

SAUNDERSFOOT AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At its first meeting of the 2017-18 season the Society warmly welcomed David Glennerster whose lecture had the title 'A Ramble through Coastal Villages in the early 1900s' and its subtitle set out the geography – From Shanly's to Stackpole.

A fascinating selection of slides from the early twentieth century illustrated the lecture which began with the opening of Shanly's Pavilion in July 1929. Sometimes known as the deckchair king Shanly sought to bring affordable holidays within the reach of working families, a precursor of the later Butlins idea perhaps? From Tenby to Gurfreston, to the parish church and holy wells, and the possibility that those suffering from leprosy could have arrived by river.

Views of a flooded Kiln Park and then the Black Rock Tower to the army camp in Penally and the Griffiths brothers from Saundersfoot who had joined the Cyclist Battalion. Lydstep offered hill climbs and the main house before Manobier came into sight, its church, castle, mill and fishponds. Unusual details were noted, the whale bones at the station, the quarries and excerpts from a school log book.

East Moors farm and Freshwater East led on to Stackpole and Stackpole Court. A great house largely remodelled in the 1830's, its suffered from its use by the military during the Second World War, falling into substantial disrepair and finally being demolished in 1963. The Cawdor Estate sold much of the associated land to the Army to create the tank and firing ranges we know today.

Our speaker received a vote of thanks from Doug Havard on behalf of a large and enthusiastic audience. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 October in the Regency Hall at 7.30 when Dr. Robert Llewellyn Davies will speak on Slebech and the Knights Hospitallers. Non- members are as ever welcome .