

NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 2008

Dear Supporter

As we approach the end of the year and approach our AGM, we want to bring you up to date with all that's going on.

The project to restore the cottages has reached an important stage – Restormel Borough Council has carried out work to renew the roof, stabilise the walls, and replace upstairs windows. The general reaction of those who pass by has been extremely favourable, but I must point out that the exterior will have to be “whitewashed” in due course to satisfy the Authority's Conservation Officer!

Earlier in the year, when it became clear that the joint application between Restormel and our Trenance Cottages Community Interest Company for funds to complete the work had failed, we had to reassess the whole project. At the forefront was the need to provide value for money, bearing in mind the floor space available. We believe this was the reason we were turned down by the Government's Community Assets Fund. After much thought and discussion, a 'reduced' plan was conceived. The proposed extension was pared down, removing the area to the left-hand side, and we removed the 'Letting space for start-up businesses'.

We now propose to include the following:

- Meeting and function rooms, equipped with appropriate technology
- A retail shop for the sale of quality locally-produced fare
- Space for exhibitions of local heritage
- Art and craftmaking areas – giving input to the shop
- IT and copying facilities for use by local organisations at low cost
- Catering facilities for users of our centre and others
- Training and the offer of courses in aspects of local history, guided walks etc.

It is likely that, in order to reduce the planned budget for the scheme, we shall be looking for the use of voluntary and donated labour and skills.

The Heritage Lottery, which has received our bid for cash, requires the Friends to demonstrate community support by continuing to organise family events in Trenance Gardens and actively encourage a steady growth in membership. We hope to know whether the bid has been successful by the end of March.

Meantime, we are awaiting a contract from Restormel Borough Council which will transfer the freehold ownership of the cottages to the Friends. This will give us much more freedom to steer the project forward. We are most grateful to the council for this landmark decision, and the support they have given us at all times.

EVENTS IN 2008

Sunday May 4th - Trenance Spring Fayre, in the gardens close to the cottages. Duck racing, Treasure Hunt, Fancy Dress competition (theme: cartoon characters), Bouncy Castle, Brass Bands, Barbecue and Charity stalls, plus much more. Free admission.

Sunday May 11th - Crazy Golf Fun Day on the course near Newquay Zoo. 10am until 5pm. Reduced admission charges with all players being entered in a draw for good prizes. By courtesy of John Littlefield – all proceeds to the Friends.

Santa's Grotto – the white-haired old gentleman tells us he loves Trenance and his train ride to Newquay so much that he's been back again for two weekends in December.

MEMBERSHIP

The committee decided to increase annual membership subs from April 1st to £3 for an individual member (children up to 16 free) and to invite corporate membership – local businesses - to pay £25. Membership will run until the end of March 2009. Please send your membership payment (cheques payable to "Friends of Trenance Cottages") to the Honorary Treasurer, Reg Warman, at Woodlands Farm, Lane, Newquay, TR8 4NY, enclosing a SAE.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Thank you for supporting the work of the Friends. We are currently converting the Friends of Trenance Cottages to charity status. This will give us benefits both in terms of tax liability and also the potential to apply for grants.

In 2009, we shall be holding more of our popular fundraising events, and we urgently need your support. We have to raise money (in addition to that which the Heritage Lottery may give us) in order to complete this project. If you would like to join our enthusiastic band of volunteer helpers, please let me know. Also, if you are able and willing to help with future building work, please contact me.

More details of the above will be available at our AGM, to be held at 7pm on 22nd January 2008, in the Function Room of the Heron Centre. It will be followed by an Open Meeting. All are invited to attend, and the Membership Renewal will be due then. It will be £3, as before. Nominations are invited for positions on the committee, to serve for the next year.

Please use the slip below and provide signatures from the proposer, seconder and the nominee (to show that he or she is willing to stand). Completed slips must be returned to the secretary by 15th January.

Kind regards
Ted O'Dell, Chairman Friends of Trenance Cottages

Please print this form if you wish to use it:

**NOMINATION FOR A POSITION ON THE COMMITTEE 2009/10
(Nominations are invited for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Officer + extra members of the Executive)**

Present officers are: Chairman Ted O'Dell, Vice Chair Mavis Warman, Secretary Chris Blount, Treasurer Reg Warman, Publicity Officer Jill Willmott. Extra Executive members: Jan Taggart, Frank Kneebone, Norman Thompson, Ron and June Fullwood, John Rainbow, Jan Dent, Graham Willmott, Stella Jenkin and Sue Miles.

I hereby nominate.....for the post of
.....

Signed..... Telephone number:.....

Seconded by.....

Signed..... Telephone number.....

Nominee's signature.....Telephone Number.....

Please return this slip to the Secretary:

Chris Blount, 42 Penmere Drive, Newquay, TR7 1QQ, by 15th January.

If your name appears above and you have not yet indicated whether you wish to stand again, and you will not be at the AGM, please let me know. Thanks, CB. (872402).