

# GLAMORGAN HERITAGE COAST



## A Newsletter for the Friends Summer 2017

### In Memoriam

Anthony John Williams MBE was a founder member of the committee which set up the Heritage Coast project and also of the Friends of the Heritage Coast.

Tony (known as AJ) was a councillor serving on the old Cardiff Rural District Council and from 1974 representing Peterston-super-Ely ward on the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council and then the Vale Council until his retirement in 2007.

He took a keen interest in planning and in the environment and served on the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation. He was Mayor of the Vale and was awarded an MBE in 2004 for services to local government and to conservation in the Vale.

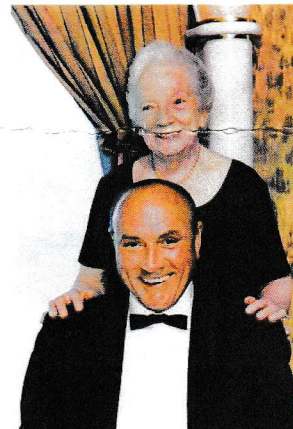
He was always ably supported by his wife Faith.

Tony and Faith both died suddenly in the garden of their home in Welsh St Donats on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

They are succeeded by their daughter Dr Ruth Williams who is well known for her work in conservation.

Donations in their memory will be given to the Friends, for which we are very grateful.

Heather March



### News about Seawatch

Members will know that the Trustees and committee have been trying to find a future purpose for this building which currently lies unused.

We have now been approached by another charity, the Bristol Womens Workshop, who are interesting in taking over responsibility for Seawatch. Based in Bristol they deliver courses for women and girls in a variety of practical skills and crafts, and would like to be able to develop their programme in a coastal and rural environment particularly in crafts like driftwood construction. They run successful courses and would plan to advertise these widely in South Wales. Members of the committee and Trustees have met with this group and believe that our charitable aims are compatible and that they are a sound and competent organisation. We are therefore currently progressing the necessary legal processes to see that a successful transfer can be agreed.





## Dr Mary Gillham 1921 –2013

The item in the last Newsletter about the Mary Gillham books on Rivers and Sand Dunes, brought forth an enthusiastic response from John Wilkins who is a member of the Friends and also much involved with the Mary Gillham Archive Project. He felt that there are members of the Friends who will have known her and her work and would be interested in hearing more.

Mary was a noted biologist, botanist, conservationist and naturalist and was a pioneer of women's involvement in these subjects. Although born in England, Mary studied and obtained her PhD in Wales, and in 1962 settled in Gwaeolod y Garth when she became an extra mural lecturer at Cardiff University.

She was passionate about environmental issues and was consequently instrumental in the establishment, maintenance and promotion of numerous conservation areas. In South Wales she was involved with Coed y Bedw, Cosmeston, Dare Valley Country Park, Cardiff's Forest Farm Country Park, and the Howardian League Local Nature Reserve as well as the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

Following her death her entire archive was left to the nation. She had been an inveterate and assiduous record keeper and the archive comprised over 35,000 photographic slides and 25 large ring binders containing accounts of her visits to numerous localities together with lists of plants and animals identified at each site. There were also no fewer than 40 diaries, these not restricted to a single year but being in the form of notebooks that ran from one year to another and again described places she had visited together with a record of the flora and fauna she had found there.

National lottery funding was obtained which enabled a two year project to be established under the aegis of the South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre.

This Project, the **Mary Gillham Archive Project**, under the leadership of Dr Alan Reeve, was charged with digitising Mary's records and raising awareness of the legacy of work that Mary left behind. To date, almost three quarters of the way through the two year project, an army of around 60 volunteers have succeeded in digitising and labelling more than 25,000 slides and committing in excess of 105,000 records of plant and animal life to the computer.

Among Mary's slides and records are many that relate to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. Should readers wish to see or read more of Mary's work connected to the Heritage Coast or elsewhere in South Wales, Dr Reeve can be contacted at the addresses below. He would also be very happy to receive any memories of Mary Gillham that you might be prepared to share.

<https://marygillhamarchiveproject.com/>  
[alan.reeve@sewbrec.org.uk](mailto:alan.reeve@sewbrec.org.uk)

SEWBRc Offices, 13 St Andrews Crescent, Cardiff CF10 3DB



**Welcome to Paul Watmough , who has recently joined the team at the Heritage Coast Centre as an Assistant Ranger .**

During the recent Friends AGM I was asked to write a couple of paragraphs to introduce myself and share my thoughts on the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

I graduated from Aberystwyth University with a BSc in Countryside Conservation in 2014 and since then have worked in seasonal ranger positions in the English Lakes and South Queensferry, Scotland. I have been lucky to immerse myself in some fantastic landscapes and communities and the Heritage Coast is yet another opportunity to do this.

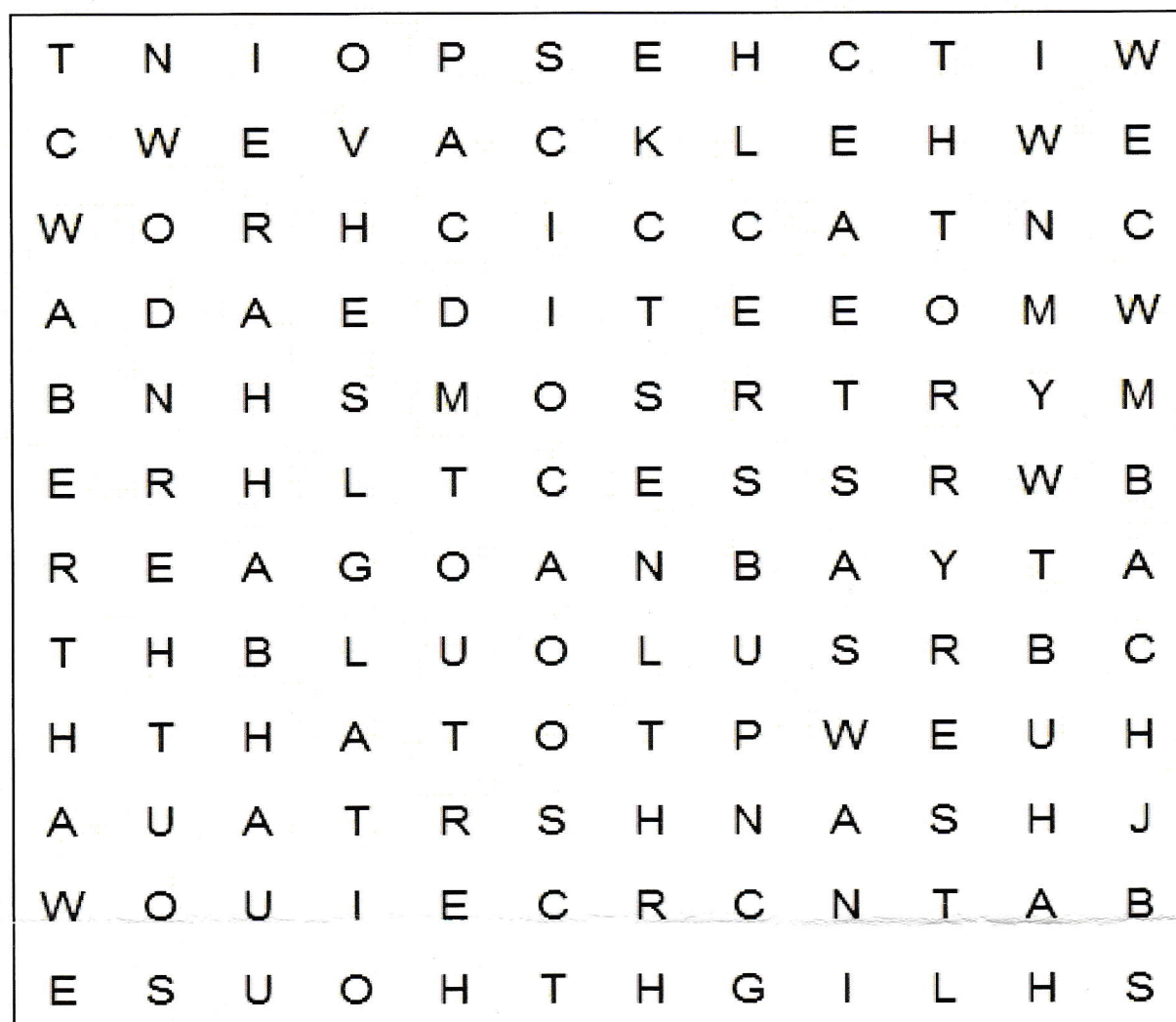
The Glamorgan Heritage Coast is a unique environment. One of constant change, of tide and tantrum and an unending, tense negotiation with the sea. This change permeates through and affects everything here on the coast. I see this clearly in the comings and goings of the summer beach crowds and in the adaptability and hardiness of the creatures and plants abundant through this landscape. I see it in the skeletal figure of the once proud Dunraven Castle and in the return of the migrating birds from far distant shores. Even the iconic wave cut platforms tell a story of change, of how wind and wave are locked in a prolonged battle to reclaim land for an unsatisfied sea. Yet, for all this change, as I walk along the beaches of Temple Bay, watching peregrines hunting over the cliff tops and listening to the constant beat of wave on shoreline, nothing has ever felt so constant, serene and unchanging.

For sure, working in and contributing to this landscape is both a pleasure and a privilege and one that I am grateful for. I would also like to thank you, the Friends of the Heritage Coast, not only for your financial support to us the Ranger team, but also for the dedication you all bring to help galvanise and secure a coastal community on our Heritage Coast.



If you see me along the Coast, please do come and say hello !

## HERITAGE COAST WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



All the words below can be found in the box, reading backwards, forwards, up, down or diagonally, but always in a straight line without letters being skipped. The same letter can be used more than once. Connected words such as Coastal Path will always run on the same line without gaps. Circle each word as it is found to see what the letters that are left spell out, reading from left to right, top to bottom. Dawn Lewis ©

Aberthaw

Cimla

Hare

Sutton Stone

Bat

Coastal Path

Jurassic

Swan

Bay

Colhuw

Lighthouse

Tide

Beach

Crab

Nash

Whelk

Cave

Cwm Bach

Sea

Witches Point

Chough

Estuary

Southerndown

Wreck

Grateful thanks to Dawn Lewis for this brainteaser

### NEW CARDS

The Friends have funded a lovely new set of postcards and greetings cards, showing a whole range of views of the Coast using Paul Dunn's excellent photographs.

These are now available for sale at the Heritage Coast Centre, so call in and have a look sometime soon. Postcards are £1.00 and greetings cards with envelopes are £2.50.

Proceeds from these will be returned to the Friends.