

TENBY CIVIC SOCIETY

Newsletter – Spring 2024

Hello. This is the first of a new, more frequent newsletter to try to keep you better & wider informed about challenging issues facing the town of Tenby's heritage. We hope you enjoy its contents and would welcome any comments, good or bad. You can get hold of us [here](#).

Fruit Trees at the top of the cliff

If you were to venture up to Allen's View, atop Tenby's North Cliff on the Coastal Path to Saundersfoot, you might be surprised. The Civic Society have been looking after this bequeathed garden for some 59 years but have recently turned a new leaf. Courtesy of a grant to promote new tree cultivation from Tenby Town Council's *Greening Fund*, we have recently had planted nine heritage Welsh apple trees.

And these photos, from Harry Gardiner, reveal some of the garden's current delights, including some assistants, Richard and Chris, from The Tenby Project. Allen's View offers a real community facility.



Refresh for Albert & Dyster memorials



Poor old **Albert**, stranded on top of Castle Hill, unprotected from pigeons & seagulls, unsurprisingly looking worse for wear.

And the **Dyster** memorial looks equally unappetising for any horse or dog in need of a drink.

Well, the good news is they're both due restorative works later this year. *Abbey Masonry* from Cross Hands are the specialist contractors, with past Dyster experience, and are due to return at the behest of Tenby Town Council et al. We suggest you keep your fingers crossed for this to happen soon.



Planning – Tenby's future holiday homes & lettings

From April this year a new tool has been enabled by Welsh Government to help tackle the shortage of affordable homes for locals. If local planning authorities – in our case both *Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA)* & *Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC)* – wish to use the *new residential Use Classes, C3 (principal home), C5 (second home), C6 (short term lettings)*, then new occupiers might have to apply for a change of use consent if they want to use their residential property for a use other than C3.

This is in response to concerns in Wales that local economies are being hollowed out to only be economically sustainable during the main season summer holiday months. There are also concerns in Welsh speaking areas for the future of the Welsh language.

In addition, national & local property tax variations have been brought into play; in Pembrokeshire, Council Tax collections for second & empty homes are to generate up to triple the normal rates & the opportunity to have holiday let homes be alternatively, & often less expensively, business rated will depend upon an annual minimum of six months of lettings.

Currently PCNPA require some social rent resident homes in new housing schemes, but they are holding back on restricting individual homes (in sales) to fully residential to see how that works in Gwynedd. We commented on the Local Plan annual review that they should look harder at this and prevent Tenby Old town having more than the current 40% for second homes and holiday lets. The part played by holiday lets in providing enough visitor bed spaces to sustain Tenby's economy also needs to be assessed to reach a balanced approach.

Exhibitions at Tenby Museum & Art Gallery – 200 years on

Coming next is an exhibition celebrating the RNLI's 200th birthday. Always integral in Tenby's seaside community, the lifeboat always takes pride of place, including its six lifeboat stations (only three are currently in use by the RNLI). Do you know where the other two are?

Membership

No hard sell but, please, if you haven't joined or renewed your membership – it doesn't cost more than **£15** & there are cheaper options – just click [here](#).

AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will be at **2pm** on **Saturday 22nd June** at **Augustus Place**. We're organising a guest speaker and would love to see as many of you there as possible. We need to discuss the Civic Society's future and the proposed officers to support that journey. Don't worry, we promise not to coerce you out of your comfort zone.

Finally

Here's a photo of (probably) the only artexed medieval walls.

Can you guess where they are?

