Chairman’s Corner

First of all, I’d like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year! Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! I am looking forward to an enjoyable and interesting year ahead for the Friends - we have plenty of events to offer you - and you might want to help the Work Parties, even if that means, occasionally! For my part, I had a very enjoyable Christmas, leading a walking holiday for HF Holidays at their country house on Exmoor. We walked on three full days, the weather was kind, the footpaths good, if inevitably muddy - and the food was top-notch!

On a different tack, I am very pleased with your reactions to our first Friends News Update (FNU November 2016) - I was stopped in the street several times before Christmas by members saying how much they liked the format and the fact that they would be getting more frequent communications from the committee! Hopefully, getting 6 FNUs and 2 N&Vs each year will help the Friends to build organically - and become even more responsive to your ideas.

I’m learning much more about the Friends as an organisation and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at future events! Do please come along to the AGM - April 8th at Oriel y Parc - see the Calling Notice for booking details and the Accounts, both attached to Dorothy’s covering email. And don’t forget; submit any ideas and inputs to FNU to the Editor.

Steve Drinkwater

In the last two Months....

The Exec In the last two months the Exec has finished its analysis of members’ feedback and compared that against the broad direction set by the Strategy. The good match was encouraging and your input has allowed us to allocate priorities to our work. Sharpening our communication with members and bolstering the social programme scored highly and in this FNU you will see how we are now actively moving forward on those aspects.

The Work Party The work party finished off 2016 with a hedge planting project at Gupton Farm above Freshwater West for the NT. We planted a wide range of hedging plants, including brush, hawthorn, blackthorn and wild rose on a newly created earth bank and we hope the westerlies will be kind in 2017 to allow the hedge to become established.

As is tradition, the work party kicked off 2017 with a breakfast meeting at thirty five cafe in Solva. We were joined by Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive of the National Park) as well as Daniel Wynn, new Ranger for the Broad Haven North area. After, we looked at a proposed pedestrian bridge project at Prendergast, on the outskirts of Solva to see
how the work party could assist with getting it built. Daniel Wynn has been busy pulling together a programme of work for us and Alan has posted a series of provisional dates on the website and Facebook. And during the Spring/Summer we will allocate a week a month to tackling Himalayan Balsam in the Gwaun Valley and again, Alan will confirm details of meeting up locations, etc. He hopes you will be able to join in on some or all of the above tasks – so let him know if you would like to be added to his email list!

Recent Social Events The Christmas Event was another huge success (as ever!) and many thanks to Caroline and John Potter for seeing to the details, again. Caroline says she used 57 cups but the Chair reported only counting 4 swimsuits!! And our programme of events for 2017 got off to a flying start on 17th January when around thirty members flocked to the Haverfordwest Leisure Centre for a presentation on Garden Birds given by Bob and Annie Haycock of Pembrokeshire Bird Club – see more on this in the Spring N&V. Thanks to the Chairman for organising that one - and Ian Chambers for the puns!. If you left a scarf there, contact Steve D!

The Social Bit

The 2017 programme continues to mature and a summary is attached to this FNU. Remember that further details will be published on Facebook and the website nearer the date of each event. I have slightly amended the table at your suggestion, to capture lead organisers and their contact details. Although the programme is already looking quite full, do keep your excellent suggestions coming. I have listed some new suggestions below to give you a feel: the Sunderland Trust flying boat centre at Pemroke Dock (thanks Peter Arkle); a wildlife sightings event similar to that in 2016 with speakers from the Bumble Bee Trust bumblebee conservation organisation; and a talk by the Shell Fisherman’s Association of West Wales on the sustainable shellfish initiative.

St Brides Castle Walks and Talks We had hoped to be able to report on the way ahead for the Walks and Talks in this FNU but unfortunately this is not the case. As soon as we know something we will report it.

Members Snippets

Twrch Trwyth Some years ago Tony Scourfield Lewis and his wife commissioned the sculpturing of Twrch Trwyth, the great and ferocious wild boar featured in the Mabinogion legend. He has now generously donated the boar to the PCNP and it has been put on display at Oriel y Parc in St. Davids. An article on Twrch Trwyth will appear in the Spring 2017 N&V – well worth a read.

More Changes in and Around the Exec!

Anne Chambers (below left and wife of Ian Chambers our Press Secretary - see November edition of FNU) has now taken over the role of webmaster from Peter Heard. Assuming, like all married couples, that they talk to each other, this will ensure seamless cohesion between our inwards and outwards
facing communications in future. And thanks to Peter for all of his sterling work on setting up the website in the first place.

Jane Mason (above right) – a long time devoted servant – has rebranded herself! Jane has moved from Events to now focus on Membership Development - attracting new members, making the membership "package" look more attractive and widening the appeal of the Friends to a broader audience. Her role will also focus on encouraging more members to become actively involved in any of our ongoing work strands and initiatives.

**Obituaries** It is with deep sadness and regret that I must report the passing of two well known Friends near the end of 2016. Philip Robinson, husband of Margaret Robinson and Jill Sims-Williams, wife of Tim Sims-Williams, who passed away on 29 December 2016. The condolences of the Friends were passed to both families.

**The NP In-tray**
The Welsh Government is due to publish the outcome of the Future Landscapes Wales and Review of Designated Landscapes processes on 15th March 2017. This will provide an indication of any changes that are likely to come over the coming years.

The budget settlement for 2017-18 will be the same as 2016-17. This is very welcome, however, projections for the mid to long term indicate future cuts. Therefore work is ongoing to make the Authority more resilient and prepare to deal with future reductions in funding.

**Fascinating Factoid!**
The Shell Cottage which featured in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Parts 1 and 2 was built and filmed on Freshwater West beach (it is no longer there!)

**Competition Time**
**November FNU Winner!** Congratulations to Steve Watkins for winning the November ‘Where is it’: the lane between Slebech and Blackpool Mill. A £10 M&S voucher will be on its way to him shortly.

**Where is it?** Here is another. Where was the picture below taken? First correct answer out of the hat gets a £10 M&S Voucher!!

**Caption Competition** This month it’s five of the work party standing around a big hole!! What are they saying?

**Most Unusual Christmas Present Competition** Now here is one everyone can join in. A prize for the most unusual (or useless!) present. I won’t publish your name if you ask me not to in case it came from your other half!! The winner gets a £10 voucher from M&S.

**Can/Will you Help?**
(Ed: Was this bit corrupted in the first edition - no one replied!!). We are looking for:

**Social Events Arrangers** One or more Friends to run alternate social events – in other words a little bit of organising once every two months throughout 2017. Ian Pattinson has agreed to take on the other events and he
and Jane Mason will provide any advice you need. Just agreeing to organise a single event would be really appreciated.

**News and Views Editor** As previously reported our Chairman agreed to take the lead in editing the March 2017 issue of N&V and, as FNU goes to press, I can report that with help from a small team, great progress is being made. But, we still need a volunteer to take on the editorship thereafter (next one will be September 2017). Go on.... someone put their hand up! Others will help you.

**St Brides Engine and Pump** Lionel White has been in touch to put me right on my choice of wording in the Nov FNU. We do NOT need a mechanical engineer! Instead we are looking for someone interested in committing the time to demonstrate and conserve the Engine and Pump - a less technical role. Apologies, Lionel.

**Policy and Planning Bit**

**Newgale Update** - A final preferred route for the storm lashed A487 has been identified and will be presented at a public exhibition on the 8th/9th/10th February 2017 - probably at Roch Memorial Hall (tbc). This provides a chance for feedback from all interested parties with a final report and decision due for publication at the end of March 2017. The link to the full story, as well as a view of the Masterplan which illustrates the long term possibilities for Newgale and the surrounding landscape once the shingle bank starts marching inland, is on our website.

**Visitor Centre Closure Update** - Newport Tourist Information Centre received a reprieve from closure at the November meeting of the National Park Authority whilst the local action group argued for time to put together a credible plan to keep the centre open. With a lot of local effort this new plan is taking shape and the hope and expectation is that the National Park members will vote to keep the Centre open for this coming season allowing time to put new arrangements in place. Tenby National Park Centre closed permanently before Christmas.

**Editor’s Piece**

**Competition Rules** Now someone complained about the rules of the competition! They pointed out that those receiving their FNU by e-mail had more time to respond to the competitions than those receiving theirs by post. Good point. Thus, from now on, the winners will be pulled out of a hat one month after the FNU has been posted. So no more complaining!!

**Future Distribution** And a couple of general points on distribution: if you change any of your contact details, do please remember to tell Dorothy – our membership secretary. And secondly, for the next issue of FNU we will do the electronic distribution using MAILCHIMP!! Don’t worry, you will not see monkeys running across your garden(!) – if fact you don’t need to do anything: it simply makes life bit easier at this end and you will see ‘distributed by mailchimp on the email. I just thought you would like to know.

**Feedback and Input** Many thanks for the encouraging messages about the FNU. Do remember that your input is key to keeping it interesting. So write to me: you can just get something off your chest; or make a suggestion; answer a competition; or tell the Friends something interesting about you and life in your area. I’ll make you famous (or infamous!)

To contribute, simply send me an email ian@discoverwalkingpembrokeshire.co.uk or a written note (Ian Pattinson, Dan Y Mynydd, Tregynon Cottages, Gwaun Valley, Pembrokeshire, SA65 9TU). Or call me on 01239 821631. For your convenience, the website address is www.fpcnp.org.uk and our Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/Friendsofpembrokeshirecoastnationalpark
The Friends Events/Social Programme 2017
(follow this link to the website for further details - http://www.fpcnp.org.uk/category/events-programme)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>TIME/VENUE</th>
<th>Friends’ Lead</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 February 2017</td>
<td>Local history walk and talk by Haydyn Garlick - PCNPA. Walk takes in Lime Kilns preserved by our work party. Lunch on completion at the Cottage Inn, Llangwn SA62 4DD. Jane will arrange food on the day.</td>
<td>10:00 Sports Club, Hook.</td>
<td>Jane Mason (01437 762387) <a href="mailto:info@masonsbarn.co.uk">info@masonsbarn.co.uk</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 March 2017</td>
<td>Talk about Cetacean (whales, dolphins, and porpoise) strandings and marine environmental monitoring.</td>
<td>Tbc - 14:00 Leisure Centre Haverfordwest</td>
<td>Ian Pattinson (01239 821631) <a href="mailto:ian@discoverwalkingpembrokeshire.co.uk">ian@discoverwalkingpembrokeshire.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 April 2017</td>
<td>AGM followed by choice of a short presentation, a short walk or a guided tour of St Davids Cathedral</td>
<td>10.15 Oriel Y Parc</td>
<td>Steve Drinkwater(01437 710009) See Calling Notice for event details</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 May 2017 (tbc)</td>
<td>A morning wildlife walk and talk about ‘Pembrokeshire in May’. And a p.m. walk led by one of the Friends.</td>
<td>St Justinian's and St Davids</td>
<td>Exact numbers needed for lifeboat station visit in due course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 June 2017</td>
<td>A morning tour of St Justinian’s Lifeboat Station and an afternoon guided tour of St Davids Bishop’s Palace.</td>
<td>Preselis or the coast</td>
<td>Picnic lunch venue will be adjacent to a car access for those not wanting to walk.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July / August 2017</td>
<td>A summer walk and a picnic – somewhere for those not basking in the sun somewhere abroad!</td>
<td>Preselis or the coast</td>
<td>Picnic lunch venue will be adjacent to a car access for those not wanting to walk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 September 2017</td>
<td>A leisurely and informative, morning, guided walk around Tenby Harbour. A p.m. activity will be arranged.</td>
<td>£4.50 per head for Tenby walk tbc</td>
<td>Lasts 90 minutes and led by Marion Davies. Maximum group size is 30.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 October 2017</td>
<td>AGM followed by a visit to Lamphey Bishop’s palace</td>
<td>Preselis or Everest!</td>
<td>Ian Pattinson (01239 821631) <a href="mailto:ian@discoverwalkingpembrokeshire.co.uk">ian@discoverwalkingpembrokeshire.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?? November 2017</td>
<td>The Annual Preseli Challenge (not for the faint hearted) but convenient pub lunch for others to join us.</td>
<td>Preselis or Everest!</td>
<td>Ian Pattinson (01239 821631) <a href="mailto:ian@discoverwalkingpembrokeshire.co.uk">ian@discoverwalkingpembrokeshire.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>?? December 2017</td>
<td>Christmas Carol Service (tbc)</td>
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Future Suggestions

- tbc Tour of the MOD firing Ranges, followed by a coastal walk. Castlemartin Firing Range
- tbc A tour around Cardigan Castle Cardigan Lead: Peter Heard
- tbc Last Invasion walk to celebrate the 220th Anniversary Llanwnda
- tbc Sutherland Trust boat centre Pembroke Dock Pemb. Dock Stuart D. Berry, Heritage Centre Manager
- tbc Wildlife Sightings Event Pembroke Dock Sinead Lynch from the Bumble Bee Trust
- tbc Pembrokeshire Sustainable Shellfish Initiative West Wales Shell Fisherman’s Association Ltd