A new chapter has opened as the Sunderland Trust marks its tenth anniversary since set up, and the Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre enters its third year of operation, having been officially opened by The Queen in April 2014.

The Heritage Centre has a new Centre Manager, Stuart Berry, who joined the team in May. Stuart has worked in the museum sector since 1999, beginning his career as a volunteer and then staff member at Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust. He gained his first degree from Sheffield University in Archaeological Science and Geology in 1998, and was keen to pursue a career in heritage, studying for his Masters in Museum Studies at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

For eight years Stuart worked at the National Coal Mining Museum for England in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, becoming manager of the education team in a wide ranging role including workshops and trails, family activities, exhibitions and Heritage Lottery funded projects.

Stuart met his wife, Sally, at Sheffield University and they have two young children. A primary school teacher, Sally is a native of Pembrokeshire and in 2015 the family moved to the county from Yorkshire to be near her family.

From a military family, Stuart’s father served in the Royal Air Force for 22 years, including time with 230 Squadron, based at RAF Gutersloh in the then West Germany. Now flying Puma helicopters, 230 Squadron was one of the last two squadrons to operate Sunderland flying boats at Pembroke Dock.

Welcoming Stuart, Gareth Mills, Chairman of the Sunderland Trust said: “We are really pleased with the appointment of Stuart. He comes with excellent knowledge and experience of managing museums, and brings great impetus and enthusiasm to the next stage of development of the Trust. His appointment marks a new era that will enable the Trust to develop a world class heritage facility.”

Stuart heads a small staff team of Glynnis Iles and Alex Davies supported by the Sunderland Trust’s terrific team of volunteers, trustees and friends.
Farewell To Eleanor

The Heritage Centre Team has bid a fond and sad farewell to Eleanor Evans who during a challenging period of change at the beginning of the year was key to keeping the Centre functioning before the new Centre Manager’s arrival.

A dynamic, all-action individual, Eleanor joined the staff in 2013 and quickly became a key member of the team which piloted the Sunderland Trust from its early beginnings at the Flying Boat Centre in a former Royal Dockyard workshop into the superb surroundings of the Dockyard Chapel Heritage Centre.

On her last day in work in May, warm tributes to Eleanor were paid by Trust Chairman Gareth Mills and retiring Project Manager John Evans. Eleanor has since joined another Pembrokeshire charity, in her home town of Fishguard, and Pembroke Dock’s loss is certainly Fishguard’s gain.

Although ‘retired’ from his Project Manager’s role, which he had held since the Trust formed in 2006, John Evans remains actively involved at the Heritage Centre. He was honoured with the role of Patron of the Sunderland Trust in 2015.

New Trustees

In other changes the Board of the Sunderland Trust has welcomed three new Trustees - all recruited from within the ranks of the Volunteer Team. They are:

**Martin Andrews**, a well known retired businessman who for many years owned and ran Kelpie Boat Chandlers in Pembroke Dock.

**Ron Boreham**, who first came to Pembroke Dock with the RAF and flew in 230 Squadron Sunderlands as a Signaller in the 1950s, later becoming a military Air Traffic Controller.

**Graham Clarkson**, a retired civil Air Traffic Controller. Graham’s wife, Sue, is also a Trust Volunteer.

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If you want to earn the Trust an extra £5 just by signing up for free, click on the appropriate place!
The Sunderland Trust has lost a stalwart and much respected member of the Volunteer Team. In April Derek Lawrence died after a long battle with illness.

One of the earliest recruits to the Volunteer Team in 2009, Derek quickly became a key team member, working first at the Flying Boat Centre and later the Heritage Centre.

Known light heartedly as The ‘Guv’nor’ - after the Tetley Tea Folk character - the flat cap went everywhere and was Derek’s signature, along with the grey beard.

A great person to know, he had a genuine interest in everyone and everything around him, an attribute that made him an outstanding volunteer, in the workshop and Front of House as well as behind the scenes as an expert model maker.

Derek had so much knowledge to share and a passion for all things maritime made his presence a great asset as a volunteer at the centres. His modelling skills were exceptional and he was a founder member of the Penfro Model Club - many of whose members are also Trust Volunteers.

His true love was model boats built in traditional ways from timber, a scaled down version of the original. He made very detailed, but also very accurate, models - a joy to behold.

For 15 years Derek had fought many battles with illness carrying on with a stoicism which was much to be admired. He always retained his wry sense of humour and looked on the positive side despite all the challenges he faced. He brightened up everyone’s days when he was around, even when he was clearly struggling.

Despite being on crutches and very poorly Derek would turn up for his shifts to regale visitors from all over the world and was truly an inspiration to everyone. He is much missed and fondly remembered for his unique contributions to the championing of Pembroke Dock's heritage and the success of the Sunderland Trust.

At the recent Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS) annual awards a Commendation in the category of Volunteer of the Year (over 25) was awarded in recognition of Derek’s contributions to the Sunderland Trust. Derek’s wife, Enid, and Sunderland Trust Volunteer Barry Clark accepted the certificate from Ian Westley, Chief Executive of Pembrokeshire County Council.

Derek Lawrence (left) pictured with friends Mags Clark, Margaret Black, Pat Singleton and Barry Clark
Cockpit Set for ‘Take Off’
A star attraction has taken shape inside the Heritage Centre over the past months - a unique and impressive full size replica of a Sunderland cockpit. This was officially ‘launched’ before invited guests including the Mayors of Pembroke and Pembroke Dock, the Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council and the RAF’s Air Officer for Wales, Air Commodore Adrian Williams, along with service veterans.

Created entirely by Centre Volunteers it is estimated that well over 3,500 volunteer hours have been devoted to the creation of the cockpit - which has been funded through the Ministry of Defence Community Covenant. It is linked to a simulation of a Sunderland flight around Pembrokeshire which has been developed by volunteers with software skills.

Chairman Gareth Mills told guests: “This is a testament to what a committed group can achieve. It has involved a lot of volunteers but special thanks must go to Rik Saldanha, who leads the project, and to Paul Tomlinson, Baz Clark, Peter Sherwood, Mike James, Chris Howell, Colin Evans, Ron Boreham and Graham Clarkson.”

New Home for PoW Paintings
Paintings by German prisoners at the famous Island Farm PoW camp near Bridgend have found a new home, thanks to co-operation between three Welsh museums.

The town museum at Cowbridge - only a few miles from the Island Farm site - is the new home for the two landscapes, generously donated by Jeff James who runs a private museum at Llangwm, Pembrokeshire. His uncle acquired the painting at a sale at the PoW camp after the war.

Jeff offered the two paintings to Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre, along with other wartime items. While the paintings did not fall into the Heritage Centre’s collections policy their unique significance and wartime connections were instantly spotted by Aled Lewis, then working as the Centre’s Archiving Officer.

Aled is Voluntary Curator of Cowbridge and District Museum, which agreed to take them. Aled said: “As soon as I saw them I knew how important they are. One can imagine German prisoners of war in the camp painting views of their homeland far away.”
Duncan’s Special Milestone

One of the Heritage Centre’s senior volunteers, Duncan Heys, celebrated his 90th birthday in March and was surprised by relatives from Cornwall who made the long journey to Pembrokeshire to help him mark a special milestone.

Duncan and wife Fay (on right) are pictured at the centre with Fay’s sisters Lorraine and Rayanne and Rayanne’s partner, Derek, alongside a display of Duncan’s wartime naval uniform. Duncan served as a Stoker in the Royal Navy on Atlantic convoy duties aboard the escort vessel HMS Hargood, a model of which is also on display.

Pembroke Dockyard and Jutland Battle

Pembrokeshire sailors who fought and died in the largest naval battle of the First World War - the Battle of Jutland in 1916 - were remembered on the 100th anniversary at the Heritage Centre in June.

At a special service, conducted by retired naval padre the Rev Mike Brotherton, a roll call was read of Pembrokeshire men who took part in the two-day battle. Of over 50 local sailors, nearly 30 of them made the supreme sacrifice.

Reading the roll call was naval historian Ted Goddard whose Jutland researches had resulted in several exhibition panels going on display at the centre. Relatives of navy personnel who served at Jutland were among those attending, including Mrs Elizabeth Talboys of Saundersfoot whose great uncle, William Cecil Parker, was lost when HMS Defence was sunk with all hands.

The armoured cruiser HMS Defence and its sister ship HMS Warrior - both built at Pembroke Royal Dockyard - were among the 14 Royal Navy vessels sunk during the battle. Ten warships launched from Pembroke Dockyard between 1904 and 1914 were awarded battle honours for Jutland.
Doug’s Daily Reminder of PD
Former RAF National Serviceman Doug Fulcher is invariably reminded of his service time at Pembroke Dock when he opens his mail, thanks to a letter opener which he made from discarded metal off a Sunderland and which, 60 years on, is still doing its job.

The letter opener travelled back to ‘PD’ when Doug visited the Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre. He also brought along several documents and memorabilia for the Centre’s archive, and promised to donate his home-made letter opener in the future.

Doug, now 83, said: “I came for the opening of the Flying Boat Centre in 2009 and am so impressed by the progress made since. And I am delighted to see how it has developed and that the Heritage Centre is now located in what I remember as the RAF Church.”

Oral History Team
The Sunderland Trust’s Oral History Team regularly records on film the memories of former service personnel and others with connections with Pembroke Dock and its history - adding to a unique collection within the archive of the Heritage Centre.

Latest to be recorded was 90-year-old former Royal Welsh Fusilier Duncan Hilling, of Saundersfoot, who served in the Far East towards the end of World War II and the immediate period afterwards.

Duncan is pictured with Barry Clark and John Evans who - along with Barry’s wife Margaret - were the Oral History crew on the day.

Corgi Sunderland Reception
A ‘squadron’ of Sunderlands turned out in miniature to welcome the newly launched and exquisite die cast model of the Sunderland made by the Corgi company, which had been donated to the Heritage Centre. Penfro Model Group members brought along their own Sunderland models as the welcome committee.

The Corgi Sunderland, in 1:72 scale, depicts a famous Pembroke Dock-based Sunderland, serial EJ 134 of 461 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force. In June 1943 this aircraft fought off attacks by eight German Junkers Ju88 fighters over the Bay of Biscay, returning to crash land on a Cornish beach. The story of EJ134 and its crew is told in a display at the Heritage Centre.
Summer Holiday Events
There will be a weekly storytelling, led by Chris Howell, every Thursday at 11 am. Dates are:

4th August; · 11th August; · 18th August; · 25th August; · 1st September

Every Wednesday, starting at 11 am, a Dockyard Heritage Walk will start from the Heritage Centre, led by Ted Goddard. Dates are:

3rd August; 10th August; 17th August; 24th August; 31st August

On Saturday 6 August classic cars will gather at the Heritage Centre before joining the Quins Carnival Classic Car Rally. Cars will congregate at the Centre from 9.30am and will join the carnival procession from about 1pm.

Autumn Talks Programme
During the autumn and early winter months there will be monthly talks in evenings at the Heritage Centre. In addition to the talk visitors will be able to view the displays and the Centre’s Gift Shop and Coffee Shop will also be available. Entry charges will apply.

Talk dates, all Fridays, are:

9th September by Gareth Mills
7th October by Ted Goddard
4th November by Derek Church
2nd December by John Evans

Legacy Giving
Leaving a Legacy or a Donation is a very special way to support the Trust’s work. To find out more about Legacies and Donations we have a document which provides further information. This is available on our website:

http://www.sunderlandtrust.com/legacy-giving/

and is also available by post on request. Please contact Glynnis Iles on 01646 684220 or write to us.

Email Addresses
Please note our e-mails and website addresses have changed slightly (see below)

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www.sunderlandtrust.com

Friends
Greetings to all our ‘Friends’ worldwide who really spread the word. We depend on you, not just for your contributions of time and stories to our archive, but also donations of artefacts to our collection, and supporting us and following our story. As ever grateful thanks are extended to you all. If you know anybody that would like to be kept up-to-date with our story, please do encourage them to support us by purchasing a subscription and becoming a ‘Friend’ - this really does make a difference to us.

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