Peninsula Papers

Information and news for the communities of St Ishmaels, Hasguard, Robeston West, Walwyn's Castle, Dale, St Brides and Marloes.

Papurau Penrhyn

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2026 CHWEFROR / MAWRTH

Gwybodaeth a newyddion am gymunedau St Ishmael's, Hasguard, Robeston West, Walwyn's Castle, Dale, St Bride's a Marloes.

The Church in Wales
Dale, St Brides, Marloes, St Ishmael's, Walwyn's Castle, Robeston West

Fr. Andrew Johnson, Rev'd Samuel Patterson,
Rev'd. Dr Rhiannon Johnson, Rev'd Gaynor Ford

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St Brides: Mary Lewis 636430, William Richards 636242
Marloes: Yvonne Evans 636251
St Ishmaels: Heather Phippen 07792 995160 Christine Llewellin 07813 960637
Walwyn's Castle: Jayne Edwards 01437 781575, Kate Morgan 01437 781270
Robeston West: Gill Thorne 01437 890693

Baptist Chapels: Moriah - Marloes Paul James 01646 636241
Aenon - Sandy Hill Rev'd Jon Brewer 0777 4845497 sandyhillchapel@gmail.com

LOCAL SERVICES

DALE BEACH SHOP Closed for the winter.

MOBILE LIBRARY: Friday 20th February, 20th March
St. Ishmaels Burgage Green Layby - 10.50 am to 11.20 am Dale - Blue Anchor Way - 11.35am to 12.05am Marloes - Toilets - 12.15 am to 12.45 am
Contact 01437 775243 or 07774 230200 (van) or Pembs CC website for info

MOBILE POST OFFICE:
Tuesday: St Ishmaels 14:00—15:00 Dale 15:15—16:15
Thursday: St Ishmaels 11:15 - 12:15 Marloes 13:00 - 14:00 Dale 14:15—15:15

FOR HIRE
THE CORONATION HALL AND JUBILEE SUITE DALE

BOOKINGS: WENDY KEHOE 01646 636721
EMAIL– wendykehoe@yahoo.co.uk

CONTACTS FOR HALL HIRE:

Marloes: Emma Truelove 07896 719409
mvhbookings@hotmail.com
St Ishmaels S&S Club: Deborah Cheshire 07972 732423
dlchesh35@aol.com
Walwyns Castle Village Hall: Jean Rees 07973 871646

Dear All,

This is another two month edition. It seems almost impossible to me sitting here on a dark January day that, by the time this edition reaches the end of its time it will be nearly Easter. What a glorious thought for these dark Winter days - not long and Spring should be well underway. There will be bright blooms in the gardens and hedgerows. There will be lambs in the fields. People will be thinking about repairing their moorings and getting boats back in the water. We may be able to sweep out the hearth because we no longer need the warmth of a fire in the evenings. We may well be putting away our winter coats and heaviest sweaters. The birdsong will be loud enough to wake us in the mornings.

But not yet.

The cheerful weather forecasters warn us that Winter is not yet finished with us. East and North winds may bring us more snow and ice. Storms and gales are likely to keep us huddled at home and grateful for warmth and shelter. The weather seems to echo the instability and trouble in the wide world and make us doubly thankful for our homes.

So how are we to live in this between time, when we know Spring is on the way but Winter is still with us? It is, in some ways, the question that the Christian faith continually grapples with. We know the Kingdom of God will come and every tear will be wiped from our eyes, but, knowing that, how do we live, especially when the world seems cold, dark and inhospitable?

St David, whose day we celebrate on March 1st, gave an answer in his final sermon. There are many others available, but his message has long been a touchstone for me. He told his hearers to be joyful, to keep the faith and to keep on doing the little things they can. That seems good advice as we wait for Spring to arrive and even good advice when the days have lengthened and the year has turned again towards the sun,

With every blessing,

Rhiannon, Andrew, Samuel and Gaynor

Produced by the Church in Wales Parishes of Hasguard with St Ishmaels,
St Brides with Marloes, Walwyns Castle, Robeston West and Dale

St. James Church , Dale, Alter Guild invite you to join them for a

A SONG and DANCE for ST DAVID's DAY

With a

WELSH SUPPER

(CAWL, WELSH CAKES, WELSH CHEESES)

Bring Your Own Drink

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY

CORONATION HALL, DALE 7.00pm

The CROWSFOOT BAND (including Dennis Wight)

To perform

RAFFLE, ROLL a POUND

Cost £10.00 per head

In aid of St James Church Dale

Singalong and dancing allowed!

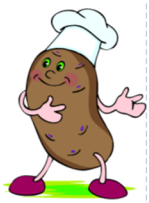
St Ishmael's Church 'Grand Potato Challenge'

Trewarren Farm, St Ishmael's

14th February10am -12noon

Entry Fee of £5.00 Includes Seed Potato, Growing Container and Instructions.

Your crop must be returned growing in the container at the 'Grand Weigh In' on 6th June to be considered for a prize for Heaviest Crop.
Open to all ages with Junior and Senior Prizes!
Seed potatoes donated by William Richards, Windmill Farm, St Brides.



St Peter's Church, Marloes & St Bridgets, St Brides invite you to a

Community Coffee Morning

in Marloes Village Hall
on SATURDAY February 28th
10:00 am to 12 noon

A chance to catch up with friends and neighbours as Spring approaches.
Tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes
No admission fee, but donations towards costs will be welcome
50 Club draw and PPSC draw at 11:45

ST JAMES CHURCH, DALE.

A brand new year stretches in front on us, full of unknown delights to come. However, some events are known and are in the pipeline already as we look to raise much needed funds for basic running of the church and also to have a bit of fun on the side.

We start at the end of February with a Song and Dance for St Davids Day, helped along by a Welsh Supper. It will be a chance to meet up with Dennis Wight as he is a member of The Crowsfoot Band who will be performing on the night. Tickets cost £10.00, with tables of 8, so make up a party and come and enjoy a very good evening while helping the church stay open! Please see the poster in this issue of PP and also on Social Media. Later in the year we will be running a Cream Tea and reinstating a Summer Event, plus we hope to hold an autumn function for the village as a last hurrah before winter! More details of all the events will be put into PP as they come due and also on social media and via posters. We look forward to a happy and eventful year here in Dale.

Marloes and St. Brides 50 Club

The December 50 Club draw was held at the Coffee Morning in Marloes Hall.
The winners were:

First Prize:	£100	Linda Owen
Second Prizes	£50	Lorraine Griffiths; David Anderson; Philip Owen
Third Prizes	£25	Richard Hayman; Charles Owen; Pat Krelle

St Ishmaels news

We are collecting for the 100 club now, so if you see either Christine or Heather you can pay them or we will be taking money for the 100 club at the potato challenge. If anybody has any spare black buckets we would appreciate them for the challenge many thanks. Heather

Row4MND

Saturday March 7th Dale Harbour, around 0800

Come and see off the intrepid rowing team from Row4MND who are setting off from Dale to row to Dublin.

This four person team is attempting to complete a round the world row in sections, and having circumnavigated the UK last year are now taking on further sections to complete the ultimate voyage.

They have a target to raising £57million for people living with and affected by Motor Neurone Disease. (5 being Doddie Weir's shirt number and 7 Rob Burrows'.)

For more details of the event see: https://www.row4mnd.com/

Do please come along and show your support on the day.

Community Councils

Dale

Village Matters: Welsh Water

Cllrs would like a clear picture of where Dale's Community Councils issues will be supported (documented as spilling raw, untreated sewage into the Dale and surrounding area). A member of the public (Nial Rees) expressed his personal concerns around the possibility of issues for over the next 36 to 60 months.

Cllrs confirmed over 4 tankers per day are being seen in the local community.

Clerk confirmed responses from Will Bramble (PCC CEO) and Welsh Water.

County Cllr Claire George confirmed Henry Tufnell, Paul Davies and Eluned Morgan have passed email onto related departments in Welsh Government and Welsh Water.

Dale Community Councillors and County Cllr Claire Goerge would like to follow up on the email's responses from Will Bramble, Welsh Water and governmental officials. County Cllr Claire George recommended following up with NRW (regulator).

Cllrs discussed the latest update from Welsh Water (Rebecca Jones). Please see correspondence from WW elsewhere in this magazine.

Highways

Previous Clerk (Fran) confirmed the pothole issues within the village had been supported by PCC.

Cllr CM discussed the speeding issues in the village (on the top road) and requested purchasing speeding signs to support the village. Nial Rees to share PCC signage contact with clerk / RFO.

Chair LJ confirmed with Cllrs the organisation of hedge cutting (stretch of Jubilee Road and into the village). Clerk to contact Hibbert and Sons to arrange cutting in April / May and October.

Planning

No new planning applications received between November 2025 and January 2026.

Clerk shared the Publication of Local Development Plan 3: Delivery Agreement with Cllrs. County Cllr Claire George

discussed the LDP with the community council.

County Council Matters

Residents reported issues with footpath leaking water, following recent BT works. County Cllr Claire George to follow up with Highways.

Cllr MR pointed out standing water in the Gan car park. County Cllr Claire George to follow up with Highways department. Water has been standing for a number of months.

County Cllr Claire George shared that there has been no response from school transport regarding organising school buses.

Woodside residents reported issues with footpath subsidence and lighting which has been passed on for a site visit. No response from Woodside residents or PCC. County Cllr Claire George to follow up.

County Cllr Claire George said Tom Bean from PCNPA may be able to come out to do some awareness talks on the Shoreline Management Plan SMP. County Cllr Claire George to invite Tom Bean from PCNPA to the next meeting.

No further updates on the changing area (related to the toilet space) from Windswept charity looking at supporting funding. Cllr PM wanted to confirm PCC are going to take responsibility (once funding is finalised) of the toilets / changing facilities. No further update about the Dale toilets from PCC (awaiting toilet strategic plan from PCC). County Cllr Claire George to ask Katie Daly (PCC) for an update.

Clerk to share the current toilet contract with community council Cllrs.

County Cllr Claire George made community Cllrs aware National Parks have shared their Local Development Plan (as documented in planning agenda item).

Correspondence

Clerk has passed contact details onto Natural Resources Wales to support flood plain gate closures.

Cllrs bought up waste issues in the village (overflow from bins) and Nial Rees confirmed issues with pest issues (rats). Cllr CM to pass on concerns to village hall committee and County Cllr Claire George to follow up with environmental health in PCC.

Date for the next Community Council meeting

Monday 16th March 2026 at 7pm.

Marloes & St Brides

Welsh Water (community proposal)

Community members attended and discussed a proposal to Welsh Water regarding the use of the land adjacent to the sewage works in Marloes. The proposal would create a native community woodland, orchard, and permissive access. Please see below the proposal (and can be shared via the clerk's email: marloes.stbrides.clerk@gmail.com)

The community member would like the proposal to be led by the Community Council. The Cllrs discussed and agreed to support and email Welsh Water with the proposal. Chair MH to draft email to Welsh Water.

Open Reach Fibre Broadband

Following from last meeting's discussion on back up battery options for broadband, callers agreed to make residents aware that some may be eligible to free boosters.

Footpaths and Beach

Beach clean great success in December 2025. Massive thanks to everyone involved. Cllr PS confirmed there was a lot of rubbish removed and beach cleaned.

Village Hall The Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant has been submitted. We should hear re this early 2026. Thank you to Chris Jessop for his support in drafting the application.

Village Hall
County Councillor CG has added Marloes and St Brides Community Council to the warm home's distribution list (next round of funding in Summer 2026).

Clock Tower
Following the electricity supplier switch to Utilita, they have introduced standing fees. To not pay standing fees (on such low use) Utilita have arranged a smart pay as you go meter to be installed.
Cllr PS gave feedback from the community on the clock tower Christmas lights (they looked great).

Highways
Cllrs discussed potholes (from previous meetings) and drainage issues (reported to the County Council). Cllr Claire George has followed up, and Clerk has reported via email and portal.
Cllr NS has reported road issues from Fopston Farm to St Brides Cross road.
Cllr PS has cleaned out a number of Marloes and St Brides Road gullies to support drainage and highway water issues.

National Trust
Cllr LB discussed the pay and display car park costs. The period of free pay isn't displayed very clearly to the public.
Cllr LB bought up the issue of the lights in the car park, being left on over the winter and overnight.
Clerk to report both issues to National Parks via email.
Cllrs discussed light pollution and issues from the LNG tankers and the mooring of the tankers. Cllr NS shared photos. Clerk to report to the Harbourmaster and LNG.

St Brides Walled Garden
County Councillor CG, Cllrs SP and NS attended a meeting with National Parks around the St Brides Walled Garden 03.09.2025 at 6pm. Following this they were asked to submit suggestions about what the site can be utilised for.
No further updates. Cllr SP to email Gary for an update.

Village Benches
The Community Council has a resident wanting to sponsor and pay for a bench in the memory of her parents. The bench has been ordered and arrived. Cllr PS to assemble and place in the village.
Cllr PS suggested placing the new bench opposite the church. Cllr PS recommended placing the wooden benches by the clock tower.
Cllr SP discussed the marina replacing their benches and have asked for the old benches to donated to Marloes and St Brides. Springtime.

Bus Service
Cllrs confirmed the re-appointment of the coastal bus routes (puffin shuttle service) is a great success for the local community. The bus routes were re-instated due to the consultation and complaints made by the Community Council.
County Cllr Claire George has discussed the importance of the puffin shuttle service to the local community.
Correspondence received from member of the Welcome Club asking Marloes & St Brides to work with Dale and St Ishmaels on pursuing a weekly bus service in the local area. Marloes & St Brides Community Council has emailed local Community councils to discuss the need for local bus routes and services.
Fflecsi bus availability has been shared and included in the Peninsular Papers. Clerk to ask Rosemary to keep notice in the PP.
County Councillor CG will arrange for a representative from Pacto to attend a meeting with the Welcome Club to discuss car share options.

Planning matters
NP/25/0124/LBA: Philbeach Farm, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62

3QU. Delegated
NP/25/0122/FUL: Philbeach Farm, Dale, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3QU Delegated
NP/25/0685/FUL: 1-2, West End, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3BE Delegated Cllrs happy with plan and positive of full-time resident (not holiday accommodation).
Next meeting: *Tuesday 03rd March 2026 Marloes Village Hall 19.30.*

St Ishmaels

Minutes of the business meeting held on 21st January, 2026 in the Sports Club

NEW COUNCILLOR: Moira Hawkin's resignation and subsequent election of Mr. Jenkins as chair, meant that, to maintain the council's establishment of 6, there still remained a vacancy for a councillor, to be co-opted to the council. Mr. Michael Borland, in attendance, announced his wish to fulfil the role and was duly welcomed by the councillors present and co-opted to the council.
PLANNING: NP/26/0023/FUL Heat Pump installation to rear of 3 - 6 Allendale Drive. *Approved*
FLOODING: The clerk had arranged a meeting with Mr. Lee Scott of PCC on Thursday, 24th January to discuss responsibilities of care for the Brook Lake and Burgage Green, the latter being the site of severe run-off from a drain cover, leading to flooding of the garden of "Kings Acre"
SEWAGE: The clerk has contacted Welsh Water yet again concerning the long-standing problem of pollution from an inspection cover outside the Brook Inn and is currently waiting for Mr Dylan James, manager of W.W. sewage services, for an update on progress
A new signing mandate has been arranged with Barclays Bank for the change of signature from Moira Hawkins to the chair, Mr. Richard Jenkins.
21:1:26/11 A.O.B:
Padel Tennis. Councillor Carpenter reported the current investigations by the Sports Club for the establishment of a Padel Tennis Court in the village. He sought the opinions of the councillors present about the Community Council's possible involvement with seeking funds through the Pembrokeshire Initiative Fund. It was decided that, due to only a quorum being currently present, this would be on the agenda for the next meeting.
Street Lighting. Councillor Borland reported the malfunctioning of a couple of street lights near Burgage Green.
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 18th, 2026

ADVANCE NOTICE

Marloes Village Hall Tuesday 14th April 2026 2 pm

The Friends of the National Park present a talk by Chris Jessop:

THE WRECK OF THE PADDLESTEAMER ALBION, 18th April 1837

This talk is open to all: membership of FOTNP is not required. Suggested door donation £3

U16s accompanied, please. Enquiries: **events@fpcnp.org.uk**

Diary for February & March

FEBRUARY

To 14th Feb, Wed - Sat, 1030 - 1600,
"The Space Between", exhibition by David and Cassia Gomersall, Waterfront Gallery, Milford Haven

Fri	**2**	**1800**	Seagrass Training Dale - see advert
Sat	**3**	**1100**	Seagrass Training Dale - see advert
Thu	**5**	**1900**	Social and Film evening, Coronation Hall
Wed	**11**	**1930**	Coastlands History Group, "Archaeological Projects of the PCNPA", Tomos Jones, Marloes Village Hall
Sat	**14**		Valentines Day!
Sat	**14**	**1000**	St Ishmaels Potato Challenge, Trewarren Farm.
Tue	**17**		Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day!
Thu	**19**	**1900**	Social and Film evening, Coronation Hall
Mon	**23**	**1900**	Marloes Village Hall Committee AGM and meeting
Tue	**24**	**1800**	MaDPADS AGM, Lobster Pot, Marloes
Sat	**28**	**1000**	Community Coffee Morning at Marloes Village Hall
Sat	**28**	**1900**	"A song and a dance for St David's Day", Dale Coronation Hall, see advert

MARCH

Sun	**1**	**1000**	Beach Clean for St David, meet Marloes Sands Car Park
Tue	**3**	**1930**	Marloes & St Brides Community Council, Marloes Village Hall
Wed	**4**	**1930**	Coastlands Local History Group, AGM and "Place Names" by Dr James January-McCann, Coronation Hall, Dale, 7.30pm
Thu	**5**	**1900**	Social and Film evening, Coronation Hall
Fri	**6**	**1900**	Walwyn's Castle Village Hall, film and social evening
Sat	**7**	**0800**	RowMND depart Dale to row to Ireland
Sat	**7**	**1930**	Quiz Night at the Lobster Pot, in aid of Marloes Village Hall (see advert)
Mon	**16**	**1900**	Dale Community Council, Jubilee Suite, Dale
Wed	**18**		St Ishmaels Community Council, S & S Club
Thu	**19**	**1900**	Social and Film evening, Coronation Hall

Tai Chi Classes

@SouthernWindsTaiChi

Walwyn's Castle Village Hall

Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00 am from 12th February

Broad Haven Village Hall

Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm from 12th February

Open to All - Beginners and visitors welcome at any class

Classes are free but a donation to offset costs would be appreciated

Contact southern.winds.tc@gmail.com for more information

Services for February & March

St Ishmaels

8th Feb 11am communion
22nd Feb 11am communion

8th March 11am communion
22nd March 11am communion
29th March Palm Sunday 11am communion

Dale, Walwyn's Castle and Robeston West

February
1st 11.15 St James, Dale, Eucharist.
2nd 7pm Licensing of our LMA Dean in Steynton.
8th 11.15 St James the Great, Walwyns Castle, Eucharist.
15th 11.15 St Andrew's Robeston West, Eucharist
6pm St James, Dale, Evensong
22nd 11.15 St James the Great, Walwyns Castle, Eucharist.
March
1st 11.15 St James, Dale, Eucharist. St David's Day.
8th 11.15 St James the Great Walwyns Castle, Eucharist
15th 11.15 St Andrew, Robeston West, Eucharist
6.pm St James, Dale, Evensong.
22nd 11.15 St James the Great, Walwyns Castle, Eucharist.

Marloes & St Brides

1st Feb – 11am – St Bridget's, St Brides – St Bridget's Day Holy Communion
8th Feb – 11am – St Peter's, Marloes – Holy Communion
15th Feb – 11am – St Bridget's, St Brides – Holy Communion
Wednesday 18th Feb – 11.30am – Ash Wednesday Service
22nd Feb – 11am – St Peter's, Marloes – Holy Communion

1st March – **10am** – St Bridget's, St Brides – Holy Communion
Please note the earlier time
8th March – 11am – St Peter's, Marloes – Holy Communion
15th March – 11am – St Bridget's, St Brides – Holy Communion
22nd March – 11am – St Peter's, Marloes – Holy Communion
29th March – 11am – St Bridget's, St Brides – Palm Sunday Holy Communion
5th April – 11am – St Bridget's, St Brides – Easter Sunday Communion
11am – St Peter's, Marloes – Easter Sunday Communion

Sandy Haven Chapel

Sunday Service dates:
Meeting at Sandy Hill Chapel are:
February 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd at 10:30am. PTO

Tuesday 17th February:
Soup - er Tuesday, including pancakes,
Chat, refreshments, singing.
11:30am - 13:30

Sunday Service dates:
Meetings at Sandy Hill Chapel are:

March 1st (St David's Day Special)
8th, Sandy Hill Chapel Meeting at Thornton Baptist Chapel, Thornton at 11:00am.
15th, 22nd, 29th.

Tuesday 17th March:
Soup-er Tuesday, including chat, refreshments, Singing and more
11:00am - 13:30.

All are very welcome to these Services or events, and to both Chapels.

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MARLOES AND DALE PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATION SCHEME

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT THE LOBSTER POT, MARLOES

24 FEBRUARY 2026. Six pm start

All residents of the parishes of Dale, Marloes and St Brides who are over 18 are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting- and they are encouraged to attend, and take part. Please come along and bring a friend, all welcome.

There are vacancies on the committee. We are in desperate need of a secretary if anyone is willing and able, it really isn't a huge commitment.

Volunteers who would like to put their names forward to join our team are most welcome.

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Marloes & St Brides Village Hall Committee

AGM followed by business meeting on Monday 23rd Feb at 7pm.
"Everyone is welcome"

Coastlands Local History Group

The 2026 programme is now up and running!

Our first talk began looking at a very early stage in our history - The Roman but showed how, with the most modern of technology, these sites can be discovered. The importance of the technology such as LIDAR is the greatest aid to those who are looking for evidence of ancient sites as it looks deep within the earth and gives a birds eye view of any anomalies in the ground such as highways and byways. Martin Davies has been searching for Roman roads since a chance name suggested a Roman road—and indeed the landowner referred to the lane as The Roman Road. Along many of his areas of search, LIDAR has highlighted what is most definitely some sort of track or road way. In some cases, with the permission of the landowners, Mr Davies was able to put in a trench across these 'lumps' and bumps' with evidence of a road emerging for his troubles. Sadly for us in our immediate area, the result of our utility infrastructure, the oil industry and arable farming makes finding any remnant of Roman road almost impossible. However, Mr Davies has traced 3 routes, which suggest they are Roman, in the north of the county. They all appear to converge on Whitesands Bay. One know as 'The Causeway' has farms called Causeway Farm en route as well as being marked Causeway on OS maps. Any map of the Victorian era with RROS marked anywhere suggests a route thought to be Roman in origin. Today's professional archaeologists are not so convinced! The audience listening were convinced!

Our next talk in February will be looking at the work of The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Authority. Tomos Jones PCNPA's archaeologist will be coming to highlight work done in and around our area which should add to our general knowledge of what is happening where. Following Tomos in March is Dr James January-McCann who is running a project looking at place names. This should be a fascinating topic and one which might lead to members becoming involved in the project.

If you would like to become a member please contact us. It costs just £5.00 per person a year

If you need any further clarification please contact Harriet (636668) or Yvonne (636251)

At Walwyn's Castle village hall

COMMUNITY COFFEE & CHAT - The 3C's

Every 1st. Tuesday of the month, 10am -12pm.

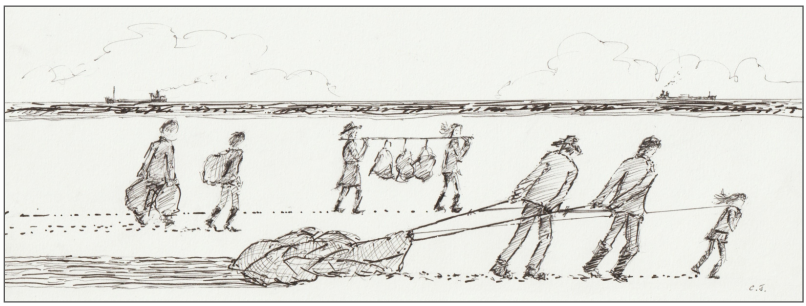
Marloes Sands annual Midwinter Beach Clean 31st December 2025

Despite the 9 am start, which was unavoidable because of how a certain Mr Neptune had arranged his tides, we had a very good turn-out – about 40 people, locals and regular visitors plus holidaymakers. The beautiful sunny weather was a great bonus: much easier walking along the ridged-up cobble beach tops when it's dry underfoot! And, some of the volunteers made the most of the morning by going for a swim under blue skies afterwards.

The total gather was the equivalent of 50 sacks, a wonderful joint effort, so we were very grateful to the local farmers' Quad Squad who hauled everything back to the car park. It was great to have some hefty items which had been washing about the beach for a good while successfully recovered! As usual, fishing gear and boxes etc accounted for the majority of the weight, with the rest mostly being miscellaneous containers and plastic packaging. We are pleased to report that all of the clean rope and hard plastic that we separated out of the "stash" will not go to landfill, but will be taken for recycling: the Skomer MCZ staff will be taking care of it.

No prize this year for "Best Find"; but there is no argument about the worst find: two 25 litre containers, both full to the brim with old Diesel engine sump oil. It was flukishly lucky that these didn't burst open when they were washed ashore; had that happened, a lot of local marine life could have been wiped out. Who can possibly think that it is OK to throw such potential "pollution bombs" overboard?

Peter Smithies



MARLOES SANDS
Beach Clean for Saint David
Sunday March 1st
Set off from car park 10.00 (Low tide 1.39 m @ 11.10)
All come at own risk U18s accompanied please

Quiz Night at The Lobster Pot Inn

7th March, 7:30pm

Call 07983806764 to book a table

£2 per person

Raffle

All proceeds go to Marloes and St.Brides Village Hall

(VERY) ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YOUR 2026 DIARIES

ST ISHMAELS CHURCH FETE 13th JUNE 2026
BIG EVENT!!
At MONK HAVEN MANOR, ST ISHMAELS
Watch out for posters and social media from New Year onwards

On the 2nd and 3rd February, Project Seagrass will be delivering a seagrass training event!

We'll be introducing seagrass restoration and the techniques used followed by a planting session on the beach!

Free to attend but sign up required: https://ow.ly/rrLh50XSrHu

We hope you can join us! 🌱

PROJECT SEAGRASS

Dale Winter Seagrass Training

2nd February | 6pm-8pm | Coronation Hall, Dale

Indoor training session introducing seagrass restoration and the techniques used.

3rd February | 11am-3pm | Coronation Hall, Dale

Indoor preparation session followed by seagrass planting on the beach and SeagrassSpotter mapping activities.

WALWYN'S CASTLE EVENTS

Walwyn's Castle Village Hall
'Spring Social Evening' , Friday March 6th
Film night showing "Dream Horse"
Classic feel good entertainment , followed by light refreshments.
Doors open 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start. All welcome.
Bring your own drinks. Donations for refreshments appreciated.

Date for the diary - Saturday May 9th, Walwyn's Castle Spring Plant Sale

Thursday
Social & Film Evenings
2026 Winter Season
Doors open 7 pm
Films start 7.30 pm
Coronation Hall, Dale

All welcome Admission and Refreshments free. Donations of refreshments to share and towards running costs are always gratefully received.

Feb 5	**A funny, melancholy yarn of a folk duo reunited on an island off the Welsh coast by an oddball superfan. Released this year.**
Feb 19	**1963 Hitchcock featuring not so friendly feathered creatures and starring Tippi Hedren.**
March 5	**1939 romatic comedy starring Greta Garbo; set in Paris; involving jewellry seized in the Russian Revolution, a female Russian agent and a French Count.**
March 19	**1964 drama starring Richard Burton as defrocked clergyman working as a tour guide in Mexico. Over a stormy night spent in a dilapidated hotel he finds some answers to life's struggles.**

There will also possibly be a Social and Film Evening on 26 March.

To join our e-mailing list and receive titles and descriptions of the films a week in advance, contact rosemary.meck@gmail.com

The Old Stables Heritage Centre
South Street, Dale.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH
Open by appointment

Arrangements can be made if anyone or any group wishes to visit.

Contact Harriet 636668 or Yvonne 636251

Dale WI

Over the past couple of months Dale W.I. has had both a Christmas Party and a Bring and Share Lunch. As you might guess we are quite a sociable bunch who love good food. The Christmas meal was particularly good.

On a slightly more serious note, at our last branch meeting, we discussed a variety of resolutions for the National Federation of the Women's Institute to put forward for further debate and action. You will be pleased to note that most members in Dale WI felt the **motion** in the paragraph below is the one that they would like to vote for. It is an issue of concern to Dale WI members and, many feel, the population of Pembrokeshire as a whole.

Accessible public toilet facilities to promote dignity, health and social inclusion.

This resolution is a call for accessible, clean, free public toilets which are fundamental to inclusion and well-being, especially for women, older people, disabled individuals, parents and carers. It invites WI branches to take meaningful action – through advocacy, partnership and community engagement – to support local authorities and civil society in reversing the closure trend and ensuring dignity for all.

Having had public toilets closed locally in both St. Ishmael's and Marloes and with many more closed across the county, this is indeed a serious issue. The toilets in Marloes are still listed on the council website as being open for 24 hours summer and winter. However, they were closed all summer and remain closed. Summer is a period of very high demand especially if you are expecting to find a toilet where the local council claims there is one. St Ishmael's toilets have also been closed all summer and the council website claims they are open 24 hours in the summer and closed only for the winter. It can also be confusing in Pembrokeshire as some of the toilets are run by the National Park (St. Bride's) and some are run by the National Trust (Martins Haven).

Over Christmas this year I spent 10 days in North Wales. The public toilet facilities there, while not perfect, appeared to me to be far superior and more numerous when compared to those in Pembrokeshire with none being closed for the winter.

On a lighter note, the ongoing programme for Dale W.I. includes a visit to Milford Haven Coastguards and a talk from our retired post lady, Meryl, about her working life. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm in the winter and 7.30pm in the summer in Dale Coronation Hall. Please contact me on 07854 854838 for any further information. Gail Smith

Karcher 110 bar pressure washer needs a good home. Small donation for Greenacres animal rescue appreciated.

call Chris 07471 698867

As any pedant will insist – It's not who you know, it's **whom** you know.

Owls

A correspondent who visits the area frequently has questioned why I have never written about owls. I answered that I did not have much owl "experience" but I have now rethought that statement and realized that there are a few interesting things I can recount!

When we first moved here in 2003 and in the 10 years or so afterwards we used to see Barn Owls occasionally in the marshy valley behind the house (Winterton Marsh). We worked out that they were nesting in a small barn, visible from a gate. The exit from the barn was through a small narrow window at the end which was tricky to see from my viewpoint leaning on the gate, but persistence used to pay off. The owls would not emerge until it was very nearly too dark to see, but then they would often leave the window and sit on the roof before flying off to hunt. I watched them for a number of years during the breeding season when there were definitely two owls present and presumably they were feeding chicks. Sometimes you could hear the chicks making a loud hissing noise, described on the web as a "raspy snoring food call". The adults occasionally gave their eery call described as "a drawn-out gargling scream" but I did not hear it often. In 2011 one of the owls would sometimes hunt by day and this picture was taken of the owl sitting on our fence. Later that year in October we had a chance to investigate the small barn with the owner and his friend Mike Crutchley, who is a photographer. There was an owl box inside, and even after the breeding season there were two owls present – this a picture of one of them, who was sitting inside the owl box. However, after this period we saw the owls less frequently and apart from 2018 I do not believe they bred in that little barn during the last 10 years. The habitat does not seem to have changed much – still plenty of voles - maybe the small barn, whose roof is collapsing, is no longer suitable.

But over that latter period we have seen and, in particular, heard Tawny Owls especially in the early winter when youngsters are looking for new territories. I do not believe they breed close to our house – there is not really enough mature woodland – but they definitely breed in Dale, where both the adult calls and the wheezing of youngsters can be heard in the spring and summer. The correspondent mentioned above has sent me a lovely recording of two (or more) Tawny Owls calling up at St Brides Castle at the Winter Solstice in 2022. So they are definitely breeding there. (As in Dale, it's good when there is more than one pair as they call to one another to defend their territories, which a single pair may not do). We do sometimes see Tawny Owls hanging around our house trying to catch bats – it soon gets too dark to see what is happening but I expect they get a few. Alas I have no pictures of a local Tawny Owl.

Lastly a short note on Short-eared Owls. These beautiful day-flying owls breed on Skomer and sometimes Skokholm, and can often be seen in the evening at Dowrog Common. They are birds of open country - I have seen one quartering the marsh below the house. They are beautifully marked and always remind me of a large moth with their floating flight.

Rosemary Royle

ABSOLUTE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE

April ISSUE IS

Saturday 21st March

This is **your** church & community publication - so why not contribute something?

Articles should ideally be no larger then 2/3 A5 page or about 350 words.
Adverts for events should be ideally no more than 1/4 A5 page size or maximum 1/2 A5 page

Please submit all copy (in English or Welsh) by email or hardcopy as follows:
For Dale, Marloes & St Brides, Walwyns Castle: **Rosemary Royle:** see below
For St Ishmaels & Hasguard: **Sandra & Steve Morrell:** 2 Mabes Gate, St Ishmaels SA62 3TL sandymorrell1@gmail.com Tel: 07544 705317

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In YELLOW CABINETS at...

△Dale Boat House △Dale Castle outer wall
△ St Anns Head (Old Light) △ Marloes (WCs)
△ Marloes Sands (WCs)
△ Martins Haven △ Deer Park NCI Watch Hut
△ Pearson Farm main gate
△ St Brides Haven (WCs)
St Ishmaels: △ Brook Inn △ Burgage Green
△ Children's Play Park △ Monk Haven Church
△ Sandy Hill Chapel △ Sandy Haven slip
Walwyns Castle: △Village Hall

ALL RECYCLING: Every FRIDAY from 6:30am (check locally for actual times).

ALL RECYCLING PLUS GREY/BLACK BAGS on these dates:
February 20th, March 13th