

FISHGUARD, GOODWICK
and LOWER TOWN
CIVIC SOCIETY
CYMDEITHAS DDINESIG
ABERGWAUN
WDIG A'R CWM

NEWSLETTER

January 2005

SPRING PROGRAMME

12th January, 7.30 pm
'CARDIGAN CASTLE UNCOVERED'
Glen Johnson

9th February, 7.30 pm
Joint Meeting with the Gardening Club
**'THE NATURAL HISTORY OF SKOMER ISLAND,
ABOVE & BELOW THE WATER'**
John Archer Thompson

9th March, 7.30 pm
**'FISHGUARD REGENERATION PROJECTS,
UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF THEIR FUTURE
IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY'**

13th April, 7.30 pm
Annual Meeting with the National Park
'THE CHURCHES OF PEMBROKESHIRE'
Rob Scourfield

E-Learning Centre, Ysgol Bro Gwaun
Meetings are open to members of the public

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was held at the Fishguard Community Education Centre at 7pm on 10th November 2004.

1. Chairman's Report

Introduction

During the year a full programme of activities was carried out. The Executive Committee held 8 meetings, organised 4 public meetings, as well as an outing to Brecon for a Canal Trip on 19th June. During the period the Society's membership stood at 207.

Public Meetings

- 25th February : *Annual joint meeting with the Fishguard Arts Society.* "The Last Invasion Tapestry Gallery Project." Audrey Walker.
- 24th March: *Annual joint meeting with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.* "Looking at Old Buildings – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly – Some Thoughts from the Wild West." Phil Roach.
- 9th April: "The National Trust's Pembrokeshire Living Heathlands Project." Andrew Tuddenham.
- 13th October: "Archaeology and the National Park – with a Focus on Castell Henllys." Phil Bennett.

The Executive Committee

Planning Applications. The Committee is regularly consulted on matters related to planning and development. All planning applications are examined within the context of policies outlined in the Local Plan and Welsh Assembly Planning Policies and Guidelines. Members of the Society are provided with reports on decisions taken by the Committee in the Society's newsletters.

During the past year the Committee objected to the application for an extension to the Skirmisher in Lower Town because the plans did not comply with planning guidelines. The Society objected to the design, in particular to the use of corrugated

metal, and recommended the use of block work with stone cladding instead. The Society's views on this matter were conveyed to CADW, with a request for clarification of CADW's role with regard to applications for extensions to listed buildings. CADW replied that its formal role is to consider whether any application that a local authority is minded to approve raises such issues that it should be called-in for determination. Occasionally its conservation architects are asked for their informal opinion on proposals before a formal application is made. It is made clear that any comments made at this stage represent personal views and are without prejudice to any later consideration by Cadw (or elsewhere within the Assembly) of the alterations. This is what happened with the plans for the Skirmisher extension. No formal application for listed building consent had yet been made to Pembrokeshire County Council. CADW has offered the authority a £22,000 grant towards the repair of the historic fabric of the building's exterior.

The Society supported plans for the refurbishment of the Town and Market Halls, which include provision for the permanent display of the Last Invasion Tapestry. The Society also asked Pembrokeshire County Council to make plans for local planning applications available for public examination in the Town Hall. The Council replied that it is looking at the matter.

Fishguard Regeneration Plan. The Society provided the Welsh Assembly Government and Pembrokeshire County Council with a detailed set of comments on the key objectives outlined in the Regeneration Proposals. The Society is represented on the Consultative Group that has been set up to carry forward the resulting Action Plan and to evaluate its progress.

Youth Projects. Plans are currently being drawn up to provide larger premises to accommodate POINT and the Youth Club. POINT has its origin in a Civic Society initiative and is currently finding it difficult to accommodate demand within its present building. There are plans to move POINT to a bigger building at the Pop Works. They are continuing to look at ways of funding their activities. A consortium of youth projects has been formed, extending the Haverfordwest, Milford Haven, Pembroke and Fishguard projects to include a youth centre in Cardigan. Bids for

funding to refurbish the pop works as a future home for POINT are being prepared. The County Council has agreed to give the Young Persons Project a 25 year lease on the building at a peppercorn rent.

Goodwick Beach. The Committee has been concerned about the problem of sewage spillage on Goodwick Beach. A report provided by Henry Jones on the pollution at Goodwick Sands concluded that United Utilities was not at fault and that the pumping system meets requirements. It was agreed that it would be desirable to identify any source(s) of contamination that may be discharging into the river in order to see whether or not they can be eliminated. The Society wrote to the Town Council asking it to pursue the matter. The Council subsequently wrote to Pembrokeshire County Council asking it to look into the source(s) of possible pollution in Goodwick Moor that might be the cause of pollution on Goodwick Beach. The Society understands that there has been considerable correspondence dealing with this issue between the Town Council, the County Council and the Environment Agency, and that so far no sources of pollution have been identified.

Toilet Provision in Goodwick. The committee supported the Town Council's view that there should be public toilet provision in Goodwick. Pembrokeshire County Council is not prepared to refurbish the Quay Road toilets or provide other toilet facilities in Goodwick town centre as it regards the toilets on the Parrog as an adequate substitute. The Society wrote to the County Council stating that it disagreed with the Council on this matter. The County Council was also asked if has ever considered staffing its public toilets and charging the public to use the facilities. The Council responded that this had been tried and hadn't been successful.

Traffic Calming – Stop and Call. The committee also agreed to support requests from local residents and the Town Council for the introduction of traffic calming measures at the top of Stop and Call. Road traffic regulations now allow local authorities to impose 20mph speed limits in built up areas, especially outside schools and hospitals. Following consultation with Goodwick School, the Society wrote to the County Council asking if they

intended to implement this regulation. The Council responded that they did not intend to do this, but instead plan to put in a crossing island close to the school entrance. This will focus crossing activity to one point. It is also hoped that the road narrowing and central hatching will have an effect on reducing speed.

Donations and Support for Other Organisations

During the period the Society donated £25 to the Last Invasion Tapestry Gallery Project, £25 to the British Legion, £50 to the Fishguard Arts Society and £20 to the Friendship Circle. The Society is a corporate member of the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum, and Tony Care, Bryn Davies and Hatti Woakes serve on its Executive Committee.

Conclusion

Although there is still a great deal of work to be done in bringing projects that we are involved with to a successful conclusion, there have been many welcome developments during the past year. In particular it is heartening to see construction of the new Leisure Centre proceeding apace. We have also been pleased to hear that more than £100,000 has been raised for the Last Invasion Tapestry Gallery project. Donations ranging from £5 to £5,000 have been received from far and near, and the organisers now feel certain that, with this continued support, they will achieve the £150,000 target.

In closing, I wish to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their support throughout the year, and Society members as a whole for their continued support.

2. Treasurer's Report

Receipts & Payments Account: Year to 30 September 2004

£ 2003	Receipts	£ 2004
751.00	Membership subscriptions	583.00
240.00	Fund raising events	463.00
11.17	Bank deposit account interest	16.10
0.56	Bank current account interest	0.46
1,002.73	Total receipts	1,062.56
	Payments	
270.20	Donations	120.00
327.27	Events	454.58
191.25	Insurances	0.00
29.00	Membership fees	29.00
75.00	Rent	70.00
283.73	Printing	131.89
34.04	Postage	71.36
1,210.49	Total payments	876.83
(207.76)	Net receipts (payments) for the year	185.73
1,439.83	Funds last year end	1,232.07
1,232.07	Funds this year end	1,417.80

Statement of Assets & Liabilities: 30 September 2004

1,019.52	HSBC Bank deposit account	1,035.62
212.55	HSBC Bank current account	382.18
1,232.07	Total assets	1,417.80

3. 2003 Merit Award

The 2004 Merit Award was won by St Gwyndaf's Church, Llanwnda, in recognition of its excellent restoration project. A certificate of commendation was presented to the St Mary's Hall Committee for its contribution to the improvement of the fabric and facilities of the town.

4. Election of Officers

The following officers and committee members were elected to serve for the following year:

Tony Care, Chairman
Dominic Colella, Vice-Chairman
Hatti Woakes, Secretary
Bryn Davies, Treasurer
Sylvia Davies, Membership Secretary

Committee members: Jo D'Cruz, Eirian Evans, Geraint James, Annette Marshall, Huw Morgan, Phil Peters and Wendy Ratcliffe.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The new Executive Committee held its first meeting on 8th December and dealt with the following matters:

Goodwick Moor

The Society has received a report from the Wales Environment Agency on the sampling of sewers in Goodwick Moor area which found no chemical contamination. The Society has now requested more important bacteriological testing in the same area.

Fishguard Regeneration Plan

The next consultative group meeting is to take place in January. Funding for the Town Hall/Pop works/Library project from Objective 1 should come through in early 2005. The aim is to obtain planning permission in the spring, with building to start in the summer. Staff presently in the Town Hall and the market will

move to the Community Education Centre, which will remain in use until the Town Hall project is complete.

Young Person's Project

The project has received a grant of £25,000 from Garfield Weston (with no strings attached), and as well as £25,000 of European money to pay for an IT update.

Fundraising for the Pop Works Refurbishment

Tony Care reported receipt of £20,000 from the refund of land fill tax. The remaining £45,000 is to be applied for from the Community Facility and Activity Programme. The cost of the Pop Works refurbishment is part of the tender for the over-all refurbishment of the Town Hall.

Community Rail Partnership for West Wales

Carmarthenshire County Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and the City and County Of Swansea have joined with Arriva Trains Wales and others to set up a new Community Rail Partnership for South West Wales. The Partnership has advertised for a Rail Development Officer to support this new venture and its work in promoting and developing the rail network west of Swansea for the benefit of local residents, businesses and visitors to the area.

Save Saturday the 18th of June
for the Society's

ANNUAL OUTING

This year we will visit Cardiff Bay
and the new Millennium Centre