

## SAUNDERSFOOT AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The society's first public lecture of 2016 was given by Wendy Marmara of PLANED who spoke on 'Oral History: Making the most of Memories.'

Oral history projects sought to collect through interviews a wide range of personal memories: local and family history and an informal and talking history that could bring together the whole community, from the oldest members right down to primary schoolchildren. The involvement of children could add significantly to the perception of memories, connecting times past with the present. Recollections could be wide ranging or focus on specific topics, for example, the customs and practices surrounding weddings.

This type of project could lead on to the sharing of artefacts and photographs and capture in an almost unique way social comment and nuances that rarely appear in more formal histories. And, of course, in an oral interview dialect words and modes of expression as well as accents come to the fore.

Earlier interviews were transferred to a CD but today a DVD format is employed, allowing not only the reproduction of sound but also images showing the interviewees, artefacts, photographs and local scenes that often provided the backdrop to the interview itself.

Our speaker was able to show a range of slides and play a number of complimentary interviews from completed oral history projects: Carew Wartime Memories 1939-45; Talking about Newport in association with the National Park Authority, Memories of the Stackpole Estate together with The National Trust, a project with the Coastlands Local History Group at Dale and Memories of the Kensington TB Hospital. PLANED have now begun to focus on Saundersfoot and have already held a successful inaugural meeting combining introductory interviews with shared photographic memories.

Wendy summarised oral history as involving everyone in the community. The ease and range of digital media now allows for the capture and sharing of photographs and memorabilia, the recording of dialect words and phrases, the sharing of local customs and long-lost lifestyles.

Our speaker was warmly thanked for a fascinating and accessible lecture by the chair, Mrs. Mary Cavell, who reminded members that the next meeting would be held 17 February at 7.30pm in the Regency Hall when Martin Roberts will speak on Castell Henllys. Non-members are always welcome to attend.