

The Saundersfoot Historical Society resumed its winter programme with a well-attended meeting at the Regency Hall on 15th January.

The guest lecturer was Mr. Edward Perkins who took as his theme, the Historic Buildings of Pembrokeshire, and, making full use of the excellent IT facilities in the new Hall, was able to illustrate his text through his extensive collection of photographs, prints and drawings.

Taking a chronological approach, Mr. Perkins began by describing a number of prehistoric sites, particularly the burial chamber at Pentre Ifan near Brynberian. He suggested how the capstone was put in place and today, millenia later, it still sits gracefully on top of the three upright stones. Moving on to medieval times, the speaker first discussed motte and bailey castles with their defensive mounds, ditches and pallsades. Sadly there was no mention of Saundersfoot's own motte and bailey castle, Bonneville's Castle, now largely obliterated by the line of the Valley Road and the spoil from the colliery of the same name. Wood and earth structures were succeeded by the impressive stone castles we know today, Pembroke, Carew, Cilgerran and Manorbier.

The secular was followed by the ecclesiastical, the Bishops' Palaces at St. Davids and Lamphey, the cathedral itself and the contrasting wealthy borough churches and the more modest rural cousins.

Not all medieval structures were wholly sound and our lecturer explained the remedial works carried out by architect John Nash on the west wall and window of St. David's Cathedral, work that was recorded by Pugin and later in the prints of Nathaniel Buck.

The well-received lecture concluded by contrasting the development of the new town of Milford Haven with that of the historic borough of Tenby; their respective streets, buildings and townscapes.

Mr. Perkins was warmly thanked by the Chair of the Society, Mrs Mary Cavell, for a fascinating and accessible overview of the built environment of our county.

Members of the Society were advised that the next lecture would be on 19th February and would be given by Felicity Randell on the history of the Haggard Family of Pembroke and their cinema and films.