

Secretary's report for the St Madoc's AGM on 17th June 2026

Apart from the delay in obtaining the lease, it has been a very good year.

For me, personally, the highlight was the April VE 80 three day history exhibition on WW2 and how it affected The Havens, focusing particularly on the war time airfield at Talbenny. I think it really showed that we are capable of creating a very interesting and successful Local Heritage Centre in St Madoc's church.

I was very pleased with the contributions from people associated with The Havens, like the exciting revelations from the Higbee family, the air raid siren from Judith Thomas, and Steven Liska's photos of airmen from the Czech 311 Squadron on Broad Haven beach. A great many people came to see the exhibition and said how much they enjoyed it.

Other events we held also went very well. We are most grateful for all the support we have received – it has been very encouraging. We repeated the excellent Cheese and Wine Quiz evening on 15th August, with Richard Baker again testing our brains and memories. We opened St Madoc's for another Cadw Open doors weekend, on 6th and 7th September. This time we added an extra item – storytelling by Semele Xerri. She wrote and performed a wonderful story about the pre-history of St Madoc's, to a spell bound audience in the church.

We met with the new Dean of Roose, the Reverend Cannon John Cecil, on 11th March, in St Madoc's. He was very encouraging and supportive, and he and the LMA (Local Ministry Area) are very keen to work with us, as they will still be responsible for the churchyard once we have the lease.

On the 17th March I attended the Chartered Institute of Building's construction conference in Swansea, particularly to listen to the excellent presentation by the Tywi Centre on the maintenance of old buildings, as Nicky and I had done a 2 day lime building course with them. We are very conscious that as trustees of St Madoc's we will be responsible for looking after an ancient stone building, which has been very important to the local community for centuries.

On the 14th May, Nicky and I attended an extremely useful PAVS workshop on 'Making Better Funding Applications', where we learned a great deal about how

to improve our grant applications. The St Madoc's Group is now a member of PAVS (Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services).

Partly as a result of all the networking events we have been to, the St Madoc's group is becoming quite well known, and we have noticed an increase in traffic to our Facebook page. Other community groups are now actually asking us for advice!

We will again be holding a Car Treasure Hunt (on 27th June), a 3 day history exhibition on 'Past and Present Community Groups in The Havens' (starting on 30th July), a Cheese and Wine Quiz evening (13th August), and a Cadw Open Doors weekend (5th and 6th September).