

# TENBY CIVIC SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

### JANUARY 2024

**President**

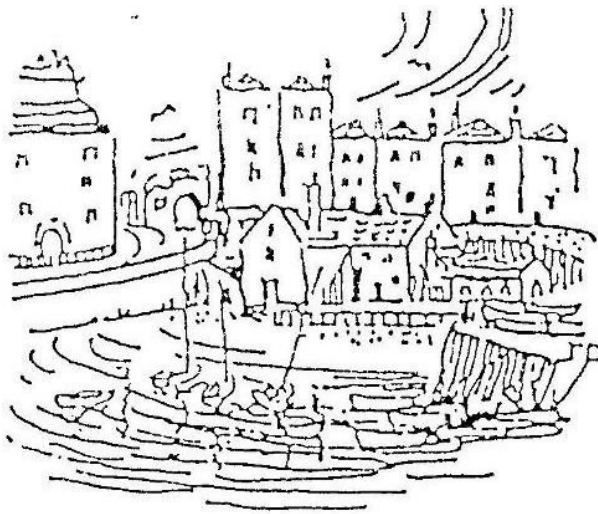
Cllr. Caroline Thomas

**Treasurer**

Albie Smosarski  
Cofion Books  
Bridge Street  
Tenby

**Minutes Secretary**

Anne Draper  
10 Merlins Gardens, Tenby

**Chairman**

Neil Westerman  
25 Upper Hill Park  
Tenby SA70 8JF  
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Tel 07968 826315

**Vice-Chairman**

Chris Osborne  
32 The Norton  
Tenby

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Members are welcome to sit in on committee meetings – for details see [tenbycivicsociety.co.uk](http://tenbycivicsociety.co.uk) – and to consider joining the committee

We would very much like to hear from members and welcome contributions and comments for the newsletter at [tenbycivicsociety.co.uk/getintouch/](http://tenbycivicsociety.co.uk/getintouch/)



# PLANNING MATTERS

Harry Gardiner looks at ongoing planning applications



**The big issue: proposed site at Bryn Hir**

The biggest issue has been the detailed plans for the large Bryn Hir housing scheme on the skyline above Tenby.

Most dwellings will be council social rented helping local people. There will be a lot of green space around the scheme including a circuit footpath.

All the roads will be culs de sac and too narrow to be on a bus route; only minibuses are likely up there. Cycle access could be better, so car use is likely at this out of town site – disappointing.

Eleven blocks of flats will be three storeys high so they and two-storey houses will be visible

from some areas in the old town. We have requested more tree planting along the southern hedges to reduce sight of the buildings on the skyline. Trees are an effective screen – along the sides of the site the long lines of trees shield views of other housing like Upper Hill Park from



*Left: Eye-level view showing the Esplanade and Caldey Island*



*Below left: Different viewpoint of St Mary's spire. Two- and three-storey buildings will be higher than this view level, so more conspicuous on the skyline from parts of Tenby*

The importance of views of the Park from Caldey and the sea are material in the Local Plan

the eastern side of Tenby. We suggested pastel coloured house walls rather than white as being locally in touch and less institutional.

Some local details need protection and better inclusion. Two stone stiles off Blind Lane and Sperricomb Lane (pre-dating the building of the road on the Croft ) are a residents' amenity on the corner of Seascape and Upper Hill Park and will need restoring after the new sewer is built. An existing bridle path with an unsightly wall beside existing houses at the top of the site could be transferred into the more attractive circuit path inside the site.

## Conversion of buildings on the Croft

Work to modernise the interiors of 2 The Croft is now complete, but our committee was very unhappy with a proposed metal staircase and metal viewing deck in the steep garden to the property which were seen as intrusive and spoiling the garden, out of character with the location, and the conservation area.

We commented that restoration of the existing steps and garden upper terrace would be in character and of more appropriate materials than designs like 'a fire escape and a dockside platform'.

As the adjoining Fourcroft gardens have been stripped bare and left, pending an application to decide what the former hotel will be converted to, the condition of gardens on the Croft could learn a lot from the quality of the Cliffside gardens on the Esplanade.

*Right: Unsightly bridle path that could transfer into the top of the new site*



*Below: Northern of the two old 19th-century stone stiles in the site*



## Flooding

Recent rain makes us wonder how Tenby will cope with a bad Ritec flood – Kiln Park has policies for floods that have just happened there.



The Ritec three feet above normal – Lower Park Road is only one area at risk from a really bad flood



# A busy year at Allen's View

Harry Gardiner on work in progress at the top of the hill

Despite limited volunteer and money resources the site remains in a good state. Action over the years is paying off – the Griselinia hedge planted along the east side of the site several years ago has grown up and is successfully shielding the ten-foot steel eastern boundary fence to neighbouring property, Clovers.

Work has tailed off this autumn, by when a lot of tidying up was done by Harry, Neil and Anne Draper's volunteers – Richard, Chris and another Richard. They also planted some tree slips donated via the Town Council into the Coast Path hedge.

Chris Osborne regularly emptied the two litter bins – well used in the visitor season. There have been no further fires lit on the site since March.

Another Richard – Richard Reed of Trevayne Farm – brought a volunteer and completed grass trimming and some brushwood clearing.

They also did extensive laying of ground mulch to protect the evergreen bushes planted spring 2022 to gradually fill areas cleared in 2021.

With weeding and also watering in dry times (always vital for new plants ) these bushes have done well with only one loss.

A medical condition stopped Harry getting to the site so Neil Westerman and Chris Osborne kept the site tidy and checked the condition of trees after strong gales.

With Richard Reed's active help it is hoped over the winter to clear an area in the north-east side of the site for planting

several apple trees native to Pembrokeshire. Anne Draper will check whether funds could be found for the apple trees.

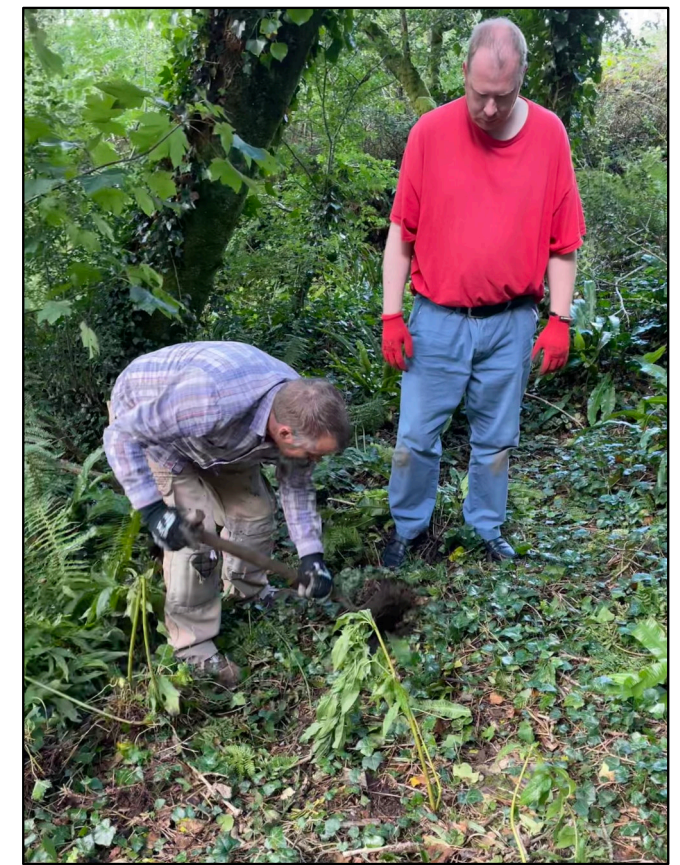
There are also some remains of the shed to be removed. Harry had cut up and removed much of what was left after it was taken down and stacked for safety reasons.

The shed had long since lost its value as it was regularly broken into and items inside stolen.

A full tree condition survey will be due either next summer or the one after.

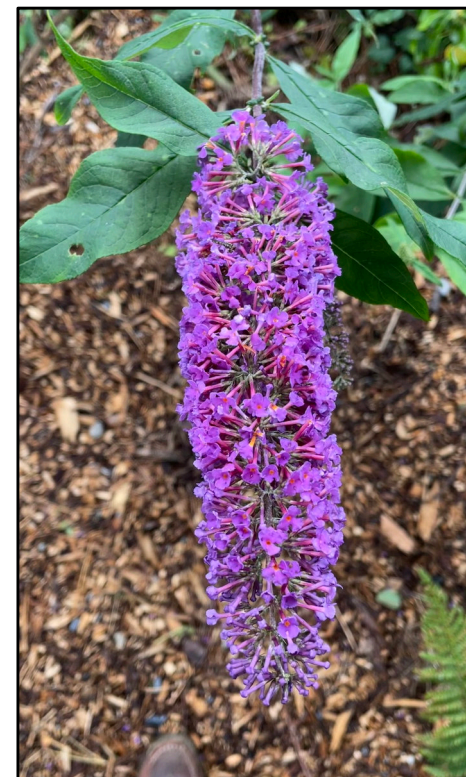
The rain catching board and two storage barrels have worked well, so it is hoped to place a similar pair of water tanks in a screened location at the more easily accessed southern end of the site.

This could double for any fire risk, or for watering plants. 🍄



Left: Base layers of the shed being reduced and removed, or good boards stacked to dry out

Right: Flower August 1923 on buddleia planted Spring 1922. Buddleia can form dense ground cover



Clockwise from top left:

Plants & tools awaiting volunteers - hemp-agrimony grows well, so is being transferred to a cleared space  
Richard and Chris re-planting the hemp agrimony in a cleared area  
Funghi on leylandii tree stump  
The two Richards have just replaced a faded site notice with an new one on the entry post



# What does Tenby Civic Society do?

'Quite a lot, actually,' writes Treasurer **Albie Smosarski**

Our aims and objectives are

to stimulate public interest in Tenby and neighbourhood

to promote high standards of planning and architecture

to promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the society

to act as coordinating body and to cooperate with the local authorities, planning committees and all other statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having similar aims to those of the society

to promote or assist in promoting activities of a charitable nature throughout Tenby and neighbourhood

to publish papers, reports and other literature

to make surveys and prepare maps and plans and collect information in relation to any place, erection or building of beauty or historic interest.

To do this on members' behalf we have an executive committee of volunteers who try to meet every two months and a planning committee which liaises when local plans crop up.

All members are encouraged to join us in carrying out our aims and objectives.

Your committee has liaised well with Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Tenby Town Council where planning is concerned and our comments are seriously taken into account and quoted in the press.

We have printed the Tenby Historical Trail plus leaflets on Tenby's town walls, the Blue Plaque Trail and others when need arises.

We have organised trips to various places of interest and perhaps we should look again at doing this if members are interested.

With the aid of certain committee members and volunteers we work hard on maintaining Allen's View, which is no mean feat.

We also have a website which you are welcome to view.

You, the membership of the society, are so important to all that we do, and we urge you to send us your ideas of what you think we should be doing more of in our work. Every one of your comments will be discussed by your committee and we shall get back to you.



TIM HILL



DIEGO\_TORRES

# Membership 2024

Subs are due in January for the year ahead. If you inadvertently forgot to pay last year do not worry! Just continue to pay for this year, thank you.

Individual and Family Membership (with email address)	£12.50
Individual and Family Membership (without email address)	£15
Corporate Membership	£30
Life Membership	£100

Please make cheques payable to Tenby Civic Society and post to  
Albie Smosarski, Cofion, Bridge Street, Tenby, Pembs SA70 7BU

If paying by bank transfer :

Tenby Civic Society  
NatWest Bank  
Sort code  
55-61-35  
Account no  
04903595

Thank you one and all.





**As we wait for winter to give way to spring, captured here in photographs by Harry Gardiner, we wish all members a healthy and successful 2024**

