiliates like the NPA and CNP. The transformation of Twitter into X has changed the character of the platform and we now make little use of it. Setting up an Instagram account is now urgent as this is the preferred platform of many younger adults. We are still searching for a dedicated volunteer to actively plan and manage our social media usage with the aim of publicising what we do and encouraging more joiners.

The Press

We issued a press release to mark the change of Chair in January which was covered by several local papers.

In April we issued a press release specific to Pembrokeshire about the findings of the Campaign for National Parks' health check of nature recovery which was covered by several local papers, alongside the CNP press coverage in the UK and Welsh national press.

A press release marking the completion of the Chair's Coast Path Walk was issued on 21 August. The Tenby Observer has covered the story.

Progress against strategic objectives

We have improved the educational content of both FNU and N&V (and also the Events programme) and, through the website and the e-magazine, made them available to a much wider audience outside the membership.

We continued the rollout of full email addresses and are now starting to implement (free to small charities) shared online storage and services from Google and also to use subscription management and accounting systems to replace our amateur spreadsheets. The aim of all this is to make the Executive Committee and officers more efficient and effective at minimal additional cost. Both the Communications team and the charity overall remain under-resourced and we need to make the most of what volunteer effort we have available.

Membership (Jacqui Janssen)

Our membership currently stands at 437, up from 409 at the last AGM report. This is a high for recent years.

The increase in subscription and our request to close old Standing Orders caused around 50 members to not renew in 2024, around twice the usual rate of attrition.

New joiners have, however, more than compensated.

160 members have signed up to pay subscriptions by direct debit.

We have recently decided to offer free membership to 18-25 year olds which we will start promoting very soon through Pembrokeshire College and other channels. These members will not get paper magazines or be able to attend subsidised events and so are effectively 'zero cost' to us.

Business membership is unchanged at 8 and we are currently planning a campaign

to attract more business members.

We are about to start trialling a proper membership and accounting system to replace the current spreadsheet used by Jacqui.

Jacqui has coped magnificently with a very disrupted first year.

Children's beach art competition (Ian Chambers)

In 2022 we switched the Children's Competition to Beach Art, attracting 80 entries in total. In 2023, we ran a similar competition, but changed the two age categories and allowed younger children to enter. Only 19 entries were received, with very few in the 11-14 age category.

So, for this year, we launched a Beach Art competition for the 5-10 age range and a combined photography/writing competition for 11-14 year olds (with increased prize money). As of time of writing, we have received only 5 entries for the Beach Art Competition, well down on this time last year.

Our plans of establishing a Young Volunteer of the Year for over 14s, aimed at local children through schools and youth groups have come to nothing. Without volunteers to drive initiatives like this it is impossible to get them off the ground.

Events (John Pearn)

Between 1st August 2023 and 1st August 2024, we have had 19 events. With an accumulated attendance of 426.

Three events unfortunately had to be cancelled. (Two walks due to poor weather and a visit to Steynton Regenerative Farm due to an accident suffered by the host. This will be rescheduled for 2025)

2023	
19 th August	Guided Walk Castlemartin Range
4 th September	Guided historic tour Tenby
4 th September	Marine Biology Field Trip St Catherines Island
7 th October	AGM Cilgerran
22 nd October	Walk Cosheston
10 th November	Visit to West Wales Maritime Museum
17 th December	Christmas Lunch and Carol Service St Brides

2024	
25 th January	Talk By Dwr Cymru and NRW
1 st February	Visit Pembroke Power Station
15 th February	Talk Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum
5 th March	Visit Strumble Head Lighthouse

19 th March	Talk Non-Native Invasive Species
2 nd April	Talk Life in Antarctica
15 th April	Visit Castell Henllys
3 rd June	Visit Ty Rhyg forest
4 th July	Visit Scolton Manor
11 th July	Walk Brynberian
19 th July	Boat Trip Car y Mor
19 th July	Talk Car y Mor

I would like to express my thanks to George Allingham, Jane Mason, Brian Ball, Chris Taylor and Ian Pattinson who very kindly led the walks.

There are a number of events provisionally organised for the rest of 2024

8 th August	Walk	Llangwm
3 rd September	Visit	Ramsey Island
9 th September	Walk & Talk	Guided walk of Port of Haverfordwest by Simon Hancock Presentation by Heart of Pembrokeshire on Future of Haverfordwest
24 th September	Visit	Pembroke Power Station
5 th October	AGM	Llys Y Fran
14 th October	Visit/Walk	Southwood
14 th November	Visit/walk	Reintroduction of Beaver Lawrenny
1 st November	Visit	St Davids Lifeboat Station
15 th December		Xmas Lunch and Carol Service St Brides

Xmas Lunch and Carol Concert

Jan Hazell kindly booked St Brides for 15th December. Ian Pattinson will organise the Carol Concert, and I will organise the lunch.

I welcome any suggestions for events from members. These often prove to be the most popular events.

A huge thanks to Ian Chambers, Mark Vincent and George Allingham, who have all very patiently proof-read my circulars, articles and event reports ensuring the members get the correct information.

Friends Project Fund (Gus Stott)

The Friends' Project Fund provides small grants for up to £1500 for projects aimed at schools, community organisations working with young people and other charities for projects or activities that further the aims of the Charity.

In recent years we've focused on providing funding to the National Park education programme where we have helped to fund hundreds of additional visits to corners of the National Park that schools may otherwise not have access to. The education

team really value the additional access this has provided. We will review this approach later this year to ensure we're getting things right.

The Friends have facilitated about 450 pupils to take part in one of the special trips that the National Park education team offer over the summer. There have been about ten trips with some large school visits covering some interesting new themes. The contribution made by the Friends has amounted to about £1800 so far this year.

These trips are made possible through the contribution made by the Friends' Project Fund.

Work Party (Vicky Pearson)

The Friends' work party makes a major contribution to the conservation and enhancement of the Park.

Over the last year (September 2023 to August 2024) the Work party have carried out 41 days of work, amounting to 269 people and 1203 hours (compares to 49 days, 332 people, 1547 hours in 2022-23).

Our main focus has been working with the National Park where we have carried out our usual mix of jobs ranging from scrub clearance at Kingsmill and March Pres; tree care at St Brides Orchard, Sychpant, and Cilrhedryn; beach cleaning at Manorbier and Swanlake Bay; winter clearing at The Pump House; working on various archaeological sites such as Craig Rhosyfelin, Cresswell Quay, Newport Castle, Nevern Castle and Crugiau Cemaes Bronze Age Barrows. And not to miss out 12 sessions of Himalayan Balsam pulling at Kingsmill, Merrivale (St Davids) and Llwyngwair Manor.

With the National Trust, at Stackpole, we've had a variety of jobs including: footpath and mountain bike track maintenance, tree care at Caroline Grove (having helped plant them last year), scrub clearance, working in the walled garden. We also had some sessions with the North National Trust team, clearing willow and scrub at Cilau Moor near Llanwnda and ragwort pulling near Fishguard.

The connections we have established over the last few years, working with other organisations, continued, working with Natural Resources Wales at Canaston Woods; returning to work with local community continuing to improve a very boggy footpath at Sutton Mountain; and some tree care at Llangloffan Fen for The Wildlife Trust.

We seemed to miss quite a few sessions due to rain – no surprise there when you remember how wet the winter and spring were, but we also had to cancel two sessions as all work party members were busy doing other things!! But again, another busy and successful year!

St Brides Pump and Engine (Peter Arkle)

The Friends are responsible for the maintenance of the building, the surrounding garden, the engine and the pump.

Extensive building work is required as the dormer window frames need to be replaced and the roof tiles have been found to contain asbestos and therefore need to be replaced also. The NPA is arranging for quotations for the work as the maintenance of the building is the responsibility of the NPA as the owner.

The Pump House is still an attraction to visitors and the work to keep it so is continuing. The building is kept clean and tidy with some redecoration work required when the building work is completed. The bench at the front of the building has received a coat of wood preservative. The wildflower meadow is doing well and will need to be cut down and cleared, with assistance from the NPA and the Friends work party.

Declarations

In accordance with Charity Commission requirements, the Trustees of the Charity confirm that the activities of the Charity have been, and are being, delivered for the public benefit.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

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Full name(s)

JOHN DOW	
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Trustee	
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Date

15 February 2025

Balance Sheet as at 30th April 24			
Assets & Liabilities			
Bank accounts	41,456.24		
LESS:			
Accruals	-1,401.61		
Life members advance	-1,350.00		
100 Club creditor	-516.31		
	<u>38,188.32</u>		
Reserves			
John Ratcliffe Legacy Reserve	10,000.00		
Project Reserves	18,688.32		0.00
General Reserves	9,500.00		
	<u>38,188.32</u>		
Statement of Financial Activites for the 12 months to			
Income			
Subscriptions	7,489.80		
Members' Donations	240.50		
100 Club Lottery Receipts	959.08		
Bank Interest	326.07		
Xmas Lunch	850.00		
Income			
Total Income	<u>9,865.45</u>		
Expenditure			
PP, CAF charges	56.51		
100 Club prizes	698.00		
Beach Art Competition	180.00		
Xmas lunch	1,040.00		
Insurance	455.41		
Map	900.00		
Membership expenses	41.20		
Newsletter	542.00		
Project Fund disbursement (NPA)	3,061.00		
Website cost	144.00		
Pavs	30.00		
Trustee expenses	222.68		
Work Party expesnses	680.75		
Total Expenditure	<u>8,051.55</u>		
Surplus	<u>1,813.90</u>		