

TENBY CIVIC SOCIETY

Registered with the Charity Commissioners No. 511384

President

Cllr. Caroline Thomas

Treasurer:

Albie Smosarski,
Cofion Books, Bridge St. Tenby
SA70 7BU tel. 07891 608349

Minutes Secretary

Jacqui Wingfield
Weston Lodge, Harding Street
Tenby SA70 7LL,
jacqui.wingfield@btinternet.com
[Tel: 01834 845347](tel:01834845347)



Chairman

David Tudor Thomas
Ford Cottage, Edward Street
Tenby, SA70 7LX
tel. 01834 844422
tudorthomas66@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Trevor Hallett;
Cogmill Cottage
22, The Green
Tenby SA70 8DL
Tel: 01834 842759

Newsletter Spring 2019

It is now some time since the last newsletter appeared for which the Chairman apologises,. various other commitments having delayed this issue. This issue will therefore try to catch up with all that the Society has been involved in over the past six months and give a foretaste of events to come.

As far as the Society is concerned the most important of those events is the Society Annual General Meeting. We hope as many members as possible will be able to attend. The formal process will be short and sweet, before we can continue to the important business of the day, teas, coffees and homemade cakes followed by Harry Gardiner, our ex-Chairman speaking on Allen's View, as requested.

AGM Details

This year's Civic Society Society AGM will take place on Saturday , 13 April at 2,00pm at our usual venue, Augustus Place Community Centre, Tenby. All members and guests are very welcome to attend

Agenda

1. Election of President.
 2. Apologies for Absence.
 3. Minutes of 2018 A.G.M.
 4. Matters Arising from 2018 A.G.M.
 5. Financial Report
 6. Annual Report
 7. Election of Officers
 8. Election of Executive Committee (Both Officers and Committee Members standing for election listed below)
 9. Any Other Business
- Close of Meeting Refreshments Raffle A Talk on Allen's View by Mr Harry Gardiner

Minutes of the 2018 AGM are issued separately from this newsletter and will be available at the AGM.

There have been no changes in committee members in 2018 from those listed below. We have been very fortunate that all committee members and officers have been able to continue throughout the year. All [committee members and officers](#) are prepared to stand for the coming year. Nominations for Officers and Committee Members for 2017-18 are set out below for members' approval:

Name	Position	Nominated	Seconded
Caroline Thomas	President	Harry Gardiner	D Tudor Thomas
Trevor Hallett	Vice Chairman	Jacqui Wingfield	Richard Wingfield
D Tudor Thomas	Chairman	Howard Rawson-Humphries	Richard Wingfield
Albie Smosarski	Treasurer	Harry Gardiner	Jacqui Wingfield
Jacqui Wingfield	Minutes Secretary	Howard Rawson-Humphries	D Tudor Thomas
Harry Gardiner	Committee Member	Trevor Hallett	D Tudor Thomas
Neil Westerman	Committee Member	Harry Gardiner	Jacqui Wingfield
Howard Rawson-Humphries	Committee Member	Jacqui Wingfield	Trevor Hallett
Richard Wingfield	Committee Member	Trevor Hallett	D Tudor Thomas

There are four [Trustees for the Charity](#) who are responsible for the land the Society owns at Allens View, Tenby. These are Trevor Hallett and Howard Rawson-Humphries, named above, together with Richard Reed of Trevaine Farm, New Hedges and David Hughes of Paxton Court, Tenby. The deeds for the land are held at the Tenby chambers of Lewis and Lewis, Solicitors.

[Committee meetings](#) have been held every two months throughout the year. All meetings were held at the Fourcroft Hotel on The Croft by kind permission of the proprietors. Thanks go to them for the generous use of a meeting room and teas and coffees.

For the last two years, to increase transparency and accountability, our policy has been that any member of the society is welcome to attend and contribute to committee meetings. We are fortunate that David Glennerster of Penally attended all, and Keith Clarke and Edna Greenhaugh were able to attend most, of our committee meetings as observers. We have also been glad to welcome Mr. Rob Mayhew, President of Tenby and District Lions. His input has demonstrated the great advantages of Tenby societies working together for the good of Tenby. The committee would like to formally thank them for their contributions and hope they will continue and other members will follow their example.

Civic Society Awards: There were two nominations for Civic Society Townscape Awards this year, however neither came up to the standards required and the committee felt that no award should be made this year. Two nominations for "Tenby Treasure" Civic Society Awards for continued and previously unsung voluntary contributions by individuals for Tenby were made during the year (Details below).

Publications: Sales of the longer [Tenby Heritage Town Trail](#), [Heritage Plaques 3- fold leaflet](#) [trail Town Walls](#) and [3 fold Trail leaflet](#) continue well. These publications will be combined into new sections in a "Tenby Heritage Guide" to replace a previous guide to Tenby which has not been published for some years and for which we see an opportunity in the market and which is now ready for printing, delayed only by Albie Smosarski's recent illness from which we are happy to say he is recovering speedily.

The programme of sending [Newsletters](#) has continued to keep members informed of Society activities, of which this is the tenth in the series. The Chairman has received some useful suggestions but would still like to hear how it could be improved and what other items could be included.

. Our President, Caroline Thomas, again laid a wreath on behalf of the Society on Remembrance Day.

Civic Society recognition for Cllr. Trevor Hallett

Proposed for an award by Rob Mayhew of Tenby Lions, but enthusiastically seconded by all Tenby Civic Society committee members, Tudor Thomas was delighted to present Trevor Hallett with the second Civic Award at the January committee meeting at the Fourcroft Hotel in Tenby.

It is hard to express just how much Trevor Hallett has contributed, and continues to contribute, to Tenby over his many years of service on the town council as well as many other voluntary bodies.



We are all very proud that he is long-standing part of the Civic Society as a long-standing member of the committee and trustee of the society.

Before our first award we were very careful to establish whether Tenby Town Council had previously or currently or in the future considered such a scheme. We were told no such scheme existed. We felt that there was a clear lack of recognition for those Tenby people who had volunteered their time and efforts to the benefit of Tenby. So we made our first award to Michelle Watkins as reported in our August 2018 newsletter.

The existing Civic Award "Township Award" scheme for improvements to buildings which make a positive contribution to Tenby's townscape continues. We had one firm candidate and our team of judges made positive comments. However difficulties have arisen since about one or two less attractive features of the site and we have decided that no award will be made for 2018. We are, of course, still actively looking for future potential recipients and would very much welcome suggestions from society members

Allen's View

We seem to need some regular income to give a fund to cover the continuing costs of tree work, rather than shrink our reserve. We have done well with free volunteer work and donations (benches, saplings, plants, Daffs) , we have two benches coming, and gates, we could bid for grants for equipment, fixtures, tree felling for tree carvings, new shed/rain gatherer, possibly improved vehicle access, maybe tree work to improve views etc. , but the long term need for tree work is less likely to be fundable through a grant for a 'fighting fund'.

Our anonymous donor is happy to make us a set of three gates for Allens View made from the same type of wood as the two picnic tables over the winter. We will do a site and measuring visit and he seems keen to sort the hinges and fittings. This is a generous offer again.

The tree survey of 2015 recommended planting to replace the group of leylandii after they were felled (now done with a bird carving, a notice stand and a bench added using the base stems). This winter/autumn it is The committee has considered planting 4 new saplings, two birches and two Whitebeam, both very suited to a windy site by the sea and not prone to the species specific diseases becoming more common. There is quite a large gap in the canopy so plenty of sky for new trees to aim for. Three 20 year old oaks (Donated by Jo and Malcolm Stacey) and a willow planted just before the dry period have survived ok Saplings trees planted two winters ago have survived well, one or two losses including a New Zealand pine donated and planted in this space in 2017 died in the heavy frost and freezing rain last winter. Some tree surgeon work looks likely winter 2019-20, but the

arboriculturalists survey of 2015 could be repeated at the date due in 2020, at a cost of £250 - £300 . (Good value as you get a professional opinion in writing about safety

1 We have an offer to donate the cost of 200 more Tenby Daffs from Doreen Mortimer.

2 We have an offer of more primrose and violet plants from Jo Stacey.

3 Harry can provide more hardy begonia ground cover to extend this summer's planting.

4 Sue Gardiner has a series of hardy fushia plants being readied for planting by the spring.

5 other helpers have fushias, hydrangeas, montbretia for us to plant, the latter need digging up

6 Other contributions are welcome, especially perennials, bushes and evergreen bushes that survive near the coast.

Note that quite large amounts of planting are needed to be at all noticeable in the site !

One aim with introducing planting has been to guide walkers around the path areas and stay off other areas of the site, also creating borders edging the paths.

We have lost several volunteers – Nigel Davies, John Faulkener, Louise Badham. Recently Alf Heaven has not been available. On the other had a group from the Tenby Wellbeing group visited Allen's View this Spring and have offered to help with weeding and planting.

John Beynon

Since the last newsletter we have lost one of past committee members, Mr John Beynon , better known as a former Honorary Curator of of Tenby Museum. Members may like to be reminded of John's contribution to the society in organizing tours such as that to Carmarthen as shown left and below:



Transport Matters

Neil Westerman, one of our committee members and trustees has been looking at vehicle traffic within Tenby, at rail links to the town and through routes within Wales and at bus routes which help those without a car to visit other parts of West and South Wales . The letters to Ken Skates and PCC on vehicle traffic said :

“At the last committee meeting of Tenby Civic Society the idea of introducing a 20 mph zone covering the whole of Tenby was proposed. Currently a 20mph speed limit exists on a section of Greenhill Road and on St. John's Hill. These could form the boundaries for a 20 mph zone together with a point on the Norton (Gas Lane junction?) and Lower Park Road (the railway bridge?) thus covering all of the central area of Tenby.

....As local authorities are responsible for determining speed limits and 20 mph zones can I request that you consider the proposal contained in this letter, to introduce a 20 mph zone covering most of Tenby, at your next meeting.”

He has also received a reply to his letter to Ken Skates, (after 6 weeks) on future rail provision in Tenby, from Nathan Barnhouse, Deputy Director, Transport Planning and Programming Division, as follows:

“Transport for Wales has exciting and transformative plans to transform across Wales and the borders with £5 billion investment . Part of this is a commitment to enhancing and improving services on our West Wales routes.

From May 2023, there will an increase in train frequency from 5 to 6 trains per day between Carmarthen and Pembroke Dock. Refurbished trains will be introduced this year, and will have increased capacity from the current trains. They will also include free on-board Wi-Fi, power sockets, electronic passenger information and more space for bicycles. From 2022, brand new DMU trains will be introduced and will include all the above benefits. This year stations will be deep-cleaned (We have recently observed Network Rail working around Tenby station). By 2020 free Wi-Fi will be in place at all stations, by 2022 new customer information screens will be in place, and , by 2023 , new cycle storage facilities will be installed.

Regarding the retiming and re-routing of services you have suggested, this would be an operational issue to be considered by TfW, and I have asked them to review your request and reply to you directly. I have also asked them to consider your request to participate in passenger users’ body you refer to.”

Planning

The [National Park Local Development Plan](#) has now been finalized and approved by the National Park planning committee. The proposals were to expand the Conservation Area in Tenby to cover the following streets: the area bounded by St. Florence Parade, Esplanade, Battery Road and Trafalgar Road plus Queens Parade and Harries Street, Deer Park, Greenhill and Greenhill Road and Avenue, St. John’s Hill and the Green and the Cemetery. In addition we commented that twenty green spaces in the wider area of Tenby should be included as being sufficiently important to the townscape to protect.

Despite a hiccup while PCNPA transferred their circulation of planning applications online we have continued to comment on planning applications despite not being statutory consultees.

Several major applications are worth reporting in detail:

The [Brynhir](#) proposal rumbles on. The proposal put forward by Pembrokeshire County Council was for a development of affordable housing with a small allocation of land for self-build and for the open market. In order to do that they have allocated £4 million from the development budget so that the development could be managed by the County Housing Association. It appears that the council is keen that they should not be seen to be profiting from land they own at the expense of Tenby amenities. The latest stage is that PCC have asked the National Park if they require an environmental impact statement to which the answer has come back yes. That is now being submitted.

The other major development is to the rear of [Knowing Mead](#) on the old card factory site. Again we welcome the fact that this will be developed by the housing association as 29 social housing units. However we commented on our severe reservations about the number of units crammed onto the site, the narrow vehicle access to the site and parking in Knowing Mead and the loss of tree, hedges and wildlife habitat.



Following on from the successful and attractive adaptation of the derelict store in [Sargeants Lane](#) to the Harbwr Brewery there is now a proposal to expand the Brewery facilities into the next door building, to separate the brewing and retail activities, with future possible expansion across the lane. The retention of the style and features of the façade will retain the character of the Lane. If the new work is of a similar standard to the present

building we welcome the development as a first step towards the revitalization of the rest of Sargeants Lane, an under-utilised asset in the heart of Tenby.

At [No. 8 High Street](#) New Look put in an application to make internal alterations, restore the Victorian shop fascia and put in dormer lights to the top floor. They were quick to respond to our criticism of their original proposal for a full-width dormer with a revised proposal for two small pitched roof dormers more in character with the style of building. We have heard since that some Georgian cornices and internal features unfortunately will be lost in the renovation work. We trust that the potential new leasees of the building, we believe Fat Face, will follow the welcome approved plans.

There is a proposal to turn the former dental practice in [Ace's Court, Warren Street](#) into two flats on the ground floor and in the basement, presumably for holiday flats. One major problem is that the scheme proposes a range of windows at the side of the property which are unlikely to allow in much light as they face the back of Clareston Court about fifteen centimeters away. Another problem is that we believe PCNPA were putting forward Ace's Court and Tyndall House opposite to Cadw for listing as the street around them did not justify inclusion in the expanded Conservation Area.

In a prominent position overlooking Ironbar Sands, there is an application for a Juliet balcony on the second floor of Gunfort Mansions on the Paragon. These seem to be becoming very popular but in this case the work on Flat 3 will lead to a better-looking façade for the building and may encourage other tenants.

Health Service Provision in Tenby

Howard Rawson-Humphries, New Hedges Community Councillor and TCS Committee member and former Secretary recently attended the February 26th 2019 meeting of the South East Pembrokeshire Community Health Network and kindly forwarded these ad hoc notes on health provision in the area which may be of concern to members:

Speakers: Matt McGivern (Manager of Tenby Surgery), Elaine Lorton (NHS County Director, Pembrokeshire).

Tenby Surgery.

[Management by Health Board.](#) 8am opening. Manager is local. 6 GP Doctors. 4 Practice Nurses. Practice pharmacists, Occupational therapists. There's also an outreach via the local GP cluster. A new nurse has been recruited. Former staff have been retained. Adverts have been successful. Further applications have been received. Holidays have reduced staff working times. Nurses have been transferring. A GP has been doing 1 day a week. Things are going so well that a GP has contacted the surgery asking for details.

[Clinics](#) have had to be [reduced](#) - causing waiting lists to lengthen. This will be rectified during March/April clearing backlog.

[Missed appointments.](#) If a patient is late, the computer auto timer cuts them off at a pre-set point.

[My Health Online.](#) Practice has 2 GPs per day. Computer handles prescriptions and bookings.

'E-Miss' computer records system. NHS Wales tender lost by 'E-miss'. From November 'Vision' will be implemented.

It should free up staff and phone lines. Online service will be 24hr. Vacant slots could be claimed in real time. GP appointments will not be bookable online. There are only four phone lines in Tenby Surgery. Four people work the phones. A further two work on the reception desk.

[A Patient Partition Group](#) has been formed, inviting feedback from the public.

Summer Services. Surgery & Walk In Centre operate together. Tenby Surgery is in a much stronger position when compared to this time last year.

A quarterly newsletter will be issued in March.

[Attendance to appointments](#) is a problem. 3 GP appointments made this morning were not kept and were classed as Did Not Arrive (DNA)

If a patient is classed as a DNA. three times, they are removed from the GP Surgery books.

It is realised that exceptional cases lead to misunderstandings. Genuine cases are not lost in the maelstrom.

Home visits. 75% of requests are resolved over the telephone. There were 8 home visits today.

[Training Scheme.](#) It is felt that there is an increasing amount of local talent coming home.

Tenby Walk In Centre. Six Thousand visits to Tenby's Walk In Centre. Patient numbers fluctuate: Summer is busier than Winter. Easter is quieter than Summer.

Emergency Nurse Practitioners are now active at the Walk In Centre. An entry level (band 5) nurse has been recruited. Clinical support is available from Tenby Surgery.

Future models have been considered:

Short Term:

Training. Emergency Nurse Practitioners will support Tenby Surgery. Their skills will complement District Nurses during quiet times of the year.

Medium term:

28th Jan. Conversation with local people... What is needed?

Long term:

The aim is to improve the service, long term.

Integrated Community Network. Linking services together. Tenby Hub. Not yet defined. More public contact and information needed before a decision is made. Questionnaire is online, Link shared on paper.

Radiography. A service is available 3 days per week. A radiographer is contracted to attend 1 day per week.

Community Pharmacies.

Emergency dispensing. Common ailments scheme. NHS Walk-In Pharmacies. Six pilot sites in Pembrokeshire, including Pembroke, Newport and Clunderwen. Pharmacies reduce patient numbers at GP and A&E centres.

The opening hours of facilities are strictly limited according to staff levels.

Heritage Plaques



Last September, Marion Davies the Tenby blue badge guide of guidedtourswales.co.uk wrote a valuable corrective to the information we put in our last newsletter on the plaques the Society restored last summer. This were to mark places associated with Beatrix Potter, George Eliot and the old mortuary . She wrote:

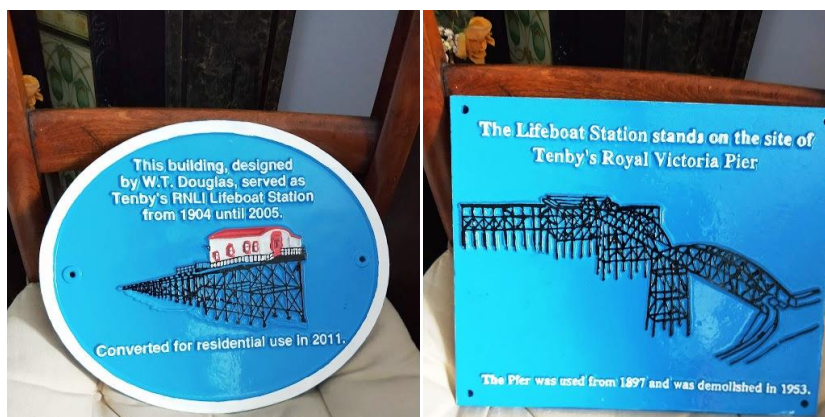


“I hope I don't cause too much flack when I reveal that with regards plaques around Tenby, just to let you know

that I did a few of the illustrations/thumbnails myself. Had I known you needed some info. I might have been able to help as I was the chairperson of the 2020 Environment and Heritage group at the time and we put up the bulk of the plaques. My contributions were:

Beatrix Potter, Nelson's Walk, The mortuary, East Rock House and the Bathhouse. I cant remember if there were any others off hand.

But let me just clarify, that the reason the rabbit has a bent ear is not to fit the frame but that the image of Peter Rabbit is copyright to Warne and therefore must be significantly different, so that a few details have to be changed. I believe the Beatrix Potter society may have contributed to the plaque. The plaque of George Eliot was paid for by the George Eliot society and the image of her provided by them on the understanding it would be a frontal facial line drawing as she had a rather large nose. Lesley Fisher paid for the Wesley plaque and Mrs Maudsley contributed to the Nelson plaque, cant remember who else helped, off the top of me head. “



Since we replaced these plaques we have started the next phase. The plaques on the two lifeboat houses are showing signs of corrosion and paint loss and were removed for refurbishing. These have now been replaced We also removed, restored and replaced the sign on the old mortuary (See above)

Finally we repaired the plaque to the Tenby lugger on the side of the Sailing Club. This is very appropriate as the new replica of a lugger arrived in Tenby harbour on Sunday the 29th July 2018 and we have based the repainting on the colours of the newly built lugger (Right).



To make up a batch for stripping, powder-coating and painting, we have also taken down the Tenby Civic Society 25th Anniversary black and white plaque on the site of the Whitesands Gate on Castle Square, and will be also refurbishing the similar 25th anniversary plaques of Tenby Civic Society on the South Gate (Five Arches) and the North Gate on the White Lion Hotel (Left). These are porcelain and will need sand-blasting and repainting by hand to match the other blue and white plaques.

We have also suggested to Tenby Town Council, following on from Cllr. Christine Brown's reported remarks in the Tenby Observer on the poor state of the stone plaques, such as that on Jubilee Gardens, that we might also assist in refurbishing those. We are awaiting a response.

A Possible Tenby Town Walls Trust

The Society, together with other Tenby organizations, has been approached by Andrew Davies Town Clerk to find out whether they were interested in forming a voluntary organisation which would take over responsibility for maintaining the town walls from Pembrokeshire County Council. At our meeting on 29th January 2019, the formation of a new independent group, probably a Community Interest Company was discussed and it was agreed that the idea was worth pursuing. The Chairman has been in touch with Mr Howard Rudge, Chair of Pembroke Town Walls Trust and we will be meeting to share ideas before the end of the month. The Chairman has also asked to attend the meeting arranged, also for April, with Cllr. Viv Perry and Andrew Davies, PCNPA and Representatives from Pembroke County Council.

Any group would operate independently of the Town Council and the Civic Society in order to protect, maintain and enhance the Walls for the benefit of all. If you would be interested in joining such a group, or just want to find out a little more, please do get in touch.

2019 Subscriptions

Post the Renewal Payment (cheques payable to 'Tenby Civic Society'), to Albie Smosarski, Cofion Books, Brid Street, Tenby, Pems. SA70. Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque, or take to Albie a Cofion Books where he will greet you (And your payment) with open arms,

Membership subscriptions are now due for 2019. The annual subscription rates are: -
Full Members £10.00, Family Members £13.00, Junior Members £4.00, Corporate Members £30.00, Life Membership £125.00. Discount of £3.00 against the above rates for those able to give us a valid email address when renewing their subscription. Has your Email address changed? Could members notify the Chairman if so (To Email address on letterhead).

Membership Type.....	Amount.....
----------------------	-------------

Post the Renewal Payment (cheques payable to 'Teby Civic Society'), to Albie Smosarski, Cofion Books, Bridge Street, Tenby, Pems. SA70. Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque, or take to Albie at Cofion Books where he will greet you (And your payment) with open arms.