The history of Haverfordwest and its hinterland makes a fascinating study. Well-preserved prehistoric sites attest to the importance of the area from earliest times, and recent discoveries of a Roman fort and road at Wiston reveal how the long arm of Rome extended further west than we had hitherto realised. Situated in the southern March, the town was especially important in the medieval period as its castles and churches demonstrate. The long estuary of the Cleddau was a vital point of entry to Britain both for the fishermen and merchants that made the town prosperous but also for potential invasion through the ages, from Henry Tudor, the French in the interminable 18th and 19th century wars, to the world wars of the last century.

The Cambrian’s summer conference venue was at Wolfscastle, a few miles north of Haverfordwest, where the famous Treffgarne rocks tower over the pass through the gorge. Cambrians explored the area thematically, from the prehistory in the north of the county, the Romans to the east and the medieval and post-medieval/modern to the south and east and in the town itself.

The historic importance of Wolfscastle is undeniable, situated, as it is, on the edge of the strategically important Treffgarne Gorge, where hard Ordovician rhyolitic volcanic rock outcrops form a striking feature. Great Treffgarne Rock is a famous landmark, with the Lion Rock and the Unicorn standing starkly against the background. It is unsurprising that they were incorporated within the defences of the Iron Age hillfort built on this high ground just south of the village near to further contemporary enclosures and hut circles on the slopes below; adjacent Bronze Age standing
stones attest to the importance of the area in earlier prehistory. The site of the ‘Roman villa and bath’ to the west of the village, explored by Richard Fenton in 1806, was not confirmed by recent excavations, despite early reports of Roman material being found at Ford. However, the motte and bailey castle immediately to the east of our conference centre shows that the area continued to be regarded as an important defensible routeway.

The A40, the successor to the 19th century turnpike road, is tucked in between the cliffs of Treffgarne, this being the obvious, most natural break in the string of mountains that stretch across the north-south route. The railway subsequently was squeezed into the gorge in the early 1900s. Brunel had surveyed the route some 50 years earlier, when the South Wales Railway was hoping to extend to Abermawr. Work started (a small part of the track was recently discovered and excavated at Treffgarne) but eventually it was abandoned – though when GWR decided to build a line through Treffgarne, to serve the increasingly important port of Fishguard, and thence to Ireland, they followed much of this same route.

Treffgarne proved to be one of the most difficult stretches on the whole line. Throughout the winter of 1906, navvies struggled with the tough rocks in conditions of extreme cold, and when a workman died from an explosion in February of that year, it looked as though Treffgarne was going to defeat the railway. Eventually, a single line was laid to link Spittal tunnel with Wolfscastle in 1908. In the following year, the Mauretania docked at Fishguard Harbour, and over 200 passengers climbed aboard special trains that passed through Treffgarne Gorge.

The village has an earthwork castle and the 19th century Nant-y-Coy watermill, the two rivers, the Anghof and the Cleddau, which runs into the heart of the village, a fine two-arched bridge and village green. The school, Sunday School, chapel and church still flourish along with an Annual Festival Week and the village has regularly won awards for Best Kept Village and Wales in Bloom. In 2018 Wolfscastle Primary School won the Cambrians’ sponsored Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative prize for its project ‘The Four R’s of Wolfscastle’ - the rocks, road, railway and river.

Sunday 30 June. 47 Cambrians gathered at the Wolfscastle Hotel at lunch time on Sunday and, after lunch, set off in a minibus and members’ private cars to visit a variety of local sites. We first disembarked at the parish church of St Michael at Rudbaxton, just to the south, where we were addressed by Heather James who told us of the history and architecture of this beautiful Grade I listed church. It was originally established in the early 13th century and has a west tower, single-roofed nave and chancel and parallel south aisle and a barrel-vaulted south porch. The two-bay nave appears earlier than the chancel. The south porch with its painted plastered vault is probably late 15th century, to the west of the early 16th century south aisle.

The church’s Grade I listed status is largely due to the Howard family memorial of the late 17th century, one of the finest in the county, erected by Joanna, wife of the Rev James Howard. It portrays James and Joanna and their children - George on one side, Thomas and Mary on the other, all holding skulls. William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, and advisor to Charles I was rector here in 1622-6 as a 20th century bass plaque attests.

Howard memorial, Rudbaxton church Photo: Heather James.
We then drove north to **St Dogfael’s Church** at St Dogwell’s to look at the ogam stone that stands in the churchyard. Meeting organisers had been fortunate enough to meet up with the churchwarden in the morning who kindly arranged access to the church and reassured us that the ‘Danger. Do Not Enter’ notice in the churchyard referred to the belfry that had recently adopted an alarming list. It would be perfectly alright to visit the inscribed stone, we were assured, as long as we kept well away from the belfry. Heather James and Rhiannon Comeau spoke about ogam stones in Ireland and Pembrokeshire and in particular this stone with its Latin and ogam inscription. It had been found in 1875 used as a gatepost to the entrance of Little Treffgarne Farm, so its present position is clearly not original. It is one of over twenty ogam stones found in Pembrokeshire, part of the old kingdom of Dyfed, which bear witness to the 5th century incursions of the Irish Deisi people from the Waterford area of Ireland into south-west Wales.

![St Dogwell's ogam stone. Photo: Heather James](image)

The Latin inscription is written vertically downwards in two lines on one face, **HOGTIVISFILI / DEMET** (The stone of) Hogtivis son of Demetus), while the ogam on the right edge of the stone reads upwards **OGTEN [LO] or [AS]** (The stone of) Ogtenlo(s) or Ogtenas).

The interior of the church was surprisingly ornate with some beautiful abaci on the late medieval arcade piers.

We then made our way down narrow lanes to **Garne Turne Burial Chamber**, very difficult to find through a narrow gate in an overgrown hedge. But find it we did, and we walked across the field towards the striking rock outcrop below which lies the Neolithic burial chamber. The ruinous nature of this large, impressive but complex burial chamber was clarified by excavations in 2011 and 2012, which revealed that it was, in fact, a chamber that was never completed; the construction was shown to have collapsed before it could be finished. Nonetheless, the extent of the long cairn, the enormous capstone on which, apparently, a cup-and-ring is incised (we were unable to find it), and the large stones forming a V-shaped forecourt, are all evident.

The excavations had revealed multiple phases of activity at the site, including the remains of at least two dolmen monuments. The earliest feature comprised a quarried stone set on a stone platform on the edge of a pit, probably its source; there was evidence of intense burning around it, which gave a C14 date of 3702-3639 BC. The platform had subsequently been cut by a pit, possibly dug for the later dolmen’s capstone. Thus, the stone erection evidently predates the main dolmen.
The remains of a smaller dolmen, also predating the main construction, were found directly to the north-west. Prior to excavation only the surface of a large capstone had been visible, but the excavation revealed a number of collapsed orthostats alongside the large prostrate capstone. When the main chamber had collapsed, this dolmen was surrounded by a platform of stones and soil so that the uprights were no longer visible. After the construction of this platform, a series of smaller standing stones were added around the fallen capstone. Perhaps, the excavators suggest, these were commemorating the dolmen or its collapse.

The main monument at Garn Turne was constructed after these earlier events. A large pit in the forecourt was almost certainly the original location of the 80 tonne capstone. Burnt hazel placed at the bottom of this pit gave two radiocarbon dates of 3787-3656 BC and 3761-3643 BC. The capstone was quarried from the ground, flaked into shape using hammerstones, and the pit from where it was dug partly backfilled. The massive capstone was then elevated onto its supporting uprights, before collapsing, presumably due to its sheer weight.

At a later date, a forecourt was constructed, partly in the remains of the massive quarry pit. Dates from the pit are from the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age (2464-2210 BC, and 2618-2470 BC), and may date the construction of the façade. Another C14 date from higher up in the pit was Iron Age (800-547 BC), which, along with some iron slag found at the site, suggests considerable activity at different points in prehistory. A series of standing stones in the immediate vicinity of Garn Turne were discovered demonstrating that this entire landscape had seen continuing monumental construction over long periods.

The Cambrians indulged in some spirited discussions about the nature of this monument after which we drove back into the village of Wolfscastle to the bridge and village green where Sian Rees described the village and its history.
She then invited those members who did not mind a steep climb up steps to walk with her to the **motte and bailey castle** which overlooks the village. It stands on a commanding natural site overlooking the confluence of the Western Cleddau and Anghof rivers on the natural routeway through the gorge. The prominent castle mound is surrounded by a defensive ditch, which may have been subsequently altered by the digging of the leat of the adjacent mill; also, in 1927, work on the A40 cut slightly into the ditch and bailey. Nonetheless, the plan of the castle with its well-preserved mound and the embanked bailey to the north is quite evident. Recent vegetation removal has made the earthworks still clearer.

Little of the castle’s history is known, but its motte and bailey form suggests that it was built by the first Anglo-Norman incomers into the south-west of Wales in the late 11th century. The place name *Castrum Lupi* is mentioned in a document in 1229, and the Black Book of St David’s tells us that in 1326 there were buildings of stone and wood here belonging to the lord and worth 4s a year.

We then returned to the hotel where we were given an inspiring lecture by Professor Mike Parker Pearson on the early prehistory of Pembrokeshire. He described how recent research using DNA from Neolithic bone has suggested that there were multiple entry points into Britain used by Neolithic settlers from the European mainland, with Wales being primarily settled by people from Western Spain and France. He described his excavations at the Preselis where the bluestones were quarried and went on to suggest means of their transportation to Stonehenge, perhaps utilising stones dismantled from an earlier monument in the Preselis.

**On Monday 1 July**, the theme of the visits was the ‘First Fishermen, Farmers and Forts’ and the Cambrians embarked on their 53 seater coach driven by Jeff, who remained with us all week ably transporting us around some alarmingly narrow lanes and narrower bridges, some of which, he admitted, he had never been down before himself. We travelled north on this first day and drove to the coast, through Fishguard, through the old harbour and stopped at **Fishguard Fort**.

The name *Fishguard* derives from Old Norse *Fiskigarðr* meaning "fish catching enclosure", indicating that there may have been a Scandinavian trading post here - though no evidence of this has been found. Medieval Fishguard continued to develop as a herring port, trading with Ireland, Bristol and
Liverpool. Nothing remains of any features associated with this early trade but we gained an impression at least of the importance of the 18th century (when the town had 50 coastal vessels) herring industry by viewing its harbour, quay and warehouses from Castle Point to the east.

On this Point stands an 18th century coastal artillery fort, built during the American War of Independence and inextricably connected with the story of the last invasion of Britain in 1797. Heather James addressed us here, describing how the catalyst for the fort’s construction was an attack on Fishguard in 1779 by Stephen Manhant, commander of an American privateer (a ship authorised by a government to attack another nation’s ships). America had declared independence from Britain three years earlier, but it was not until 1783 that Britain formally recognised the separation. In 1778 the inventor Benjamin Franklin had been sent to France, effectively becoming America’s first ever ambassador, and he encouraged French attacks on Britain.

Manhant’s ship, Black Prince, sailed under a French flag. Franklin wrote in 1779 that this “small cutter” had been fitted out as a privateer at Dunkirk and that Manhant, a native of Boston (like Franklin himself), had destroyed more than 30 British ships in three months. He was “more willing to encourage such armaments” because the prisoners taken by privateers could be exchanged for American prisoners. Manhant demanded a large financial ransom from Fishguard. Rebuffed, he used the ship’s guns to fire on the town, damaging some buildings. A local ship owner, said to be a smuggler, returned fire. When cannon fire from the coastline entered the fray, Manhant sailed off.

The attack convinced the government that Fishguard’s thriving harbour needed better defence and the fort was constructed in the early 1780s. It comprised a battery facing north and west and a simple wall across the neck of the promontory. It was equipped with eight 9-pounder cannon.

In 1797, during the war against Revolutionary France, a small French fleet of two frigates, a corvette and a lugger landed troops, arms and ammunition unopposed just west of Fishguard. They were part of a planned three pronged attack onto Ireland, NW England and Bristol, which was thwarted by a combination of adverse weather, the ill-discipline of the French soldiers and, so the story goes, enterprising local residents who donned red cloaks to fool the invaders into thinking that the British Army ‘redcoats’ had arrived. The French accordingly surrendered their arms – a story told in the Last Invasion Tapestry, created to celebrate this story and now housed in Fishguard Library.
Surrender of the French at Fishguard on 24 February 1797 (unknown artist 1797)

The fort fell out of use in the early 19th century but was consolidated as an ancient monument in the 1980s. We were blessed with wonderful weather so that the view along the coast was very fine and we were able to take our time inspecting the rock-cut ditch, the ammunition storehouse and parts of the gun battery as well as some historic cannon that had been placed on the site on modern carriages.

We then proceeded to Newport and Carreg Coetan Arthur Neolithic Burial Chamber on the Nyfer estuary. This site is the most coastal of the group of Nevern valley chambered tombs that include the impressive Pentre Ifan. Less dramatic but archaeologically rather better preserved, this tomb was excavated in 1979-80 by Sian Rees who addressed the Cambrians, pointing out the main features.
She explained that the excavations had revealed various phases of activity were revealed; firstly, an initial phase of pre-construction ritual activity including areas of burning and deposits of cremated bone gave C14 dates of 3780-3380 cal B.C. Over and through these areas of burning, a ring of stones, 8-10m in diameter, was then constructed; this may have delimited a cairn, now vanished, that possibly formed a low mound or platform around the chamber. Subsequently the chamber itself was constructed, using large boulders of rhyolitic tuff of local origin; C14 dates from a stone hole from the chamber were 3650-3190 cal BC. Whether the boulders were brought from the Preselis immediately to the south or, more probably, were dug up from the site itself, is unclear. Some display traces of dressing, making the shape of the uprights more suitable for housing and supporting the huge capstone. Outside the open east side of the chamber, deposits of cremated bone were found, placed within a quartz-tempered round-bottomed bowl placed upside down on a paved surface. Charcoal amidst the cremated bone gave a date of 3620-3020 cal BC. The subsequent blocking of the roughly defined forecourt was dated to 3350-2920 cal BC.

Thus, the main life of the tomb was some 450 years during which the megalith may have formed a focus of worship or ritual for a group of early farmers. They may have been largely nomadic herdsmen as no evidence in pollen, macro-flora, flint tool types or their microwear suggest any cereal agricultural activity, while leather-working knives and scrapers, meat-cutting blades and milk/cheese residues on the surface of the pottery bowls indicate a way of life centred around animal husbandry. A number of microliths found on the site suggest that it had earlier also been a focus of activity for Mesolithic people, largely fishermen who lived, other flint finds have proved, on the estuary immediately to the north of the tomb.

Subsequent to its main usage, sherds of later Neolithic impressed ware and beaker pottery suggest a continued use of the site for, perhaps, some sort of ceremonial activities.

The eastern side of the tomb, facing the sunrise at the summer solstice, appears to have been the main focus of ritual activity, where the deposition of the inverted pot and cremated bone was found.
Having examined the chamber in some detail and discussed the various ways in which it may have been constructed, we then drove eastwards to Castell Henllys Iron Age and Roman Settlement. This inland promontory fort is a particularly interesting site to visit as, following the excavation of the interior, reconstructions of Iron Age round houses have been built on the foundations of prehistoric timber dwellings. This recreated Iron Age settlement, owned by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, gives a vivid illustration of the living and working conditions of the original inhabitants. We were met by Delun Griffith, the site’s manager, who escorted us to the attractive Visitor Centre where Cambrians ate their packed lunches by the stream then walked up to the fort. Delun had kindly arranged for the site vehicle to drive some less energetic Cambrians to the top.

The fort lies on a small, well-defended spur overlooking the river Gwaun and is one of a number of inland promontory forts in the area. Castell Henllys was first settled in the Iron Age within a roughly circular enclosure with steep slopes on all sides but defended additionally by a large inner bank and ditch and a smaller outer bank. The defences curve around to the natural scarp on the east but on the west stop short at the site of the entrance. This was reinforced with stone and would have made a dramatic impact on anyone approaching. A further external bank and ditch system reinforced the entrance externally.

The northern defences had three phases of development. The outer bank and first phase inner bank were of simple dump construction and the outer bank was surmounted by a palisade. Subsequently the inner bank was given a pebble-paved wall walk and a substantial palisade for at least part of its circuit. Lastly, the bank was raised to its final height. Another slight bank was raised on the south-west and south-east and the slope below was terraced to create the appearance of a massive defensive work. The Iron Age settlement doubtless housed a community of several families with perhaps a population of 100 or more. The grand scale of the defences, evidently built to impress, suggest that life was not always peaceful.
A second, less defensible rectilinear enclosure just to the north was constructed in the Roman period after the abandonment of the earlier site, and has a defence of small earth-set upturned stones \textit{(cheveux de frise)}, designed to incapacitate invading horses.

Hugh Foster, a London businessman, bought the site in the 1980s and determined to get the site excavated and reconstructed as a visitor attraction. Excavations by Harold Mytum of York University followed, revealing the plans of several round houses that were then used as the basis for the reconstruction of three large thatched houses as well as four-poster granaries, pottery kilns and an iron smelting furnace now used as a popular educational centre for schools throughout Wales and beyond. In addition to the main tour around the buildings, we were lucky enough to have an entrancing demonstration of Celtic music and instruments from Morgan Black, clad in suitable Celtic dress, who played a variety of pipes, drums, and stringed instruments.

\textit{Cambrians are entertained in a round house at Castell Henllys} \hspace{1cm} \textit{Photo: Heather James}

Cambrians then tore themselves away from the hilltop music and the streamside café to embark on the coach to drive south to Maenclochog, passing \textit{en route}, close to Rhos y Felin, where Mike Parker Pearson’s recent excavations suggest the Stonehenge bluestones were originally quarried. The area was very important in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} millennium BC as the presence nearby of Gors Fawr stone circle, Meini Gwyrr embanked stone circle and numerous standing stones readily attest, though these are difficult of access for large coaches. Instead we did our homage to the Bronze Age by visiting \textbf{Cornel Bach Bronze Age Standing Stones}, just on the north side of Maenclochog. Jeff agreed to hover briefly at the junction with the small track which led to the field where the pair of stones lay, enabling a sprightly walk to the stones along a grass field.
Cornel Bach standing stones are typical of the paired Bronze Age stones commonly found on the Preselis. The stones are 40m apart and stand on ground that slopes gently toward a stream on the north-east. The south-west stone is 1.7m high with a flat top (which shows some signs of having been dressed) and a rectilinear base and is surrounded by a low, round mound. The north-east stone is 2m high and has a pointed top; this combination of shape is characteristic of the paired stones of this area, though, of course, the four thousand years of their existence will have taken their toll on the stones’ present day appearance.

The function of these stones remains uncertain but they may have acted as ceremonial route markers. The positions of this pair, by the modern B4313, and another pair at Ty Newydd, just to the north-east on the minor mountain road, suggest that this indeed may have formed at least part of their function.

The coach then took us into the village centre where we visited St Mary’s Church to view the early Medieval stones. After a slight hiatus, during which Heather James galloped off to get the key from the local café and Jeremy Knight gave us an erudite description of the background to ogam writing, we were then able to enter the church where he showed us the two inscribed stones in the church originally from the ruinous St Teilo’s chapel, a mile or so to the east. The taller of the two has an ogam inscription on the left angle of the face reading upwards: [A]NDAGELLI MACU CAV[ETI(?)] (The stone of Andagellus, son of Cavetus). The Latin inscription is in two lines reading downwards: [A]NDAGELL -IACIT/FILI CAVET (The stone) of Andagellus, son of Cavetus. He lies (here)). Above the Latin inscription, which is 5th or early-6th century in date, is a coarsely incised linear Latin cross with trifid terminals which was probably added in the 7th or 9th century.

The second stone has a Latin inscription in three lines reading downwards COIMAGNI/FILI/CAVETI (The stone of Coimagnus, son of Cavetus). The two stones thus would appear to commemorate two brothers with the lettering on the second stone being later in style. A third stone, which may well have originated at St Teilo’s, but which stood in the 18th century just to the west at Temple Druid, was placed in Cenarth churchyard in 1896 where it remains to this day. Its inscription reads CVRCAGN-?FILI ANDAGELL- (the stone) of Curcangnus, son of Andagellus). If this is the same Andagellus, which seems likely, we have here a most unusual group of stones naming three generations of the same family. The church in which they stand was built in c. 1806 for Barrington Pryce of Temple Druid, of which church only the ‘absurdly thin square’ tower (Pevsner) survives, while the rest was rebuilt in 1880-1 by Middleton and Son. Its position on a village green is unusual in a south-west Wales context.

From the church we walked back to the coach, parked just by the site of the castle, where Sian Rees described how Maenclochog was one of a chain of Anglo-Norman planted settlements along the south edge of the Preselis, along with others such as New Moat, Henry’s Moat and Hayscastle. The plan of the village with church and castle at either end of a street lined with houses is characteristic of such planted settlements, as are the long fields surrounding the village. A manorial pound formerly lay on the flat rocky eminence to the south of the village, and this had long been supposed to be the site of the castle known to have existed here in the 13th century. The Brut y Twysogion tells us that a castle at Maenclochog was captured by Rhys Ieuanc, prince of Deheubarth, in 1215,
again in 1257 by Maredudd ap Rhys Grug and Maredudd ap Owain after the Welsh triumph at Coed Llathen. The name ‘Mayncloughhok’ appears in an Inquisition of 1376.

*Excavation of a round house, Maenclochog Castle. Photo: Dyfed Archaeological Trust*

However, the position of this castle, the remains of which were described as ‘very trifling’ by Fenton in 1810, was unproven until excavations by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 2007; these established that the castle had, as suspected, stood at the highest point of the village on the flat rocky area now used as the small car park to the south of the village green. The 2.2m thick castle wall lay directly beneath the wall of the pound, and traces of the circuit can be seen to enclose the flat interior. Particularly important, however, was the evidence for a defensive enclosure that existed before the castle was founded by the Anglo-Normans. Within this enclosure, a number of round houses with hearths were uncovered, one of which gave a date of 880 AD. This was a very rare find in this area, presumably the fortified stronghold of a Welsh lord in the cantref of Cemais.

On our return to the hotel we were given a lecture by Ken Murphy, the Director of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, on his excavations at the early medieval chapel of St Patrick and the celebrated new discovery of a late Iron Age chariot burial, the first to be found in Wales from which a spectacular series of enamelled horse bits had been found.

Tuesday 2 July was devoted entirely to the main focus of the meeting, the town of Haverfordwest itself.

*Tom Lloyd sets a cracking pace on our tour around Haverfordwest. Photo: Heather James*

From at least the 16th century, Haverfordwest rather than Pembroke was regarded as the county town, conveniently situated in the centre of the county at the highest navigable point of the Western Cleddau. It appears to have been an Anglo-Norman foundation, the castle first mentioned in 1110 as founded by Tancred, a Fleming. A Sunday market and annual fair were granted in 1207 by Tancred’s grandson Robert who probably founded the Augustinian priory, to which he gave the management of the three town churches. No other town in Wales had three parishes. The town was held by William Marshal and his sons from 1213 to 1241 and prospered despite a Welsh attack by Llewelyn the Great in 1220, which ‘burnt all the town up to the castle gate’. By the mid-13th century the central area around St Mary’s church was fully developed on High, Dew and Goat Streets. The guildhouse stood east of the church until demolished in the mid-19th century. A 13th century murage grant indicates that some defences were built; probably only Castleton, around the castle and St Martin’s, had a stone wall, but gates existed for the outer areas, South Gate at the upper end of Market Street, and West Gate at the lower end of Dew Street.
The importance of the town as a port, serving to import goods from the Continent and eastern England and export agricultural produce from the county, is attested by the Tudor Port Books and by the number of fine stone-built houses (many with their round vaulted basements still surviving), and timber jettied houses, as late 19th century photographs show. Haverfordwest was described in 1577 Map of Haverfordwest in 1690 by Peter Lea as the ‘best buylt, the most civill and quickest occupied town in south Wales’ and by the early 17th century had its own court of great session, county gaol and poorhouse.

By the 18th century, it was an increasingly fashionable place to live despite it being ‘a devil of a place to walk in’ (William Pitt the elder) due to the steepness of the streets. A new gaol was built at the castle, and a lavish new market hall created. In the 19th century the 1835 Municipal Reform Act led to Haverfordwest’s heightened status requiring a new entry to the town; a new bridge was built leading to the stuccoed three-storey terraces of Victoria Place and the Neoclassical Shire Hall. The decline of Haverfordwest as a port began with the arrival of the railway and, sadly, the decline of the centre has continued, exacerbated by out of town shopping and new by-passes.

Jeff took us first to St Thomas’s Green, whence we walked to St Thomas’s Church which stands on the highest point of the town on its south side where St Thomas’s annual fair was held in medieval times. The church is now largely a 19th century rebuild of a 17th century rebuild over the medieval original, of which only the west tower, with its medieval belfry windows, barrel vault and polygonal stair turret, survives relatively intact. Tom Lloyd described the history of the building and its building episodes. It has a long, narrow nave and chancel, a north aisle and north vestry; the stained glass, font, pulpit and the majority of internal monuments are 18th to 19th century but Cambrians admired the one remaining medieval monument, a late 13th/early 14th century slab with floriated Latin Cross and Medieval monument, St Thomas’s. Photo: Sian Rees

The church has recently been declared redundant and purchased for refurbishment as a private home. Cambrians were very grateful to the new owners, Andrew and Deborah Rudkin, not only for granting us access but also for meeting us there and showing us their plans for conversion of the building through the insertion of a free-standing pod into a family home without altering the fabric of the historic structure
We then walked down Goat Street to Foley House, where Susie Adams from Pembrokeshire County Council greeted us and told us about the recent history of this house and told us that sadly the plans for its conservation by the Georgian Trust had fallen through.

Tom Lloyd gave details of the architectural features of the building and expressed his strong concerns that so fine a building had been allowed to fall into disrepair.

The 2/3 storey classical Foley House was built around 1790 for a leading local attorney, Richard Foley, by the architect John Nash. Goat Street was a fashionable 18th and early 19th century residential area and the 18th century More House, number 18 opposite and Williamston House (number 7) are especially worthy of note. Foley House is set back from the street behind matching quadrant walls. The south façade is of five bays, the central three slightly projecting and pedimented. The narrow east side is pedimented while the northern façade overlooks what was the garden with fine views over the town. The stair hall is immediately entered from the front door;
behind the hall the dining room occupies the three western bays of the house, with a simple plaster cornice with a floral frieze and a white marble fireplace. The drawing room on the east is lit by a broad curved bay window. Upstairs, from the landing a spinal passage to the east terminates in an archway before a small lobby to the bedrooms.

Cambrians then walked to St Mary’s Church, which is imposingly set at the top of the steep High Street. The church contains an impressive amount of early 13th century work. The plan consists of nave with north aisle, chancel with north aisle, porches and low, north-west tower with trefoiled lancets in the belfry. The original timber and lead spire was demolished in 1802, apparently due to Lady Kensington fearing that it would fall on her house. Major alterations were undertaken around 1500: on the east, where the old gable is visible, raised when a clerestory was added to the nave and chancel; and on the north, where the aisle was enlarged and the porch added.

We were met at the church by Pat Barker, churchwarden of the church, who has written extensively on the history of the building and Haverfordwest. The fine Early English north door leads to the interior with its magnificent early 13th century arcades, belonging to the ‘West Country School’ and of stone probably imported from France. The inspiration of the nave of Wells Cathedral, begun in c. 1180, is clear. The four-bay nave arcade, with lavishly carved capitals, and the form of the piers, are strongly reminiscent of Wells. The capitals of the nave and chancel are a joy, decorated, amid stiff leaf, with beasts, a pig playing a fiddle, an ape playing a harp and a man with toothache. The decoration of the eastern bay of the chancel, the result of the extension in c.1500 is of lower quality.

The roofs are rich Tudor work added with the clerestory, with big carved bosses at the intersections of heavily-moulded beams and large spandrels carved with foliage on carved head corbels. The tower has a surprisingly impressive lierne vault with ribs very similar to those from the chapter house at the priory.

The church was restored in 1844, 1860 (when the south porch was added), 1881-9 (when the roofs were restored) and in 1903-5 (the roofs, clerestory windows and arcade). There are some fine internal furnishings, the earliest of which include a stoup, bench ends and late medieval monuments, as well as others of the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries.

After the address, we were greeted by the Master of the Gild of Freemen of Haverfordwest, C W D Davies, and invited to a reception generously hosted by the Gild. The Master referred to the fact that they had owned the priory ruins in the 1970s but had donated the site to Cadw, Welsh Government, thereby allowing the conservation and excavation of the site. Cambrians’ appreciation of the fine medieval architecture of St Mary’s was enhanced by the wine and nibbles laid out for us in the north aisle.

We then walked down the sloping High Street led by Tom Lloyd who paused at several points to show us the main important buildings, mostly town houses, on the road. A building on the corner immediately opposite St Mary’s was demolished in 1952, but its ornate 13th century vaulted undercroft survived and was, until recently, visible from the road. It is unfortunate that this is now inaccessible, and the medieval vaulted basements present under several other buildings, including what was Swales Music shop north of the church, are not visible. Above these many surviving
medieval undercrofts, the extant town houses are of varying dates, usually three-storey with 19\textsuperscript{th} century detail but some have older cores. The oldest are the 16\textsuperscript{th} century timber framed numbers 9, 12 and 13, and the two-storey gable and corbelled first-floor chimney of number 43 (Munt’s Jewellers) suggests a medieval origin. Numbers 2 and 35 have good internal details of c 1700 including full-height dog-leg staircases with twisted balusters and a fine moulded chimney piece on the first floor of the former. The vault undercroft near St Mary’s. Photo RCAHMW

High Street, exterior in 19\textsuperscript{th} century, and heraldic fireplace. Photos: RCAHMW

One of the finest is number 15 which, we were told, possesses two magnificent carved fireplaces, one dated 1614, the other with shields within quatrefoils along the overmantel, the heraldry of which suggests that it belonged to the Owen family who held extensive estates in the locality between 1550 and 1570. Numbers 44 and 46 are early 18\textsuperscript{th} century with narrow sashes. At the bottom of the street, we passed the classical Shire Hall of 1835 and saw, further along, the new bridge of 1834.

Turning right before the bridge, we walked down Quay Street, formerly known as Ship Street. It was one of the important roads in medieval Haverfordwest leading south out of the town along the river side. Its streetscape is now largely 19\textsuperscript{th} century, though number 14 has a massive medieval arched barrel vault at ground level, now sadly concealed behind a plaster ceiling. Tom Lloyd pointed out the old Post Office of 1934-6 and, further out of town, the warehouses of the 18\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th} centuries. We then ate our lunch on the riverside at The Bristol Trader public house, a 19\textsuperscript{th} century building, whose name, however, is suggestive of the mercantile past of this area. The town quay lay alongside and nearby stands the rocky face where until recently the Haverfordwest merchant’s house stood, now removed to St Fagan’s, the subject of Thursday’s talk by Gerallt Nash.
After lunch, Cambrians walked a little further along the river to the site of the **Augustinian Priory of St Mary and St Thomas**, where Sian Rees described her excavations undertaken for Cadw in the 1980s and 90s. It was founded by the Tancred family, and, though the foundation charter is lost, a confirmatory charter from Richard Tancred states that his father Robert made the initial foundation which must therefore have been made in the early 13th century.

The site was sloping, rocky at the top and boggy marshland at the bottom, but it was at least a greenfield site from which no clearance of former residents was required. The effort in levelling and draining the site must have been formidable, and excavations, undertaken here from 1984 to 2000, revealed the junction between the cut and fill in the middle of the cloister as well as the tip lines of material brought from the bank to raise the level of the soft riverside marsh to one capable of holding the priory buildings.

The monastery was granted to the Augustinian canons, a suitable choice for an order devoted to parochial duties rather than rural agriculture. The church is cruciform on the north of the small square cloister, and the east dormitory wing, the refectory on the south and the cellerars’ range on the west survive to at least footings level making the plan easy to follow. The monastery remained relatively small, though a second phase of building can be detected in the cloister and chapterhouse dating from quite late in the history, probably the late 15th or even early 16th century when a new lierne vault was placed in the chapterhouse roof supported by ornate corbels; one of these, comprising seven heads, survives (now in the Town Museum). At a similar date, new cloister of imported creamy west country bathstone replaced its 13th century predecessor of decorated purple Caerbwdi stone from the St David’s area. At this late stage also the transepts of the church were raised and a square tower inserted into the eastern end of the nave.
The cartulary has not survived, but the life of the priory seems to have been relatively uneventful, and the excavations showed no traces of fire or destruction. One of the most remarkable of the features of the priory is the rare remains of the garden comprising nine raised beds set between the church/dormitory and the river. One is complex with a turf bench and internal path, similar to those frequently portrayed in medieval illustrations.

15th century manuscript illustration of Madonna and Child seated on a turf bench with a series of raised beds behind

We then retraced our steps back along the river to the bridge and then passed through Castle Square, admiring the view of the castle from below. However, for now, we went straight to St Martin’s Church situated close to the castle and apparently the oldest of the three town churches in an area that became known as Castleton, where the earliest market place probably stood. The early foundation is supported by its dedication to St Martin, common in the early-Norman period.

We were addressed by Brian Body, churchwarden, who described the history of the building and salient points of interest and invited us to examine them more closely. The church has a distinctive thin tapering north-west tower probably of the 15th century, though the spire is a replacement dating from 1870. The long nave and chancel, and south aisle with an earlier porch to the west, are 14th century with some 16th century details, the whole having been heavily restored by C E Giles in 1860s who added the north chancel aisle and the roofs. Noteworthy are the decorated chancel arch, piscina and triple sedilia and a medieval coffin lid with an elaborate floriated Latin cross. The pulpit, stained glass and most monuments are 19th or early 20th century.

St Martin’s. Photo: RCAHMW

Cambrians then hastened away to the adjacent Castle and Town Museum
where the curator, Simon Hancock, invited us to examine the artefacts associated with the town, including those excavated from the priory. The museum, he explained was largely volunteer run, and is housed in the old Prison Governor’s House, which was itself built on the site of the castle gatehouse. Cambrians spent an entrancing time looking at the considerable range of artefacts, paintings and photographs pertaining to the history of the town.

We then stepped outside the museum to look at the ruins of the castle, where Sian Rees described the history and layout of the site. The castle appears as the overwhelmingly dominant building in the town when one approaches from the east, sited as it is on a high rocky eminence overlooking the river far below. It was founded by the Tancred family soon after the first Flemish settlement of the county in 1108, but little remains of this early structure save, perhaps, the footings of the rectilinear keep on the north-east of the inner ward, which directly overlooked the bridging point of the river. The castle was granted to William Marshal, earl of Pembroke, by King John in 1210, and later in that century it passed to Edward I’s queen Eleanor, who apparently held the castle in great affection and for some reason spent considerable sums on rebuilding. One of her enthusiasms was apparently the creation of beautiful gardens on look outs around her castles as she did on a far greater scale at Caernarfon. A small-scale reflection of this is the terrace, known as the Queen’s Arbour, on the south side of the castle overlooking the town and river.

Probably dating from her ownership are: the lofty south range, where the hall lay, lit with two impressive pointed first-floor windows and set over a vaulted undercroft; the south-east corner chapel tower with its small projecting turret; and the east range, where a series of important well-lit private apartments were housed. The south-west and north-west corners are defended by circular towers, the former equipped with a stair giving access to the garden terrace. The west curtain and the original gate have disappeared, demolished, at the same time as much of the inner ward was considerably altered, for the building of the county gaol.

The large sub-rectangular outer ward to the west is best viewed from the exterior, where the still imposing northern curtain wall and two towers, one rectilinear, the other semi-circular, survive to considerable height, but little remains above ground level on the interior. Nothing discernible survives of the outer gatehouse or the southern curtain.
Haverfordwest Castle and 1820 prison. Photo: RCAHMW

The county gaol was built in 1780 in the inner ward, (where the captives from the attempted French invasion at Fishguard in 1797 were briefly held). This structure destroyed much medieval fabric as did its successor gaol built in the outer ward in 1820. The 18th century gaol buildings were taken down in the 1960s, but the later structure was converted into the County Record Office.

Returning to the hotel, we then were given a unique treat. The Head teacher of Wolfscastle Primary School, winner of the Cambrians’ sponsored prize in the 2018 Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative, had brought two of her pupils, Sion and Carys, to talk to us about their project on the Four Rs of Wolfscastle – Rocks, River, Road, Railway. They showed us pictures of their work and were warmly congratulated and thanked by the President, Mark Redknap. Subsequent correspondence with the school revealed that the school has won the Cambrians’ prize for the second year running, this time for their work on St Dogwell’s Church, which, of course, Cambrians had visited on Sunday.

Photo: M-T Castay
The installation of the new President, Professor Nancy Edwards, then followed, with the transfer of the Presidential chain from Mark Redknap.

Nancy then delivered her Presidential Address ‘Afterlives: Reinventing Early Medieval Sculpture in Wales’. She described how early medieval stones have suffered and enjoyed a mixed life after their initial purpose of commemoration, from destruction and iconoclasm, to use as symbols of the picturesque and of identity, as well as items of historic study, scholarship and conservation. She argued that they require cherishing and respecting as important parts of our cultural heritage.

On Wednesday, Jeff took the coach west along a minor road to approach Wiston from the north in order to stop at the site of the Roman fort situated on this side of the village. From our elevated position on our coach seats, we were able to see clearly the grass-covered earthwork defences of the fort, once, at any rate, they had been pointed out to us by Ken Murphy. Ken described how the position of the fort had been found after the discovery of the Roman road leading from Whitland, which suggested that there must have been a fort in this area. We were shown copies of the LIDAR and geophysical surveys undertaken in 2012, which had been followed up by excavations, establishing the existence of the fort, its three defensive ditches and ramparts and the inter-vallum road as well as the presence of some substantial timber buildings. Pottery found during the excavations suggests that the occupation of the fort was short, probably from around AD 74 to its slighting around AD 100. In the mid 2nd century, the fort’s interior was reused, perhaps for non-military purposes, but just to the south of the fort an extensive civil site grew up, comprising a series of ditched enclosures with buildings of rather a different form from the normal vicus settlement found elsewhere. After a lull in activity in the 3rd century, there was a resurgence in the late 3rd and early 4th century. This new discovery shows that the Roman presence in south-west Wales was considerably greater than previously supposed.
We then drove a little further into Wiston, where stands one of the best-preserved motte and bailey castles in Wales. It is named after, and was probably built by, an early Flemish settler Wizo (or Gwys in Welsh). Wizo was dead by 1130, but the castle is first mentioned in documents in 1147 when it was taken by the Welsh. It was again taken by the Welsh in 1193 when it fell, apparently with the aid of treachery, to Hywel Sais, the son of the lord Rhys, but was recaptured in 1195. In 1200, however, it was captured and destroyed by Llewelyn the Great, prince of Gwynedd, during one of his campaigns in south Wales. The local people were told to help William Marshal, earl of Pembroke, rebuild it, but whether this was done is uncertain. The masonry shell keep might be his work, but the style of the arch suggests an earlier date and it is quite possible that the fallen masonry that still lies on the north was brought down during Llewelyn’s attack. It seems to have been abandoned thereafter.

The castle is situated on a hill north of the church, the motte standing some 9m above the bottom of the encircling ditch. On the flat top, replacing presumably the original timber keep, is a stone shell keep within which would have stood other buildings probably of timber. The shell keep is circular internally, polygonal externally with 18 sides. On the south side, facing the bailey, is the arched entrance with deep bar holes for securing the gate. The large oval bailey is surrounded by an unusually well-preserved bank; the ditch survives on the north and west but has been filled in on the other two sides. Its entrance is on the north east.

The castle saw an extraordinary military postscript in the Civil War, when Royalists established an outpost here in 1643. A famous rout of the Royalists by a force of Parliamentarian forces took place two years later at Colby Moor just to the south east.

We then drove to Llawhaden where the coach stopped outside the medieval hospice, excavated and consolidated in recent years. After a short address by Ken Murphy in the coach, Cambrians were given the choice between disembarking to enter the simple vaulted building equipped with an explanatory information panel and walking to the castle, or driving straight there. Despite the fears of the organiser about the distance, most Cambrians did, of course, opt for the walk.
The castle, built around 1115 by the bishops of St David’s initially to protect their rich and extensive estates in the area. Sian demonstrated how the castle was later adapted to supply ample room for guests and private apartments and was more concerned with hospitality with its fine accommodation for visitors.

The original, defensive 12th century earth and timber ringwork still surrounds the stone castle, though the bank has been reduced and the later medieval masonry buildings placed on its summit. Originally the castle would have been entered by a wooden gate, though which Giraldus Cambrensis would have passed when visiting his uncle, Bishop David FitzGerald, in 1175. In 1192, the Lord Rhys of Deheubarth captured and destroyed the castle, so the earliest extant stone buildings probably date to the early 13th century, when the bishops had recovered it; they comprise the foundations of the circular tower on the south west and the semi-circular tower on the north west. In the late 13th/early 14th century, the castle was rebuilt, probably by bishops Thomas Bek and David Martyn, to provide quarters for a garrison and lodgings for guests or the bishop’s entourage, on the west and south side of the central polygonal courtyard. Subsequent additions were the impressive outer extension to the gatehouse, the chapel and chapel tower and possibly the rebuilding of the great hall on the east, in the later 14th century, in the time of bishop Houghton. The remodelling of the south range with its ornate chapel porch followed in the early 16th century.

Tradition records that the castle was dismantled by Bishop Barlow in the mid 16th century when the chief residence of the bishops was moved to Abergwili, Carmarthen.

After walking around the ringwork and stone buildings, with some intrepid Cambrians mounting the stairs to ascend the chapel tower, we got back on the coach which took us the short distance south to Picton Castle, one of the most important historic houses in Wales and home to the influential family of Sir John Wogan, ‘lord of Pyton’ in 1302. We were met by the Director of the Picton Castle Trust, Dai Evans, who gave us a short introduction to the site prior to our going for our delicious soup and sandwiches lunch in Maria’s café. Dai then met us for our tour around the castle and we were privileged to be able to visit with him parts of the building, including the roof, not normally open to visitors.
Dai Evans guides Cambrians around the sumptuous interior of Picton Castle. Photo: M-T Castay

The castle’s developed form reflects the late 17th, 18th and 19th century episodes of refurbishment and rebuilding, while the plan of parts of the original late 13th century castle is still discernible. The original castle was quite small, battlemented with four round corner towers, a large rectangular keep containing a hall over an undercroft and an east gate tower protected by flanking D-towers; its plan remains fossilised within the building, its Great Hall still a dominant feature. In the early 18th century an extra storey was added over the hall and sash windows were inserted throughout (except for the hall), works undertaken probably by the fourth baronet Sir John Philipps, who also commissioned the eminent architect John James to design the belvedere tower at the end of the avenue leading from the front door. Further internal remodelling, joinery, chimneyieces and plasterwork was undertaken by the sixth baronet, another Sir John, in the middle of the century, and this fine work survives to bequeath the overriding flavour of the present interior. In 1791, Sir John’s son, Richard, by then created Lord Milford, demolished the medieval solar wing and in its place added a large, battlemented four-storey block on the west, reflecting the increasing importance of his family. This block provided a spacious drawing and dining room with new bedrooms and dressing rooms above with a new grander stair. However, its rather plain exterior did not meet with universal approval, the Rev J Evans noting in 1903 that ‘it is always disgusting to the eye of taste to observe ancient and modern architecture blended together in the same edifice’.

In 1827 a large Neo-Norman porch was added with a grand new stables block courtyard to the south-east, a broad new entrance court with crenellated walls and sweeping steps down to ground level on each side and a remodelling of the service wing on the north east; the
latter was subsequently enlarged in 1884-97. The 20th century has seen repairs and refurbishment after the neglect during wartime occupation.

Cambrians had time after the tour of the building, to walk around the gardens and landscaped parkland in which the castle is set. The castle is approached by a long, wooded driveway from the north, equipped with 19th century neo-Norman lodges, and from the west by a driveway that passes the walled garden, probably of 1827. To the north and east are the remains of the deer park, the gardens lie on the south and west, and to the east are the stables and utilitarian gardens. The lower gardens enjoy sweeping views over the estuary. Nearby are the remains of the Picton Home Farm, a rare survival of a model farm built in 1827, and estate terraced houses still stand in Rhos village.

We then drove to the adjacent estate of Slebech down the long driveway to the house, contrived, with Picturesque influence, to run through pockets of woodland interspersed with open fields, among water features and ornate bridges. Once parked outside the house, now used as a hotel, we were met by Tom Lloyd who escorted us to the ruined medieval church, once in the ownership of the international order of the Knights Hospitallers, or the Knights of St John. The order was probably founded in the early 12th century and the brethren were originally infirmarians with duties to care for the sick and poor. Later they provided escorts for pilgrims to the Holy Land. The order was introduced into England around 1144 and small monastic houses called preceptories were set up, one of which was situated at Slebech.

*Slebech Old Church. Photo: M-T Castay*

A church was evidently here in 1115 when Wizo granted it to the Benedictine abbey of Gloucester. Walter, Wizo’s son or grandson, then granted it to the Knights, and it was quickly established as the headquarters of the order in west Wales. It was famous for its hospitality and annually distributed 40 quarters of barley, and 15 of beans and peas to the poor as well as giving hospitality to travellers. Only the church of the commandery survives. It is a cruciform structure much altered after the Reformation when it became the parish church.

The south transept in particular was considerably modified when the Barlow family, to whom the property had passed, converted it to provide a family pew, when the round windows of yellow sandstone were inserted. The north transept arch and decorated niche below are fine medieval work. The main entrance is on the north through the vaulted ground floor of the square tower. The church was deliberately ruined by the first Baron de Rutzen who built the modern parish church to the north.
Opposite the commandery in the water of the estuary are two tree covered mounds which could be associated with a causeway that was at least planned by the knights to give easier access across the water to their farmland to the south.

Tom Lloyd then talked to us about Slebech Hall, built in 1776, presumably on the site of the knights’ commandery buildings, by John Symmons of Llanstinan, husband of Anne Barlow. We were unable to enter the house, but looked at the exterior, of three storeys at the front, four at the rear due to the slope, of five bays at the front, four to the rear, with full-height bowed wings all containing three bays of windows. It was originally battlemented, but these were removed in 1955. Immediately east of the house is a fine stable-yard and a 19th century lodge lies to the west at the roadside.

Cambrians enjoyed strolling around the landscape around the house. Walkways along the riverside are equipped with structures such as the 18th century brick pedimented summerhouse. Though much has been altered and the kitchen garden removed, the basic layout remains as first formed in the late 18th century and the unexpected glory of the designed landscape is the survival of the terraced gardens created by the Barlows in the late 17th century. The old church became inevitably a picturesque landscape feature as well as the parish church, but perhaps the setting of the house and gardens with breath-taking views over the estuary is the greatest glory of all. The glorious weather assisted the appreciation of the views, though it was occasionally almost too hot for some who resorted to the marquee to partake of afternoon tea.

On our return to the hotel, Sian Rees gave a light hearted lecture concerning some of the historic characters who had made Haverfordwest the place it now is, and examining their motives and lifestyle. These ranged from the saintly Caradog, a hermit who lived near the town in the 12th century to the considerably more dubious smugglers who used the town as a base for their illicit way of life, ending with a description of the rascally William Owen, a smuggler and reprobate who was executed at Carmarthen after a life of piracy and misdeeds in 1726.

On Thursday 4 July, we travelled east to the great complex of historic monuments at Carew. We were met by Professor David Austin who was our guide for the morning at the Cross, where he and Nancy Edwards entranced us with a spirited debate on the meaning of the inscription on the cross and its impact on the conventional dating attributed to the sculpture. This magnificent sculptured cross, on the roadside east of the castle, is one of a small group of composite crosses from south Wales that include stones from Nevern (so similar, and formed of the same Preseli stone, that it may have been sculpted by the same man), Penally, Llanfynydd and Llanilltud Fawr.

On the front (away from the road) the left hand of the two rectangular panels bears a Latin inscription This has been recently re-interpreted by Nancy Edwards as MARGIT/EUTRE/CETT F(in)X(it), translated as ‘Maredudd the Generous made (this cross)’, rather than the earlier Nash-Williams/Radford reading, translated as (the cross of) Margiteut (or Maredudd) son of Eguin (or Edwin). Though the inscription certainly names Maredudd, the lack of reference to Edwin or a royal Carew Cross from roadside. Photo: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park title means that this is not necessarily Maredudd ab Edwin, king of Deheubarth. Thus, sadly, we can no longer date the cross precisely on the basis of it being erected as a royal memorial to Maredudd, joint ruler of the early medieval kingdom of Deheubarth, who died in 1035. Nonetheless, the decoration and epigraphic evidence supports a late 10th/early 11th century date.
The cross has a wheel-head and shouldered neck of sandstone joined by a tenon to a separate shaft and stepped base of the harder Preseli stone. The wheel-head carries the curved arms of the form thought to have been introduced from Scotland, Ireland or Isle of Man as a result of Hiberno-Norse contacts in the early 10th century. Both head and shaft have carved decoration in low relief on all sides, comprising knotwork patterns, swastika T-frets, key patterns and plaitwork, here clearly influenced by Viking Age taste. Its original position is uncertain but it was moved to its present setting in the 20th century from its 19th century position on an outcrop that projected into the road.

David Austin then escorted us to the castle where he gave us a detailed account of the history of the development of the castle from its prehistoric past to the developed late medieval castle. The Medieval Castle stands in a strategic position, commanding a crossing point of the still navigable river and was the centre of a great medieval lordship. The castle was established, or came into Anglo-Norman hands, in the opening years of the twelfth century during the division of southern Pembrokeshire among the Normans. It is known that there was an earlier fortress on the site occupied through the Roman and early medieval period, evidence for which was yielded by excavations in the massive rock-cut ditch on the east. Little now survives of the earth and timber castle that was built here by the Norman Gerald of Windsor around 1100. It is first mentioned in
1212, by which time the first stone structure, the Old Tower had probably been built to protect the original castle entrance.

Cambrians pose for the traditional meeting photograph as David Austin describes the history of Carew. Photo: M-T Castay

The castle remained in the hands of the influential de Carew family until the 1480s and it was probably Sir Nicholas de Carew who, in the late 13th and early 14th century, constructed the towers and the eastern range of stone buildings around the compact inner ward, as well as the outer ward of which only scant remains are discernible.
The castle displays dramatically three stages in the development of the domestic ideal as applied to military architecture. On the east side of the ward are the Nicholas de Carew’s domestic apartments, a small hall and private apartments and a chapel tower, somewhat cramped and gloomy, with outer windows which admit daylight. Then, on the west side is the great hall, a large and amply lighted room, built in the fifteenth century by Rhys ap Thomas, who bought the site from the de Carews, basking in royal gratitude after his help rendered to Henry VII during his landing at Milford Haven. This is a fine domestic building with no overriding military considerations in its planning, but is still confined within the earlier defensive curtain with its two great towers that rise above spurred base. It is entered from the courtyard via its imposing porch-tower and entrance stair. The porch bears the arms of Henry VII, of Arthur prince of Wales and Catherine of Aragon, probably put there as a courtesy to the royal family who attended a great tournament there held by Rhys.

Finally, in the sixteenth century, Sir John Perrot, who acquired the castle after the downfall of Rhys’s descendants, added the grand Tudor north range. This unhesitatingly breaks through the earlier medieval defensive curtain, the series of apartments proclaiming, with their long, mullioned windows piercing the walls from floor to roof, that the day of the military castle was now passed. The result was an elaborate mansion fit for the habitation of the nobility and the entertainment of princes. The castle was surrounded by extensive gardens and orchards and the inlet on the north may already have been dammed, both as a millpond and as an ornamental lake. Perrot was Vice Admiral of the Welsh Seas, an important and wealthy member of the aristocracy with seats at Laugharne and Carew. He was, nonetheless, notorious for turning a blind eye to smuggling operations which were rife in Tudor south-west Wales, in return for suitable financial arrangements being negotiated. His behaviour in increasing his power base in the county was also often unscrupulous — using a combination of violence and litigation to persecute his rivals.

The castle was refortified during the Civil War and an angular ‘redan’ or ‘ravelin’ for the guns still survives as a low grassy bank outside the middle gatehouse.
After the tour of the castle, the Cambrians gathered for their traditional group photograph against the backdrop of this amazing castle. We then bought our lunch either at the castle café or the adjacent Carew Inn and the majority of us walked to the tidal mill, also in the ownership of the National Park.

Aerial view of castle from east. Photo: RCAHMW

The Tidal Mill, also called the French Mill (probably from the millstones, made of French burr stone) was built around 1801, 300m west of Carew Castle, on the end of a causeway across the Carew river. The mill pond fills through open flood gates in the centre of the clay-cored stone-faced causeway as the tide comes in. The gates are closed at high tide, and the pond drains through sluices under the mill as the tide falls, driving two undershot water wheels (one of which is dated 1801).

The present structure replaced an older mill, probably powered by a leat that ran from the river before the causeway dam was built to create the large tidal mill pond. There are records of this earlier mill from 1541. John Bartlett took a lease on the mill in 1558 for a fee of 10 sovereigns annually and it was restored in 1792 after a fire. The causeway is first mentioned in a document from 1630 that says that 15 years earlier Sir John Carew had repaired the causeway walls and floodgates.

The 19th century mill is a three-storey stone building with an attic and a slate roof. On the ground floor there is machinery for lifting the sluice gates. On the stone floor above are six pairs of millstones, three driven by each water wheel and the machine for cleaning the grain and the flour dresser. The grain hoppers are on the bin floor above. The miller’s house adjoined the mill, since working hours had to coincide with the tides.

A sack hoist was used to lift grain to the attic, or garner floor. From there it was poured down to the winnower on the stone floor to remove chaff. The cleaned grain was then hoisted back up to the attic and poured into large storage bins from which the grain was poured through chutes to the stone floor, where it was ground to produce meal. The meal was then hoisted again and poured down to the flour dresser, which produced white flour and bran products. Grain was delivered to the mill by cart or sailing vessels, and flour was shipped by sailing vessel.

By the late 19th century the traditional Pembrokeshire mills faced competition from steam-powered roller mills built in the port towns to mill low-cost corn shipped from abroad. At the same time the introduction of the railway to Pembrokeshire created demand for dairy farming. The Carew mill began to grind bones for fertilizer and to grind animal feed but was “dilapidated” in the 1870s and abandoned in 1937. It was restored in 1972, and now houses a museum. It remains the only intact tidal mill in Wales.

We then took the coach as near as possible to the charming St Mary's Church at Carew Cheriton. Dai Davies and Robin Overall had kindly brought their private cars so that they were able to transport anyone who needed a lift to the church. David Austin addressed us here, describing not only the church and its position within the landscape which had contributed in the medieval period...
to the impressive processional route to the castle, but also other noteworthy features in the churchyard - the short row of former almshouses (now abandoned) with their pointed doorway, a mounting block and the 14th century charnel house with chapel above, a remarkable survival, one of the few in Wales. It has a barrel-vaulted undercroft with bone-holes visible, and medieval windows in the chapel with internally a stoup, piscina and altar recesses; it was converted into a school in the late 17th century.

Charnel House. Photo: RCAHMW

The chancel and north transept, with their finely decorated chancel and transeptal arches, constitute the earliest fabric in the church and are associated with Bishop Gower of St David’s (1328-47). The medieval chancel windows (reworked by the Victorians), sedilia and piscina and the chapel north of the chancel (now the vestry) are all fine medieval work. The nave arcades and the south porch are later – late 15th/early 16th century - and the square perpendicular windows in the former were replaced by pointed decorated medieval style windows by the 1857 restoration. The medieval tiles on the floor of the sanctuary constitute one of the glories of the church. Some may have come from the castle. A number of 14th century medieval effigies, one of Sir Nicholas Carew, are housed at various points in the building.

Carew Cheriton Church. Photo: RCAHMW

We were then taken down twisting narrow lanes to Creswell Quay, where we sheltered from the hot sun under the open marquee on the quayside by kind permission of the proprietor of the Cresselly Arms. Sian Rees explained that the idyllic tranquillity that now characterises this peaceful place on the Cresswell river was not the characteristic of the place in the past. Anthracite was mined in small local pits from as early as the 1280s when it was used to build Aberystwyth Castle, and loaded into barges at the quays for transportation to sea-going vessels at Lawrenny and elsewhere for export along the Bristol Channel or to Ireland. Two quays are shown on a map of 1755 and in 1740 Thomas Powell leased land here for mining and storing coal, while, by the mid 18th century, five quays were in use. Some fifty outlying collieries, some at quite a distance away, (the coal tips of some still survive), were linked to the quays by a series of tracks. A constraint was the tidal nature of the river, meaning that much of the time the quays were unusable, and led to accidents as carts of coal pulled by bullocks rushed downhill to catch the tide. By the 1820, such small-scale activity was uneconomical and trade declined in favour of the larger facilities at Landshipping and Saundersfoot.

Two quays survive, one forming the present public house car park, while footings of the other lie further downstream. Opposite across the river, the wall of the coal fold belonging originally to the Barlows of Slebech can be seen, where the stocks of coal and timber were stored before transportation. The ruins of the former counting house lie by the riverside entrance, while an adit terminal still stands nearby. The 18th century Cresswell House was built as a manager’s house.
In 1936 miners at nearby Loveston Colliery broke into a flooded working about 600 feet below ground. Seven men were drowned in the disaster.

As well as coal, the area was quarried for limestone. At West Williamston, just to the south, a series of canals, now very silted up, provided transport for barges to take limestone from the quarries to the river Cresswell and thence to supply the lime trade for agricultural use.

Cambrians then walked the half mile to Cresswell Castle on the adjacent bank of the river, some again helped along by the private cars of Dai and Robin.

We were greeted by the owners of the ruins who had kindly strimmed these enchanting ruins to enable us to view them more easily. This is a curious, understudied site which would repay further survey and investigation. A chapel belonging to Haverfordwest priory apparently stood here on the west bank of the river, but at the Dissolution the site was acquired by the Barlow family.

Cambrians approach the enchanting but relatively unexplored Cresswell Castle. Photo: Heather James

It was probably William Barlow, High Sheriff of Pembrokeshire (died 1636), who built the present domestic building in the form of a mock castle, a miniature version, perhaps, of similar sham fortifications, such as Ruperra (1626) in south-east Wales. It stands four square, ‘fortified’ by round, two-storey corner turrets (which merely functioned as garderobes, save the one on the south east, which was a dovecote) linked by castellated walls. The rectangular courtyard thus enclosed houses three ranges. The northern one may incorporate masonry from the medieval chapel; the southern one has a massive inserted 18th century fireplace while the eastern one appears to be 18th century in build and was the last part to be inhabited.
before its abandonment around 1800. Earthworks around the ruins may represent the gardens and fishpond that apparently surrounded the house.

Cambrians enjoy the sun and the ruins at Cresswell Castle. Photo: Robin Overall

It is always interesting to visit a largely unconsolidated site and Cambrians enjoyed trying to work out the dating sequence of the ranges and the functions of the different sections of the masonry.

But we then had to return to the hotel for the AGM of the Association chaired by our new President Nancy Edwards. Reports from the Secretary, Chairman of Trustees, the Treasurer, Editor of our journal *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, the Programme and Membership Secretary were duly presented and approved and all Trustees, agreeing to put themselves forward for re-election, were elected by members. Genevieve Cain, a new co-opted member of the Trustees gave a refreshing presentation on her work to establish an outreach strategy for the Association, aware as Trustees are, of the need to attract more and younger members. She introduced us to the new Facebook and Twitter pages now up and running and proving popular. After the AGM, we were given a fascinating lecture by Gerallt Nash, formerly of St Fagan’s National Museum of Wales. He had been responsible for the dismantling, excavation and recording of the Tudor merchant’s house at Quay Street, Haverfordwest, the position of which we had noted on Tuesday and we were treated to pictures of the process of unpicking the ruinous walls, the transportation of the masonry and the final re-erection at St Fagan’s with the interpretive furniture and models that have brought the site alive for visitors. This being our final evening, we were presented with a glass of sparkling wine before our dinner.

On our final morning on **Friday**, our studies concentrated on the more modern military history of the important **Milford Haven** waterway.
We firstly visited Carew Cheriton WWII Control Tower, recently acquired and conserved by a dedicated group of volunteers who enchanted us with their explanation of the history of the airfield. This was a very hands-on visit, from Carys Davies being prevailed upon to demonstrate Morse Code, to the whole group sitting in a shelter singing WWI songs – an experience that will remain in the mind of the meeting organiser for ever.

Royal Naval Air Station Pembroke opened in August 1915 and operated non-rigid airships over the Irish Sea, Bristol Channel and Western Approaches on anti-submarine patrols. In April 1917 the base began operating Sopwith and Airco D.H.6 biplanes.
Upon the formation of the Royal Air Force (RAF) on 1 April 1918, the Royal Naval Air Service ceased to exist. The location acquired the dual designation of RAF Pembroke and Royal Naval Airship Station Pembroke. The entire site closed in March 1920.

Carew Cheriton was recommissioned in 1938, initially with grass runways. From the early 1940s there were three concrete runways, making the station a Class A airfield and it was used as a support station for the flying boat at Pembroke Dock. On 15 April 1941 12 airmen were killed in a Luftwaffe air raid which hit the station’s sickbay. In 1942 the station became No. 10 Radio School, a training camp for aircrew wireless operators. RAF Carew Cheriton closed in 1945 but was used as an emergency landing site on two occasions after its closure.

We were then escorted to Pembroke Dock, by John Evans, of the Pembroke Dock Sunderland Trust, who guided the coach so that we could see the Gun Tower and the Dockyard Walls as he told us about the background to the history of the Dockyard. The town of Pembroke Dock was established in 1814 with the construction of the Royal Navy Dockyard and in February 1816 the first ships to be built there were launched. Over its 112 years of active service, the Dockyard saw the construction of five Royal Yachts and 263 other Royal Naval vessels. The last ship built there was launched in April 1922.
As the Royal Dockyard grew rapidly in size and importance so did measures to defend it. In 1844 work began on the huge Defensible Barracks, overlooking the new town. After the remarkably short build time of a year, the Royal Marines moved in. As part of a chain of fortifications along the Haven to defend the Dockyard, two Cambridge Gun Towers were constructed in 1851 to the west and east of the dockyard. They locally are known as ‘Martello Towers’ the larger of which we observed from the coach.

*The easternmost of the two Pembroke Dock towers. Photo: RCAHMW*

In 1930, four years after the Dockyard’s closure, the Royal Air Force began establishing a flying boat base – this continued for 29 years. Here in the 1930s several flying boats were introduced into service, including the Sunderland in 1938. In World War II Pembroke Dock became the world’s largest flying boat station and home base to airmen from many countries. Post-war Sunderlands continued in service locally until 1957 and the station closed in 1959.

John then guided the coach into the car park of the **Pembroke Dockyard Chapel**, which now houses the **Dockyard Heritage Centre**. This building was designed by the architect George Ledwell Taylor of London. It was built in 1830-2 in the Classical style, with a gable entry plan and integral square tower with a dome and large arched windows to the side. The interior has a gallery on the west with a coffered plaster ceiling. This chapel was converted for use as the Garrison Theatre, converted again by 1974 into Pembrokeshire Motor Museum, stood disused in 1993 but was triumphantly restored in 2008 to form the museum full of the artefacts including a replica of a WWI trench (complete with rat) and an aircraft flight simulator.

This was the final visit of the summer meeting and Cambrians departed home after lunch. We had been blessed with remarkably fine weather throughout our stay in Pembrokeshire and we wish to return grateful thanks to all speakers and lecturers, the hotel staff at the Wolfscastle Hotel, the Edwards’ Coaches driver, Jeff, and Dai and Robin who assisted with private car transport for less accessible sites. All worked together to help make this meeting so enjoyable.