



Situated just beside the North Road at the Pendeen end, Wheal Hearle comprises two engine houses which were home to a ten inch winding engine and a thirty inch pumping engine. It was in production from about 1855 and, at its peak, employed just over one hundred men , women and boys. The mine appears to have been short lived with little reported after 1865.

5TH EDITION

ST JUST IN PENWITH

AREA GUIDE



This Guide is published by St Just-in-Penwith Town Council and thanks are given to the many people within our community, not mentioned below, who have contributed to it.
All information contained within the guide is believed to be correct at time of printing but we are in a living community and things may change!



Photography : Dave Smith, Phil Wilkins, Dave Stevens
Articles submitted by : Adam Sharpe, Cheryl Straffen, Mary-Ann Bloomfield, Nick Smith, Craig Weatherhill, John Harry, Andrew Burt, Chris Gonninan, Terry Owen

Additional text by Elaine Baker and Dave Stevens

**ST JUST-IN-PENWITH
TOWN COUNCIL
Council Offices,
1 Chapel Street, St Just,
Penzance, Cornwall TR19 7LS
Telephone :
01736 788412**

Contents

Welcome	4
A Thriving Community	5
Arts and Crafts in the St Just area	9
Plen-an-Gwary	10
St Just Feast	12
Lafrowda Festival	14
Old Cornwall Society	16
Around the Coast	17
A view into the past	22
World Heritage Site	26
St Just Mining District	29
Geevor Tin Mine	35
Balleswidden and the Clay Works	36
Ancient Sites in and around St Just and Pendeen	37
Circular Walks and Maps	41
St Just Parish Church	45
Pendeen Church	47
Preaching Houses and Chapels	48
St Just Methodist Church	49
The return of the Chough	50
A rich sporting heritage	51
Place names of St Just / Henwyn Plasow Plu Ust	54
Information	55

Welcome

A warm welcome to this unique part of Cornwall, from St Just- in-Penwith Town Council

Situated within the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and adjacent to one of only two natural capes in the country, St Just-in-Penwith is the most westerly town in Britain and well worth a visit. Once a centre of Cornish Mining, the local landscape is dominated by historical relics of this bygone era, many of which are easily visible as you drive or walk through the countryside. However, today, tourism is the biggest local employer with thousands of tourists visiting the area every year to discover its unique beauty and charm or to rediscover past family connections with relatives who once lived in the area. There are miles of stunning coastline with many hidden beaches to explore: all accessible from the South West Coastal Path which runs through the length of the parish and connects many of the major visitor attractions like Geevor & Levant Tin Mines and Pendeen Watch Lighthouse. St Just is the only town in the parish, with Pendeen to the north the largest of the surrounding villages with a local school and facilities including a shop and a number of pubs and cafes. There are a number of other smaller villages and hamlets each with their own individual charm and history and well worth a visit. The unique heath and moorland also provides a natural habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife, including the famous Cornish Chough which only recently returned to the Cornish cliffs. The Town Council hopes that you will enjoy this guide and the places that you visit in this special part of Cornwall.



A thriving community

Some say that the district around St Just and Pendeen is the beating heart of the Land's End Peninsula or West Penwith to give it its official title.

A community is it's people.

The area has three schools; two primaries at St Just and Pendeen and Cape Cornwall Comprehensive School. To cater for young families the **Ark** at Pendeen and the **Brambles Nursery** at St Just provide early years care from 3 months to 4 years. Out of school time there is the **Nancherrow Centre** which offers regular 'drop in' youth clubs and a very successful music development scheme. The building has a small but well equipped recording studio, the source of many a local band's debut CD. Recently formed, the **Cape Cornwall Scout Group** continues the scouting tradition providing a Beavers unit for 6 - 8 year olds, Cubs for the 8 - 10½ age group and Scouts for the up to 14 group. **Pendeen Silver Band** is our local band, and very good it is too! Formed in 1892 it provides the musical background for many a local event. The band is widely

travelled and has been very successful in a number of national competitions. It has a youth section where young players are trained to join the main band as they mature. In 1993 the band was given a parcel of land to the rear of the playground where a band room was built which has been their permanent home ever since.

Amateur Dramatics is alive and well with **C.A.P.E. (Cape Amateur Players and Entertainers)** performing an annual Panto in St Just with **Pendeen Panto** providing a similar offering in Pendeen! Both groups welcome anyone who would like to 'tread the boards', operate lighting, build scenery, play instruments or help with any of the many varied tasks involved. The St Just panto is performed in the Old Town Hall now officially the **St Just Community & Business Centre** which houses meeting rooms and a 200 seater hall with stage. Pendeen is host to both the Parish Rooms



where everything from the Thursday Lunch Club to Art classes take place. (It's also home to the Pendeen Panto) and across the road **The Centre of Pendeen** with a snooker club and a broad palate of activities including computer and language courses.

Floral displays and the care and maintenance of the flower beds and street side furniture within St Just are provided by the **St Just in Bloom** group. St Just in Bloom was formed in 2004 with the aim of involving the community, local businesses and schools to make St Just an attractive place to live in and visit. The group has entered the South West in Bloom competition every year and in 2014 and 2015 were awarded the gold award with



the town also being group winners in 2015. This was a considerable and unexpected achievement as the class is open to all communities in the South West with a population of 2500 to 5500. In 2015 the Commercial Hotel was awarded the best public house display award for the South West and Ashleigh Whitear from Cape Cornwall Comprehensive School won the painting competition for 12 to 16 year olds.

Memory Cafe

The St Just Memory Cafe opened in May 2012 to enhance the well being and quality

of life for those who have memory problems or suffering from dementia. It's not a Day Care Centre but provides an afternoon of social activity and support for those cared for and their carers.

The cafe offers activities such as music, dance, entertainment, exercise, paper therapies and the all important social time together. It's fun, friendly and free, and meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month between 2-4pm. Meetings are held in the Royal British Legion, St Just.

Brisons Swim and Cape Sports

The Brisons is an outcrop of rocks approximately 1 mile off Cape Cornwall. During the summer months and dependant on tides, a swim is made to the Brisons for a limited number of swimmers.

There is also a children's swim. Sea conditions and temperature make it very different from pool swimming! Cape Sports is held on the same day and there are lots of activities for all the family to enjoy.

These are local fund raising activities for the Priest's Cove slipway maintenance built in the early 60s to enable locals to get out to sea and for the children's pool. Originally Nanpean Farm, now the Golf Club, raised most of the money for the slip through their barn dances. This event is normally advertised (as are the numerous postponements!) in St Just square prior to the event.

Twinning

At the end of the 19th and the early years of the 20th Century with the decline of the mines and the loss of local employment "Cousin Jacks", as the miners were popularly known, left these shores to seek work overseas. Australia, America,

Canada and South Africa were popular destinations and Bendigo in Victoria State Australia and Nevada City, California with their gold fields found favour with many from St Just. These contacts have been maintained in the form of twinning associations and some exchanges have taken place with Bendigo, now a city of some 100,000, although the distance makes these visits a rarer occurrence. More recently St Just twinned with Huelgoat in Brittany, France and sporting and cultural exchanges frequently take place.

Bosavern Community Farm is situated on the road from St. Just to Sennen and Land's End. Formerly, owned by Cornwall Council it was used to encourage new farmers into agriculture after the first World War. When the Council proposed selling it, members of the local community joined together and, with assistance from the Local Food Lottery, a local benefactor and a community share offer, the farm was secured as a lasting community asset in March 2014. Bosavern is run as a not-for-profit community enterprise, registered with The Wholesome Food Association and worked by a community of employees, members and volunteers. Set in 33 acres, the site comprises a farmhouse, poly-tunnels, fruit cage, a developing community wood, newly-planted willow coppice for basketry and craft activities, and a various assortment of

chickens, piglets, bee-hives, farm shop and an expanding retail business. The vision is to develop a self-financing, community-led, food-growing initiative to benefit the wider community of St Just and West Penwith in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way. The farm produces and sells local food for local people, provides community access to land and its produce provides opportunities for the local community to come together and learn about growing food, agriculture and sustainable living; it also has space for events, workshops, training, social time and celebration. In December 2015, the farm received an award from the Cornwall Sustainability Awards "From Nature to Plate". The farm runs workshops, education, skills-sharing and volunteering opportunities throughout the year. Campers are also welcome during July and August. Education work, which includes running workshops from bee-keeping to willow coppicing and hosting visits from local schools is based in the "Hive" education space. A traditionally built cob house complete with green roof will also soon be completed and will be used for many other farm based activities. Most recently, thanks to funding from Grow Wild at Kew Gardens, an educational Apiary and Bee-Ed-Shed is to be constructed. This will include an observation hive so that visitors, school groups and budding bee-keepers can watch these fascinating insects in a working



bee hive.

At our farm shop fresh vegetables, eggs and honey can be bought; sign up for a veg box or pick up local bread, milk, cheeses preserves and other treats. If you are visiting West Penwith, the shop is a great place to find unusual, locally produced goods to take home as presents.

For further information visit our website at <http://www.bosaverncommunityfarm.org.uk>

Land's End Aerodrome

The airfield started operations in 1937, making it one of the oldest in the United Kingdom. The land was once part of Trevegean Downs, located between Kelynack and Brea Downs and a short distance from the town of St. Just. It was purchased by Captain Gordon Olley from the Tregear family in 1935. It was his dream to link the Isles of Scilly, 28 miles away, with the mainland. The land comprised a flat plateau approximately 380 feet above sea level, adjacent to the B3306 St. Just to Land's End Road. The first scheduled flight from Land's End took place on 15th September, 1937, using a de Havilland DH84 Dragon GADCR. There were four passengers, the pilot, Captain Dustin and a little freight. The fare was £1.75 return in modern currency.

Over the intervening years numerous works and improvements have been carried out. In 2012 to enable the long term future of the airport, the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company (ISSC) purchased the 90.4 acre site. Works began in 2012 demolishing the old building to be replaced with a new

terminal and control tower and by February 2013 the work was completed.

Up to 2014 all the runways were grass. During the winters of 2012/13/14 the airport closed for long periods as the runways were water logged with flights temporarily relocated to Newquay Airport. In May 2013 the ISSC and the Council of Scilly submitted a bid for finance from the European Regional Development Fund for runways resurfacing at Land's End together with various improvements at St. Mary's. In May 2014 the European Commission gave its approval. For just over three weeks the asphaltting of two runways took place at an estimated cost of £2.6 million, half of which was met by the EU.

The Skybus provides scenic flights around South West Cornwall.

There is a shuttle bus from Penzance Railway Station and it is possible to purchase combined rail and air tickets. For a full Skybus timetable please refer to their website.

www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk/lands-end-airport-leq. There is a café located at the airport which is open every day apart from Sunday.



Arts and Crafts in the St Just area

The Penwith Peninsula, with its rugged coastline, the differing moods of the sea, and the clarity of the light, together with its windswept moorlands, ancient field systems and ever - changing flora, has for generations attracted painters, sculptors and craftsmen to the district.

The rocky cliffs and the exposed moors bear the scars of the area's industrial past: ruined engine houses and crumbling mine stacks are now a romantic reminder of the perilous working conditions endured by those hard rock miners, and are a source of inspiration to artists and photographers.

The St Just district, with its terraces of granite cottages and prehistoric field patterns of the surrounding farmland, now supports a growing artistic colony to rival those of Newlyn and St Ives. Travel from Morvah in the northern outskirts of the area: here a community project has converted a former schoolhouse into an excellent gallery (with café), giving local and visiting artists space to exhibit their work. Continue westward past the Yew Tree Gallery at

Keigwin Farmhouse, through Pendeen, with pottery and jewellery workshops, galleries and studios, and the famous Geevor Tin Mine with its own craft shop and gallery, and exhibiton area. St Just itself, clustered round its ancient church, has a thriving community of artists, potters, sculptors and other craftsmen. Many are now of national or international renown, and their work can be seen in the many galleries and craft shops in and around the town.

Solo or mixed exhibitions are regularly held throughout the year. Some of the artists welcome visitors to their studios; others prefer to work more privately and only display their work in local outlets. Full details can be found in the "Just Arts" leaflet. One of the biggest local

exhibitions is held over a three-week period each August in Cape Cornwall School. Held every year since 1967 to raise funds for Cancer Research U K, this exhibition has now contributed more than £750,000 to this worthwhile cause. The exhibition, which always starts on the first Wednesday in August, displays the work of more than 400 local artists and craftsmen, both amateur and professional, all whom live and work within a 30-mile radius of St Just. Their work includes paintings, pottery, gold, silver and pewter jewellery; sculpture, wood turning, etchings, embroidery, calligraphy, textiles and much more. The wealth of talent in this remote south western part of Cornwall is breathtaking and never ceases to amaze.

Plen-an-Gwary

Firstly the spelling!

The Cornish is Plen an Gwari with the 'e' having a long sound like 'air' but without the 'r', it may also have had a circumflex accent to reinforce this. The English spelling is Plain an Gwarry and a middle spelling is Plen an Gwary which is seen on the Plen itself and which we shall use in this publication. In any case most locals call it 'The Plain' and we are rather proud of it.

The history of the origins of the 'plen' appears to date back to the early 1400's when plays were performed in the churches with the intention of bringing salvation to the common man through drama. However, the crowds who flocked to these events became too big to be housed inside and outdoor theatres were made to accommodate them instead, usually on church land.

Richard Carew the notable Cornish historian wrote in 1602: *'For Cornish men have Gwary miracles, a kind of interlude, compiled in Cornish out of some scripture history. For representing it, they raise an earthen amphitheatre in some open field, some 40 or 50 foot.'*

Original Ordinalia stage plans and play texts are now held in the Bodleian library, Oxford, and are among the oldest theatrical documents in the world.

A cycle of three miracle plays (Origo Mundi -The Creation of the World; The Passion; The Resurrection), were written between 1350 - 1400 by the Canons at Glasney College, Penryn, and performed by the local community of St Just during the late Middle Ages. It is likely that performances gradually died out over the next 200 years or so, in 1549 The Book of Common Prayer deemed it illegal to worship in any other language than English, and by the mid 1700's all theatre was banned. *'The country people flock from all sides, many miles off to hear and see it: for they have therein, devils and devices to delight as well the eye as the ear.'*

It is also interesting that each 'Plen' had it's own particular story unique to that place; St Just's being 'The Story of the Rood'; the three pips of the apple that Adam ate planted to form three saplings that grew and eventually become the wood that was used for the crucifixion cross.

In the 1870's the site was reconstructed into its present form, somewhat smaller than the original site, but continued to be used for all manner of events including cock-fighting, wrestling and rock drilling competitions on the miners high days and holidays.

A recent geophysical survey of the Plen has discovered that there is a strong possibility that a section of the original stone seating remains under the surface of the Plen. Also identified was what looked like the path of a 'devil's spoon'; this was an original feature rather like a stage trap door, built into the site to add dramatic effect.

Re-enactment...

Interest in open-air theatre revived in Cornwall early in the 20th century, notably the Minack Theatre, and since the 1970s



St Just is home to what is believed to be the country's oldest working theatre, the Plen-an-Gwary or 'place of the play'.

has been one of the distinctive successes of the Cornish theatre scene, with Footsbarn, Miracle, Wild Works and Kneehigh Theatres all having national or international reputations based originally on their outdoor style of performance.

This tradition encouraged a relatively small artist-led group to stage large scale English language re-enactments of the Ordinalia cycle between 2000 and 2004 in the space for which they were originally written - the Plen an Gwary in St Just.

The first production in 2000 of *The Creation of the World* was a great success and led



to the completion of the cycle with *The Passion* in 2001 and *The Resurrection* in 2002, with a combined version of all three plays, *The Full Cycle*, being produced in 2004.

The productions involved over 250 local people as makers, actors, musicians, choir members and crew, supported by a core group of paid local professionals as writer, director, production manager, set designer, costume designer & musical director/composer.

The original stage plan was followed, consisting of eight stages set around the 40 metre diameter 'Plen', and a central stage for large set pieces e.g. *Noah's Ark*, *Adam & Eve*, *The Crucifixion*. Over 15,000 people came to see these community plays, they were heartfelt spectacular, appealing to all ages and types of people.

During the four years of community Ordinalia Cycle re enactments (2000-2004) a small dilapidated band hut, owned by the British Legion, was used by the company for changing and the storage of props and costumes.

These premises came up for sale in late 2004, St Just & District Trust started the campaign to raise the funds needed to buy the land and construct a new facility in order to encourage the use of the Plen an Gwary as a theatre and event space.

The Knut finally opened in May 2014 and is named after Dominic Knutton who directed the Ordinalia plays.

The Knut archive is open between Easter and October.

Visit our website www.theknutstjust.com for more details or email us at info@theknutstjust.com



St Just Feast

One of the most colourful spectacles which has become a popular event in our social calendar is Lafrowda Day. Whether by accident or design, it happily coincides with the original date of St Just Feast.

Way back in July 1336, Bishop Grandisson of Exeter decided to come on a pastoral visit to the westernmost region of his diocese. Accompanied by a large concourse of squires, knights and clergy, he visited St Just on July 13th, where he consecrated the newly-built church. This was celebrated annually for the next 200 years with great feasting and rejoicing. Alas! The powers-that-be twigged that the "St Justers" were far too preoccupied with their jollifications, to the detriment of the hay and corn harvests! Consequently, by a Government decree of 1536, no feasts were allowed between July 1st and September 29th, and so St Just Feast was transferred to the Sunday nearest to All Saints Day - October/November time. The present day celebrations are a mere shadow of the days that used to be. Back in the days of our parents and grandparents "S'n Joosters" regarded "Faistentide" as an occasion that took precedence over Christmas even, and no expense was spared in providing a "fitty maile's maite" for friends and family who came "home" specially from "furrin parts"! The three Sunday evenings preceding Feast were of special significance to eligible young men and maidens! This was back in the days when, after the

evening Services in chapels and church, members of the congregations, dressed in their finery, would go for a leisurely stroll up and down Lafrowda Terrace and Carrallack Terrace - the "Church Parade" - an important weekly social event. The third Sunday before Feast was "Winking Night", when the young men winked at a maiden or two, hoping that one of them might reciprocate! The next Sunday was "Choosing Night", when the chaps decided which young lady they would like to be their "Faisten Shiner". On the third Sunday, "Taking Night" - they plucked up enough courage to ask the young lady in question if they would like to take a walk, when it was usual to present them with a bag of "Fairings" - gingerbreads, macaroons and sugared almonds. Feast Sunday itself was a day when the Parish Church and the three Chapels were well attended by regulars and visitors alike. There were special preachers, and the respective choirs gave special musical renditions. One remembered well from childhood is "Lord I have loved the habitation of Thine House" - a hardy annual! For many years the St Buryan Male Voice Choir gave an after-service Sacred Concert in the Free Church. Feast Monday

saw the Market Square filled with onlookers who came to see the Opening Meet of the Western Hunt - a great opportunity to meet old friends and relations!. "My gar-Theree's our Janie! 'ow're doen' maid? I 'abb'n seed 'ee sence last Faist!" After the departure of the hounds, there were a great many "stannens" (stalls) to be patronised, all around the square, and miners' rock-drilling contests in the Plen-an-Gwary. Years ago, in Parson Reeves' time, there used to be a special service held in the church on Feast Monday Evening to remember the St Just men who had gone overseas to seek for work elsewhere. After a sumptuous lunch, which featured "Faist pudden" (which lay heavy in the stomach) many feasters made their way to the Wesleyan Sunday School in Cape Cornwall Street, where the Feast Bazaar was held. This was quite a prestigious occasion, opened by a noteworthy personality, and a guest soloist. The stalls were beautifully

decorated and there were long trestle tables covered with snow white cloths, laden with all manner of cakes and niceties, all waiting to be devoured by adults and children alike! The day was rounded off with a splendid concert in the Wesleyan Sunday School, by the Chapel Choir. For those who wished to continue the celebrations, there were the stalls, selling beer, tom-trat and fairings. Indeed, in earlier times, there was a fair with roundabouts, sideshows and shooting galleries. It goes without saying that the pubs were well patronised with much hearty singing and argy-bargy, sometimes ending in a punch-up outside, which my mother used to recall - "Used to be blood flyen' an we cheldern frightened to death!" St. Just is fortunate; there are two Feasts - The vibrant and colourful jollifications of Laffrowda Day in July and the more traditional celebrations in November when past Feasts are remembered with nostalgia and affection.



St Just from the Parish church

Lafrowda Festival



Every July St Just celebrates Lafrowda Festival

Bringing together the best of our town and a wider creative community.



numerous workshops from dancing to pop-up Plen, ending with Lafrowda Eve in Market Square and Lafrowda Day throughout the town. Only in Lafrowda can you find a film premiere, traditional story-telling and belly dancing. During the year, some special events have become well established in the town's diary and are well worth looking out for. The Christmas Ceilidh takes place on the evening of the Christmas Lights switch-

Thanks to the support of local businesses, the Town Council, small grants and a huge voluntary effort, the festival has become a highlight of the St. Just calendar. It all began in 1996 with the first Music Festival which was an initiative from the Town Council. The following year, young people from The Nancherrow Centre and the local schools became involved to provide additional entertainment on the Saturday, resulting in processions and live music. The idea took off and the festival went from strength to strength, and a theme for the year is decided on by the community in September. Some examples have been "Colours of the Rainbow", "Hysterical Histories" and "Elements". The festival is now nearly a year-round event with fundraising activities happening almost monthly from October to April, a whole fortnight of home-grown entertainment by local artists, musicians, choirs and drama groups, along with

on and the January Jumble Sale gives us all a great opportunity to clear out the wardrobes and cupboards. On Saturday evenings during February there is a lovely Film Festival, where Lafrowda has also earned its great cake reputation. The fortnight's events and workshops aim



to provide something for everyone. “Pop-Up Plen” immediately after school provides the opportunity for the young and not so



young to have-a-go at activities from space-hopper racing to cardboard castle building to street dance. Workshops are here making banners and bunting, withy images, wool-working, bell ringing and many more. Events regularly include a Lafrowda Show featuring plenty of local performers, Summer Ceilidh, and an abundance of dramatic, musical, and other events. Lafrowda Eve arrives and the local people turn out to enjoy the open-air bands in Market Square, and are then joined on Lafrowda Day by thousands more. There are 12 hours of live music, street entertainers, stalls, refreshments and spectacular processions. During the day, the Plen is our “Family Fun Day”, and children and young people play a big part in it all, be it through all the local schools participation, in the processions, performing in shows or on the stages, and by being there enjoying the fun. The music line-up ranges from funk to folk, dance to disco and everything in-between.

Above all, Lafrowda Day is renowned for its three magnificent processions. The children’s parade at noon, the big withy

images from the community workshops and schools at 3.30pm, and the magical lanterns after dark. Long after the fragile sculptures are gone, people still talk of the ‘year of the black dragon’ and ‘do you remember the tiger’. Teenagers recall how they once helped to paint the ‘yellow submarine’, and the old men will tell you they liked the ‘sea witch’ the best. Lafrowda Festival is an arts education charity. All the

banners, the street decorations and those amazing processional items are made in workshops run by the festival. Not only does the charity offer members of the community the chance to learn exciting new skills, but also involves many local artists. Lafrowda Day is always the third Saturday in July, and is the culmination of Festival Fortnight. To find out more, visit: www.lafrowda-festival.co.uk



St Just and Pendeen Old Cornwall Society

In the mid 1950s members of the St Just Toc H branch staged an exhibition of local artifacts in the church schoolroom. This was repeated the following year, this time in Arica House next to the Commercial Hotel in Market Square. These exhibitions created a great deal of interest in St Just and many local people were amazed at the amount of local history that had hitherto remained hidden away and forgotten in cupboards and drawers! It was decided that a branch of the Old Cornwall Society should be formed to preserve all these treasures for future generations.

The Toc H arranged a public meeting which was held in January 1960 in the British Legion Hall. Twenty people were present, the chair being taken by Mr Charles Hicks Webb (the Toc H chairman) along with officials from the Penzance, St Ives and Madron societies who explained the various activities and work of the Old Cornwall Societies.

Mrs Mary Cuddy was appointed as the first secretary, Mrs Helen Derrington the Recorder and the first meeting held on 9th February 1960 when Mr Bill North was elected the chairman and a committee formed. Meetings were first held in the Church Schoolrooms then in the W.I. Hall and latterly in the Day Centre on Fore Street.

Monthly meetings are held from January to May and from September to December when visiting speakers are invited. During the summer months, outdoor events including the Midsummer Bonfire and the Crying of the Neck take place together with a number of outings. Over the years the Society has amassed a vast collection of artefacts and items of local interest. These

are stored in the archives and are on display every year on Lafrowda Day.

The Midsummer Eve Bonfire is held annually on the 23rd of June when a number of beacons may be seen to blaze forth from hilltops scattered throughout the length and breadth of the county. These beacons comprise the chain of Midsummer Eve bonfires organised by local branches of The Old Cornwall Society. These celebrations going back to early pagan times are held just after the solstice to ask for a blessing on the crops.

In its early days the Christian church adapted these celebrations for their own purposes and the fires are now lit to celebrate the the Eve of St John the Baptist. The first of the chain is lit on Chapel Carn Brea by the Mayor of St Just, prayers are said in English and Cornish and the Lady of the Flowers casts a wreath of symbolic herbs both 'Good' and 'Bad' into the fire. This is followed by the hearty singing of Cornish songs as we remember our Celtic forebears who celebrated the splendour of high summer, with the sun at the peak of its power and glory!



Around the coast...

Hardly a single television programme featuring the coast of the British Isles goes by without a view of the iconic Crowns Mine houses perched precariously on the cliff base at Botallack; but our coastal strip has so much more to offer. From Portheras Beach in the east, site of the Alacrity wreck, to Gwenver in the west as we travel the South West Coastal Path passing Pendeen Lighthouse, Geevor and Levant Mines, Cape Cornwall and Cot Valley.

Portheras Beach and the Alacrity

Portheras, accessed by way of a picturesque walk from the end of Rose Valley, is one of the parish's hidden treasures with a unique history.

On the morning of Friday 13th September 1963 the MV Alacrity, a 454 ton coaster, ran aground at Portheras Cove. Owned by F T Everard & Sons, she was on route from Swansea to Brussels with a cargo of anthracite when the incident took place. Despite calm seas and the quick assistance of the Sennen Lifeboat, she suffered a hole to her keel and the sea flooded in. Over the next 24 hours a deterioration in weather conditions made all attempts to pump her out and re-float her impossible. Unable to be properly salvaged she broke her back, and bedded down in the sands. During the following years she began breaking up in the heavy seas and swells that are all too common in the cove.

The ship's hull became jagged and sharp

as she was honed by the waves, and many injuries occurred when unsuspecting swimmers and beachgoers came into contact with the pieces. The serious nature of these accidents began to raise fears amongst local people that eventually a fatality may occur. In 1980, two local schoolboys, Joth Chapman and Guy Stevens, wrote to HRH Prince Charles with a 268 name petition asking for his help to clear the wreck from the beach. As a consequence of their actions, a plan to remove the ship from the beach was formulated. In September 1981, in a two-week joint operation with the former Penwith District Council and The Duchy of Cornwall, she was spectacularly exploded by Royal Engineer Commandos and partially salvaged.



However, the legacy of the Alacrity still affects Portheras today. Despite many years of on-going salvage works funded by Penwith District Council, and (more recently) St Just - in - Penwith Town Council, fragments of her shattered body may still be



found in the cove. The Friends of Portheras Cove, a local voluntary community group, try to keep the beach litter-picked and clean for those who visit. They endeavour to remove the smaller pieces of the shipwreck when they are exposed by certain tidal conditions, but large sections of the ship still lurk beneath the sands, and can present a danger to the unwary when sand levels are low.

See: www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Portheras-Cove

Pendeen Lighthouse



The dramatic Pendeen Lighthouse complex is situated on the slate promontory of Pendeen Watch. The 17 metre lighthouse first came into service

in 1900 with the illumination provided by a 5 wick Argand lamp - a type of high efficiency oil lamp, finally succumbing to the march of time in 1926 when the first electric light was installed. The current 18,700 candela light has a range of 16 nautical miles.

The lighthouse was manned by three resident keepers up until May 3rd 1995 when the installation was fully automated, it now being controlled from the Trinity House Planning Centre in Harwich, Essex.

Geevor and Levant Tin Mines



From Pendeen Watch the path passes high past the rugged coastline until it drops to the wooden bridge that spans a stream emanating from Geevor Tin Mine inland. Much is written about Geevor elsewhere in this guide.

The area now is truly post-industrial with the remains of the Levant works; the four furnace entrances to the arsenic calciner prominent on the cliff side with its chimney to the west. The concrete piles just inland are all that remain of the 1920s processing mill constructed after the redevelopment of the mine after the 1919 man engine disaster.

Walking past the calciner the landscape is quite alien with the area covered in broken rock; debris from generations of mining activity. The path, strewn with small stones, requires that some care should be taken. Over the rise the partially restored Levant Tin Mine comes into view nestled in the cliff edge and, above, can be seen the remains of the miners' dry, a building where the miners were able to wash and dry their clothing after a shift, with a splendid stack and two interesting baths, testament to a more enlightened era.

The man engine shaft, site of the 1919 disaster is located just above the car



park and is accessible via a well lit and maintained tunnel in the corner of the dry. The mine is now in the custody of the National Trust and is open to the public with occasional steamings of the fully restored beam engine.



Botallack and the Crowns

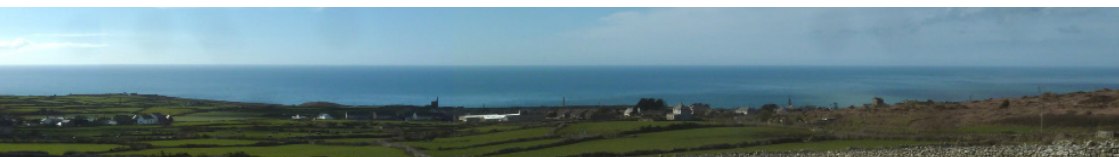
The Crowns engine houses are familiar to most people who visit the area being perched on a rocky promontary at the base of the cliff. Above, the landscape is covered with a plethora of constructions from more than 300 years of mining activity, although, most that can be seen were from the later phase at the mid to end of the 19th Century and later. Visible inland, the modern headgear is on Allen's Shaft and was erected in the mid 1980s just prior to the collapse of the International Tin Council and the end of mining in this area.

The concrete works are the remains of Californian stamps and 'Buddles' where ore was crushed, and a partially restored Arsenic calciner, a smaller version of that obliterated at Levant Mine, can be explored. Adjacent to the stamps the lone wall with the large window is all that remains of the

power room where electrical equipment was housed powering the last phase of operations at Botallack. To the west are the



engine houses of West Wheal Owles and Wheal Edward perhaps familiar as 'Wheal Leisure' in the 2015 BBC production of Winston Graham's Poldark series of novels. Further inland, Manor Farm at Botallack was the setting for the original 1970s production and its spin off Rosslyn.



Porthledden

To the north of Cape Cornwall is Porthledden a boulder strewn and rocky cove overlooked on its northern side by Kenidjack Castle where the remains of a First World War rifle range are visible. Flowing into Porthledden is the stream that flows through Kenidjack Valley at the end of which can be seen the housing of a massive waterwheel. The wheel was fed from a mill race fed by Pipers Pool a little further up the valley. The other structure, above the waterwheel, is all that is left of another calciner.

Porthledden is often the haunt of some of the local seal population seen playing in the surf.

Cape Cornwall

The magnificent Cape Cornwall dominates the St Just coastline. A "cape" is a promontory that stands at the meeting of oceans or channels. Ancient navigators believed that Cape Cornwall was "Land's End" and that it marked the division between the English Channel and St Georges Channel. The cape was bought for the nation by H J Heinz Ltd in 1987 and was

then presented to the National Trust to mark the company's centenary. The mine stack that crowns the cape was part of the 19th century Cape Cornwall Mine. Priest Cove lies to south of the cape. It has a pleasant boulder beach at low tide and small boats still work from the cove. To the seaward side of the cape is found the original Coastguard lookout now occupied by the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) a voluntary organisation maintaining a visual watch along Britain's shores.

In 1996, the NCI station was established in the old HM Coastguard Station that had closed down in 1981. NCI Cape Cornwall is the most westerly station in the United Kingdom and is situated 130 feet above sea level, maintaining a watch from Wolf Rock Lighthouse to the south, through the Isles of Scilly and Sevenstones Reef to the west and north to the Bann Shoal Buoy - covering over 200 square miles of sea and coastal paths.

This area includes one of the UK's busiest shipping lanes and in 2015 watchkeepers logged over 11,000 vessels ranging in size from large cargo ships to small cove boats and kayaks. On several occasions N.C.I.

- Cape Cornwall has worked with the Lifeboat Service and Royal Navy Air-Sea Rescue



to recover casualties and as a result Cape Cornwall has been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

Sightings of wildlife are also recorded and these include frequent visitors such as Basking Sharks, dolphins, Puffins, Gannets and other gulls, along with rarer sightings of Minky Whales and Sunfish. There is a resident Grey Seal below the lookout and don't forget the famous Cornish Choughs which are frequent visitors to the area. The NCI station is open 365 days a year from 8am to 5pm (4pm in the winter) and visitors are welcome.

More information is available on the NCI website www.nci.org.uk.

Cape Cornwall is included in the coastal walk described in this guide, but it can also be reached by signposted road from St Just and there is a car park and toilets.

example of a raised beach, the source of the storm boulders, and dating back some 120,000 years (The Pleistocene) when sea levels were much higher.

....and on to Gwenver

From Cot Valley the coast is rugged and in places steep with some interesting promontories, passing, near Cot some interesting mine workings in the edge of the cliff. Another fine example of a raised beach is seen at Maen Dower, only accessible from the Coastal Path. At the end of the Nanquidno Valley is Nanquidno, or alternatively Nanjulian beach, a long stoney stretch with rarely any sand.



Travelling west is found Aire Point the last outcrop before Gwenver and a point favoured by fishermen; it defines the start of the Site of Special Scientific Interest which stretches from here to Carrick Du near St Ives.

Gwenver is one of the local favorite surfing beaches, patrolled by lifeguards in season, although, as can be seen from the picture below, surfs not always up!



Carn Gloucester and Cot Valley



Above Cape Cornwall to the south is the outcrop of Carn Gloucester commanding magnificent views of the cape and the Brisons. Beyond Carn Gloucester the land drops into Cot Valley and Porth Nanven (although the locals call it Cot) beach. The beach is covered with storm boulders, mainly of granite, some of which were controversially removed some years ago to form part of a sculpture. The crumbling cliff is a fine

...a view into the past

an archeological summary of the area

In common with much of the rest of West Penwith, the St Just area contains some of the best-preserved early archaeological sites to be found anywhere in Cornwall. Ancient boundaries divide the coastal plain, cliff castles and cairns which have stood here for thousands of years dot the coast, whilst up on the moorland there are the stone circles, quoits and hillforts which speak of a long, ancient and mysterious history. But St Just is different from the rest of West Cornwall, and the reason why is immediately apparent when entering the area from any direction - ruined engine houses, Methodist chapels or mine headframes are rarely out of view, the fields everywhere are dotted with overgrown spoil mounds marking the sites of abandoned mine shafts, whilst

the terraces and chapels of St Just and its surrounding villages are more reminiscent of parts of the industrial north than of much of the rest of Cornwall.

By the end of the Roman period, West Penwith was essentially still Celtic in character. New trading links had been established, Cornish men had been exploring its tin lodes for over 2000 years and sufficient peace and order had been established for its defensible rounds and courtyard houses to be abandoned and replaced by open farmsteads whose names often begin with the prefix "Bos" (or Bod or Bot) or "Tre", whose foundations mostly lie under modern farmyards. Throughout the 5th and 6th centuries AD (the "Age of the Saints") missionaries from Ireland,



West Wheal Owles and Wheal Edward Engine Houses

Wales and Brittany established chapels and oratories at places like Cape Cornwall, Christianised pagan holy wells and established the first churches, like that at St Just (Lafrowda).

West Penwith never fell under Saxon control during the following centuries, remaining staunchly different from much of the rest of England, but after 1066 all land was



Levant Mine

annexed by the conquering Normans, the Domesday Book recording the seizing of Kelynack Manor from Godric, its former owner, by Richard, Count of Mortain and brother of William the Conqueror.

Farming and fishing continued to be the mainstays of a thriving economy during the medieval period and the population once again began to expand. Farmers seeking new land had to create fields on the thin soils of Chûn Downs and Dry Tree Common near Woon Gumpus, but the Black Death during the mid-14th century reduced the local population by perhaps a third, and these poor fields were abandoned, never to be worked again.

Many fields laid out a thousand years before remained under the plough, having become fringed with massive banks of stone and piles of cleared stone which had become impossible to remove without enormous effort, a situation which, by and large, still

applies today. In the more fertile land near the settlements, the banks were laboriously torn down to create large communal fields, whose subdivisions are still echoed by the long, narrow shapes of the fields to the east of Truthwall. These medieval fields were worked by families living in the clustered groups of farmsteads which became characteristic of West Penwith and which have developed into modern settlements like Kenidjack or Carnyorth, whilst the tracks which connected these farms to one another or which ran out to the fields, cliff and moor have now become modern roads, lanes and paths.

St Just, though little more than a parish church surrounded by farmsteads with a nearby open-air theatre or *Plen an Gwary* (where religious plays were performed) developed into the social and economic hub of the newly-created parish. Many of the roads linking this to neighbouring parish churches were marked by wayside crosses, some of which still survive. During this period, however, mining began to make an increasingly important contribution to the local economy and was the basis of the fortunes of the landowners who built the impressive manor houses at Pendeen and Botallack. By the early 16th century, tanners had already worked out the stream tin deposits laid down by post-glacial melt water in the valley bottoms and had turned their attention to the north-west of St Just where an abundance of mineral lodes outcropped on the cliffs and up onto the moors inland. Documents tell us that miners were already working the cliffs at Botallack for tin and copper by the time of Elizabeth I. Virtually every lode along this coast was worked by adits driven inland from the cliffs during this period or workings excavated on the lode outcrops inland. To the south of the Cot Valley or under Botallack Cliffs the scale

and number of these early workings can be appreciated in safety from the coast path, whilst inland, the hundreds of small shafts and dumps covering the slopes of Trewellard Hill or those under the gorse on Ballowall Common give an impression of just how extensive the tin mines of this period were. But it was the development of copper mines during the early decades of the 19th century which was to bring the most radical change to the landscape of the parish. The development of steam power and gunpowder for blasting allowed miners to often follow rich lodes deep under the seabed. The thousands of men who flocked to the St Just area to work in new and rapidly-expanding mines like Levant, Wheal Owles, Balleswidden or Botallack quickly discovered that they had nowhere to live, for until this time St Just had been an agricultural parish, and the settlements in the parish were little more than clusters of farmsteads.

Although some established smallholdings in empty cliffland, rows of granite cottages were quickly built everywhere throughout the parish for the majority, new villages like Pendeen, Trewellard, Carnyorth, Botallack and Truthwall being constructed almost overnight, whilst St Just grew rapidly into a thriving small town. Shops, pubs, non-conformist chapels, institutes and banks were established around its medieval heart, whilst along and between the new roads laid out across the downland to its west and south, terrace after terrace of two-storey cottages were built to house the new industrial workforce.

To the north of the town, the establishment of the Holman's iron foundry in the Tregeseal Valley spurred yet more building, whilst established farming settlements like Kenidjack became crammed with miners

and their families. The area's increasingly busy roads were soon improved so that they could carry thousands of tons of coal, tin and copper ore, timber, mine machinery and other materials. The fishery at Priest's Cove was thriving, and local farmers and smallholders were carving out new fields from the moorland to grow food for miners and their families. Smoke from dozens of mine chimneys filled the air, the thundering of the tin stamps never stopped and local streams ran red with tin slimes. The parish was busier than at any other time in its long history.

However this boom was surprisingly short-lived. By the mid-1860s the copper price was falling rapidly in the face of foreign competition and local mines were fast becoming uneconomic. Large-scale lay-offs were inevitable and men soon began to emigrate to mining fields overseas. The population of the parish, less than 1000 at the end of the 18th century, had risen to over 15,000 in 1861, but crashed to less than half of that almost overnight and took nearly a century to recover. For twenty years, large mines like Botallack and Levant continued to exploit their tin lodes, staving off the wholesale depopulation of the parish, but by the late 1880s even these giants of the Cornish mining industry were on their knees. By the end of the 19th century mining had ceased almost completely in St Just, Levant being the only mine of any size still at work. Although many miners' cottages fell into rack and ruin, St Just had become a busy parish town and survived this potentially ruinous downturn in the local economy.

The development of a new mine at Geevor in the early years of the 20th century was welcome, and its success throughout the following eight decades helped greatly

to sustain the local economy. Over the years, the mine took over long-abandoned workings at Boscaswell and Levant and plans were in hand to expand into Botallack and the mines to its south, but the disastrous and unexpected crash in world tin prices in October 1985 spelt the end for local mining. Geevor finally closed in 1990, over 400 men were laid off and many local businesses were forced to close. Things looked very bleak for St. Just but the area has always proved itself capable of surviving economic catastrophe and is once again on the up. The inclusion of St. Just within the West Penwith Environmentally Sensitive Area helped farmers to make a living in difficult times without having to farm intensively, whilst the management of much coastal land by the National Trust has ensured the conservation of most of the industrial ruins in the area, in some cases only just before their final collapse.

Our spectacular coast, whose rugged cliffs are dotted with ruined engine houses and chimneys, has long been popular with walkers and artists, and if the recent Poldark TV series has made the area a magnet for visitors from far and wide, keen to walk in the footsteps of Ross and Demelza, they can also experience one of Cornwall's last beam engines still working under steam power at Levant or discover what mining was really like at Geevor: west Cornwall's last working mine.

St. Just's archaeological heritage is now internationally recognised, given that it is a key area of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site, inscribed in 2006, but those who live here know that its real importance is the enduring connection between its people and the land they and their ancestors have worked for thousands of years. If you want to understand the history of the St. Just landscape, go out and explore it. You won't be disappointed.



World heritage site

The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape - a UNESCO World Heritage Site

July 2006 saw the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (Cornish Mining) officially added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. This prestigious award is only bestowed on cultural and natural landscapes which are deemed to be of the highest international significance and which demonstrate "Outstanding Universal Value". Select mining landscapes in Cornwall and West Devon now join other renowned international sites including Stonehenge, the Taj Mahal, and the Great Wall of China. The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape is a serial World Heritage Site comprising ten discrete but thematically linked areas from Cape Cornwall in the west to Tavistock in the east. These represent the best surviving landscapes created or influenced by deep-lode mining for principally copper and tin between 1700 and 1914.

THE INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MINING LANDSCAPE

Much of the landscape of Cornwall and West Devon was transformed in the 18th and early 19th centuries as a result of the rapid and pioneering growth of deep lode copper and tin mining. Its underground mines, engine houses, foundries, new towns, smallholdings, ports, harbours and ancillary industries together reflect prolific innovation which, in the early 19th century, enabled the region to produce two-thirds of the world's supply of copper. During



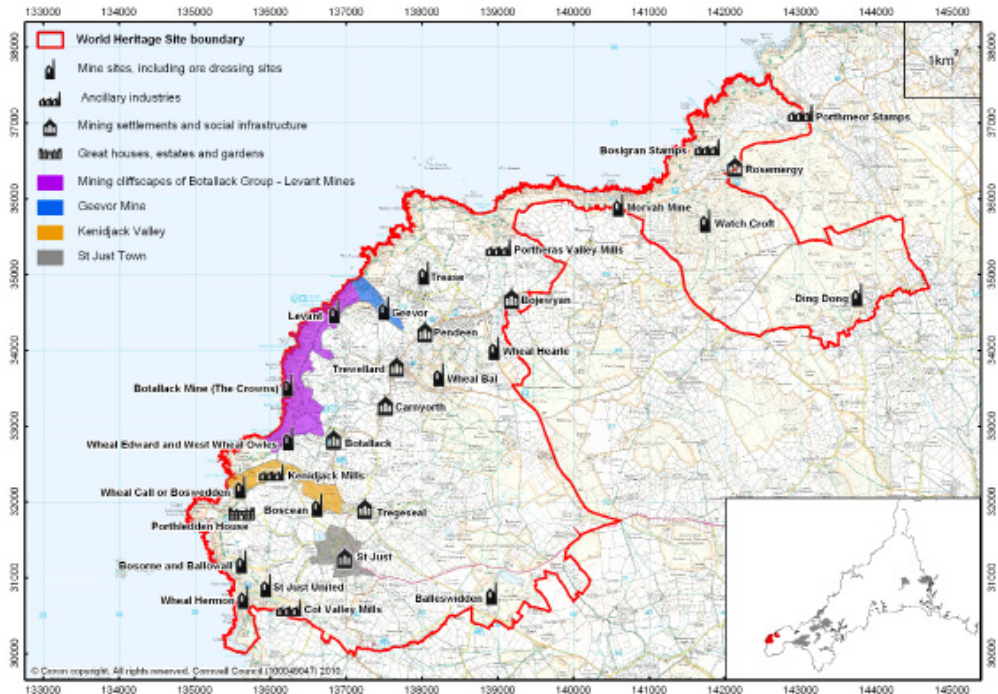
the late 1800s, arsenic production came into ascendancy with mines in the east of Cornwall and West Devon supplying half the world's demand. The substantial derelict landscape created during this explosive period of industrialisation is a testimony to the contribution Cornwall and West Devon made to the industrial revolution in the rest of Britain and to the fundamental influence the region had on the mining world at large. Cornish technology embodied in engines, engine houses and mining techniques and equipment was exported around the world; Cornwall and West Devon lay at the heartland of a global mining economy. Commencing in the early 1800s, significant numbers of mine workers migrated to live and work in mining communities based on Cornish traditions, this flow reaching its zenith at the end of the 19th century. Numerous migrant descended Cornish communities flourish around the world and distinctive Cornish-design engine houses can be seen in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico, the British Virgin Islands, Spain, and in the mining fields of England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

THE ST JUST MINING DISTRICT

The mining district around St Just is the most westerly area of the World Heritage Site and features outstanding mines including Botallack, Levant and Geevor. These mines located along the north-westerly edge of the Penwith peninsula exploited north-trending mineral lodes principally for tin and all had submarine development; their respective levels and stopes finally reaching out under the Atlantic Ocean for around 1.5km. The World Heritage Site totals some 2,671 hectares in the St Just area alone with the inscribed landscape

extending inland to include the Carnyorth, Botallack and Truthwall commons in the south and Ding Dong Mine in the north. The area also has other distinctive mining heritage in the form of towns and villages including St Just, Pendeen and Botallack which developed largely due to the influence of hard-rock mining. Mine workers' rows, terraces and Methodist chapels are readily recognisable features of these historic settlements and are testament to the wealth created through mining development.





St Just mining district

Further information about the World Heritage Site and industrial heritage in general in Cornwall can be obtained from Cornwall & Scilly Historic Environment Record. Details can also be found @ <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=2986>

Based upon Ordnance Survey material by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 100050011



Submarine mines of the St Just district

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY
THE ST JUST MINES RESEARCH
GROUP

There is evidence that tin has been continuously taken from the ground around St Just in the far West of Cornwall, from prehistoric times until the end of production at Geevor mine at Pendeen in 1990. A significant number of these extended beneath the seabed. These are shown in blue. The geology of the area comprises slate (killas) and greenstone intruded by granite 280 million years ago. Granite caused the deposition of tin and copper ores in near-vertical fractures known as veins. These veins when mined were known as lodes. Over 150 named minerals have been found in the mines of the area, including Botallackite, a unique mineral discovered at Wheal Cock in 1865. For more information on Sub mines of the St Just district visit www.tinmining.co.uk



St Just mining district continued...

The St Just mining district covers all of St Just parish and includes the coast mines of Morvah and Zennor and the inland workings of Sancreed.

The district is important in the annals of mining and its history mirrors that of Cornish mining in general. Although there is no conclusive evidence, mining is believed to have begun here between 2000 and 1000 BC. According to Roman literature, tin was an important commodity on the Continent from 1000 BC onwards, and the tin trade was probably in progress at this time. Pythaeas of Marsila (copied by Diodorus Siculus and Pliny the Elder) records extractive operations, which probably include underground workings, from about 440 BC. There is also archaeological evidence, in the form of smelted tin and copper, from late Bronze Age sites of about this date within the area (the hill forts of

Chûn and Kenidjack Castles). Cornwall appears to have held the tin trade monopoly at this time, with tin taken from St Michael's Mount across to the Loire estuary and then to the western Mediterranean via the Rhone Valley.

While the first workings are likely to have been streaming operations it is probable that shallow underground workings were taking place in very early times. It is generally considered that the St Just district is where cliff mining first developed in south-west England, helped by the large number of lodes (possibly more than anywhere else in the world) which cross the coast nearly at right angles. A drainage level driven into the cliffs at sea level will drain over 300 feet of ground above it in this district. The only other places in Cornwall where cliff mining may have taken place are at St. Agnes, Perranporth and St Austell



Wheal Edward and West Wheal Owles

St Just mining district continued...

Bay, however, the lodes here don't cross the coast at right angles.

Deep mining inland didn't really start until the 15th century because of the need to pump workings which were beyond the reach of coastal adits and workings. However, the workings in this district, particularly the coastal mines, tended to be much drier than those in eastern districts and as a consequence, engine sizes were smaller than the average. The first steam pumping engine appears to have been installed at Carnyorth Mine in about 1805, however, these "fire" engines were still comparatively rare in the 1830's. With the advent of deeper mining, other metals, particularly copper, became important. However, the St Just district was the second largest tin producer in Cornwall. Arsenic and small amounts of iron and uranium ores have also been produced in St Just. Other ores produced by Cornish mines include arsenic, tungsten, lead, zinc, silver, bismuth, cobalt and nickel as well as fluorspar.

Little is known of the early mining operations. John Norden writing in about 1590, mentions only three: Boseighan (Boscean), Ball-u-hall (Bollowall, later part of St Just United) and Carnmeal Ball (probably Wheal Bal). Botallack, he described as "a little hamlet on the coaste of the Irishe sea, most visited with tinnners, where they lodge and feede, being nere theyre mynes". Clearly more than three were operating at the time.

There is an almost unbroken run of coastal mines from south of Cape Cornwall to Morvah, just to the north of the parish, then on through Zennor to St Ives and Lelant. The most southerly mine is the optimistically

named South Levant which operated in the 1850's. A decade later it was called St Just Consols, while in the 1870's it was called the South St Just Mining Company. To the north, are the early 19th century workings of Wheal Bull and South Wheal Rose, while Wheal Hermon, at the end of the Cot Valley, is known to have been working in the 1600's. On the north side of the valley can be seen numerous shafts and tips. Mining here was taking place in the 1500's, and by the late 1700's some ten or so operations were working. Later amalgamations caused the formation of larger operations such as Bosorne and Bollowall and St Just United. Operations in this area continued until 1946. The Kenidjack Valley extends inland from just north of Cape Cornwall and this runs through Boswedden Mine, Boscean Mine, Wheal Grouse and East Boscean. On the north side can be seen the engine house of Wheal Drea, standing guard over the hamlet of Kenidjack. Mining in the valley was certainly being carried out in the middle 1700's, and probably goes back at least a century further. Further east, at Tregeseal, was the site of Holman's Foundry, which supplied the mines with metal equipment from engines to wagons. Back on the coast we pass over Wheal Castle. The large quarries here date from the early 20th century, however, ancient mine tunnels can be seen in a couple of places. Above North Zawn can be seen Kenidjack Cliff Castle, while the zawn itself was where sailing ships came in to be loaded with stone. To the east we come to the first of the famous St Just mines, Wheal Owles. The first engine house operated the Wheal Edward stamps, while the fragmentary structure to the right

of the footpath was a winding engine. The next engine house is the Cargodna (or West Wheal Owles) pumping engine. All work at Wheal Owles stopped in January 1893 when miners at the 65 fathom level broke into the flooded workings of Wheal Drea - twenty of the men died and are still in the mine. Past Cargodna we come to the 19th and 20th Century remains of the great Botallack Mine. John Norden hints of operations here in the late 1500's, and mining was being carried out in various parts of the sett by the middle 1700's; much of the tin was worked out above sea-level by the early 1800's. The main attraction here is, of course, the Crowns engine houses. The first engine was erected at the Crowns in 1814, and replaced with a large engine in about 1835. This work required the complete rebuilding of the engine house. Bearing in mind that the metalwork of the engine itself weighed about 80 tons, while the building probably contains nearly a thousand tons of rock, the size of the engineering

achievement to put it here becomes more obvious. The higher of the two engine houses was built in 1862 to service the Boscawen Diagonal Shaft which extends out to sea for some 900 yards. Botallack closed in 1895. In 1906 it reopened unsuccessfully and closed again in January 1914. To the north of Botallack, and just inland, can be seen the remains of Spearn Consols. Previously worked as two separate entities, Spearn Moor and Spearn Consols, amalgamation became necessary to reduce working costs. In the early 1800's both mines, despite their small size, were extremely rich and gave regular dividends. Overlooking the cottages here, can be seen the winding engine of "Higher Bal", originally part of Spearn Consols but later acquired by



Levant. The main Levant workings lie on the coast, stretching from Levant Zawn almost to Geevor. At Levant is a restored 24-inch cylinder steam winding engine, which was about 100 years old when saved from being scrapped in the 1930's. This mine saw the greatest single loss of life, in 1919, 32 men were killed when the main rod of the "man-engine" broke whilst 150 men were being brought up from below. This mine closed in 1932, having worked almost without interruption since 1820.

Geevor Mine commenced operations in 1906 and was the last mine to work in the district, closing in 1990. It developed from North Levant and Wheal Geevor, the name of the latter coming from the Cornish stennack an geveor: goat's tin ground, the Geevor Goat. Geevor took over Levant on the closure of the latter and attempted to rework Botallack during the 1980's. Another mine absorbed by Geevor is Boscaswell United, between Pendeen and the sea. Little remains of this mine, although the small 20th century mill can be found beneath its cover of brambles and gorse. The most northerly mine in the parish is Pendeen Consols, however, virtually nothing can now be seen; the main shaft formerly lay just to the north of Pendeen lighthouse. Inland many surface workings can be seen from the small but formerly important mines to the north of Trewellard. Further south, to the east of St Just, lies Balleswidden Mine, which worked until 1875. Few mining remains can now be seen here, partly due to the presence of china clay operations. Clay was worked here from 1875, the original supply coming from the waste tips of Balleswidden. Clay works sprang up here

between 1880 and about 1910 and worked again in the 1920's and 30's. In the 1960's a new operation, South Bostraze, opened, however, this is now abandoned. In addition to the above mines, several hundred other operations, some dating back to medieval times, are also shown.

With what appears to be the final decline of Cornish mining, efforts are being made to preserve what is left of Cornwall's mining heritage. In the St Just district this includes the restoration of the Levant winding engine and its house and the conversion of Geevor Mine into a heritage site.

Geevor tin mine

Early mining in Cornwall is not well recorded. The first mention of 'Geevor' in writing dates from 1716: mining was well established by then and ore was being supplied to smelting works by small mines on the site – 'Wheal Giver', 'Wheal Stennack' and, later, 'Wheal Mexico', which is visited on the mine tour.

In 1911, Geevor Tin Mines Limited was formed. The mine, at that time was served mainly by the Weathered Shaft (named after the then chairman of the company), on which sinking had started around 1910, with ore also being obtained from the neighbouring Wheal Carne shaft and workings to the east.

The future of the mine lay in the ore reserves to the west. A new shaft near to the mill was planned and was completed after the First World War. This was named Victory Shaft and was to be the main production shaft of the mine.

The series of lodes worked at the Victory section of the mine had been fully developed by the 1960s, and in order to continue production further reserves

had to be found, and so the old mines adjoining the property were investigated. During this period, at Levant Mine it was discovered that a breach had occurred from the seabed into the upper levels of the mine after its closure in 1930. It was, therefore, obvious that the reopening of this mine would pose considerable difficulties; however these were overcome and Levant was dewatered.

This expansion programme also included the development of the sub-incline shaft from Victory Shaft so that, once again, ore was being won from under the sea.

In October 1985 the sudden fall in the price of tin resulted in the 'Tin Crisis'. The price for metallic tin plummeted from £10,000 per tonne to £3,400. Without financial assistance no Cornish tin producer could survive. In April 1986, in a blaze of publicity, protest and emotion, Geevor Tin Mine closed.

On February 16th 1990 Geevor went into a 'Care and Maintenance' programme with only a skeleton staff and all the

miners were laid off. More months of agony and indecision followed as the surface plant that represented so much to those that felt deeply about the old mine was sold or cut up for scrap. Valuable machines were destroyed, buildings were neglected to the point of ruin and the entire site assumed an air of doom and depression. At this stage Cornwall County Council stepped in and made the wise decision to purchase the site. Many people, locally, believed that the mine could be developed into a Mining Heritage Centre which would eventually create jobs in a



very depressed area.

The work of adapting the old mine office and creating the museum was done by a group of volunteers, mostly ex Geevor employees, who worked throughout the winter of 1992/3 with no heating or mains power with a dogged determination to 'make it happen'.

Geevor Tin Mine Heritage Centre opened in August 1993. Since then much

work has happened on the site resulting in Geevor Tin Mine now being one of the top industrial attractions in the United Kingdom, with ambitious plans in hand for further expansions to the visitor experience.

Parts of Cornwall and Devon mining areas were awarded World Heritage Status in 2006 and Geevor is the gateway site for the St Just Mining District. October 2008

saw the completion of a £3.8 million Heritage Lottery Fund project to consolidate and re-roof much of the site and build a brand new museum called Hard Rock. Geevor Tin Mine Museum also has a well stocked gift shop and a café with spectacular sea views. For further information please visit www.geevor.com

Balleswidden and the clay works

Approaching St Just from Penzance the first glimpses of the town and the sweeping view of the Land's End peninsula come as you are surrounded by the remains of the Leswidden clay works and, to the front, the lone stack of Balleswidden Mine.

Balleswiddeen (Leswidden Mine) started production in 1832 and produced tin from five lodes (seams of ore) until the collapse of the tin price in 1872 which caused the mine to close in January 1873. According to a survey of mines at the time it ran five steam engines, two waterwheels and six horse whims.

The meaning of Leswidden is White Manor or even White Mud a clue perhaps to what was under the ground.



English China Clays. In the 1960s a new works was opened in South Bostraze on the opposite side of the

From 1875 clay was extracted, initially, from the waste tips of the tin mine but later from the large open cast works visible today. The works were originally owned by McClaren China Clays (the houses to the north of the road are named McClaren Villas) but were sold to H D Pochin and Co which later became part of

road and this was worked to some degree until the early 1990s. It has laterly been used as a waste and recycling site. The derelict concrete structures are the remains of the dries and slurry tanks used in the reclamation of the china clay.



Ancient sites in and around St Just and Pendeen

St Just and Pendeen lie between the coast and the moors, an area that contains a high proportion of ancient sites and megalithic monuments. To the south of the town, beside the B3306 road to Sennen and Land's End, stands **Chapel Carn Brea** (SW386 281), accessible from a side road running east of the B3306 near the Airport. There is parking at the foot of the hill and a short steepish walk to the top. From the top of this hill, sometimes called "the first and last hill", there is a glorious 360° vista over sea and moor, reputedly the widest sea view in all of Cornwall. Here, there are the remains of an entrance grave or chambered tomb set into the side of a scattered heap of stones that lie on the right-hand side of the path near the summit. This heap of stones is all that remains of a Neolithic/Bronze Age barrow (3000-2000 BC), originally 4.6 metres in height and 19 metres across. In the 13th century a small hermitage chapel, dedicated to St Michael, was built on the top of the cairn, where a beacon was kept burning by hermits to guide travellers and seafarers. This chapel gradually deteriorated over the years, until finally it was demolished in 1816. During World War II, the military built a radar post on the cairn, causing further destruction, so that only the heap of stones and the small entrance grave remain. The site is the location for the traditional Midsummer Bonfire, a popular community occasion that occurs on the eve of St John's Day (June 23rd) each year. Returning along the B3306 towards St Just, a turning on the left just past the Airport

leads down to Nanjulian Cove. Before the end of the road, at the entrance to Nanquidno Farm, lies a fine **Celtic Cross** in the hedge (SW364 291). Two other **Celtic Crosses**, which date from the early Christian period (6th-8th century AD) may be found in St Just Churchyard (SW372 315), while inside the Church is the Selus Stone, engraved with a Chi-Rho carving and the words *Selvus Iciacit* ("Selus Lies Here"). Another early Christian site may be found in a field opposite the car park at Cape Cornwall, reached by the road running west from the Clock Tower in the centre of St Just. Cape Cornwall was formerly considered the "Land's End" of Britain in earlier times, and here the early Celtic saints from Ireland and Wales may have landed, of which it has been said there were more in Cornwall than in heaven! One of these early visitors built a small chapel or oratory, **St Helen's Chapel** (SW351 319) the remains of which can be seen in the field overlooking the wild Atlantic Ocean.

Returning towards St Just, a road leads south from this Cape Cornwall road that is signposted to "Carn Gluze". At the end of this narrow, twisty road there are magnificent views south to Sennen Cove and north to Cape Cornwall. Park at the end and walk back about a quarter of a mile, and on the right-hand side of the road lies the remains of **Ballowall Barrow** (SW356 312). This is a large chambered cairn, 11 metres diameter and three metres high, which dates from the Neolithic period (approx. 3500 BC), and consists of a large central dome (now unroofed), side cist chambers, and a small

Ancient sites continued....

entrance grave on the west side overlooking the sea. Burial remains and urns were found in the cist chambers when the site was excavated in 1878, so it was evidently an important burial site of our Neolithic ancestors. Legends speak of little people (fairies) dancing around the barrow on moonlit nights, perhaps a memory of the spirits of the dead.

Back in St Just, the central ancient feature in the town is the medieval **Plen-an-Gwary** or Playing Place (SW370 314), an amphitheatre that lies behind the Clock Tower. There were originally six rows of seats cut into the banks, from where people would watch the Cornish miracle plays. Stones with holes drilled in them can still be seen in the Plen, a reminder of miners' drilling competitions in the 19th century. Events still take place in the Plen, such as theatre and music performances. Taking the B3306 road from St Just towards St Ives, at the bottom of the first hill

(Nancherrow Hill) out of St Just is a turn to the right leading to Tregeseal. After a few yards the road divides, the right-hand fork going to join the St Just-Penzance road, while the left-hand fork follows a narrow trail until it ends beside a sign pointing to Tregeseal Stone Circle. Here there is room for two cars to park. About a quarter of a mile back along this narrow road there is a field to the north that contains the remains of **Tregeseal Chambered Cairn** (SW380 321), though this lies in a private field and is not easy to find. However, from the sign a half mile walk on foot on to the moors leads to a right-hand path where lies **Tregeseal Stone Circle** (SW387 324), a fine Bronze Age stone circle, consisting of 19 standing stones in a circle, making a 70ft diameter. There was

formerly one, or possibly two, other circles here, but no trace now remains of these. To the north lies the dramatic rocky outcrop of Carn Kenidjack, and a short walk towards it leads to a small, rough overgrown path on the right. This runs beside the remains of two Bronze Age barrows to a line of enigmatic **Holed Stones** (SW390 325). There is a straight line of three holed stones, one fallen and broken, another to the NW, and another



on the hill slope above, to the NE. All stones are about a metre tall, and their purpose is unknown, though, it is thought they may have been used for astronomical sightings or ritual healing purposes.

Returning to the main B3306 road, it continues for about a mile until it reaches Pendeen. At Boscawell Stores take the turning to the left that runs straight down to the bottom where there is parking. From this parking area walk westwards for a few yards towards the Geevor Mine complex, and beside some houses will be found the holy well **Lower Boscawell** (SW376 348). This is a rectangular structure with several steps leading down, and formerly had a chapel standing nearby. It was famed for its leeches, which were collected here and used

in healing.

Back on the main B3306 road, continue for about a quarter of a mile and Portherras Cross will be reached. At this crossroads, both the right and left-hand turns lead to ancient sites. To the left, or north, the road goes down to Pendeen Watch Lighthouse. However, before reaching the lighthouse, a turning to the right leads to Manor Farm, where informal parking may be made and cream teas obtained in the summer. Behind the farm, through a very muddy cow byre, lies the well-preserved **Pendeen Fogou** (SW383 355). A torch is necessary to explore this site, which dates from the Iron Age (500 BC - 500 AD), and consists of a steep entrance leading down to an underground passage, which after eight metres bears sharply left for another eight metres. At this junction there lies another rab-cut chamber only about one and a half metres high which runs for about seven metres further underground. This passage is accessible, but only on hands and knees! The whole site is very mysterious, and although various explanations have been offered, current thinking is that it was used for some ritual or ceremonial purpose. It is no place for anyone with claustrophobia, and it may also not be a good idea to visit it on Christmas morning, since a legend says that a woman will appear then, dressed in white with a red rose in her mouth, who portends death to anyone who sees her! This may be a folk memory of winter solstice rituals performed at the fogou, in connection with the Goddess and spirits of the dead ancestors.

Returning to Portherras Cross, the B3318 road straight ahead going to the south, runs over the Penwith

Moors. About half a mile up this road is a small lay-by on the left-hand side, and from here a permissive path leads onto the moors and up to **Chûn Quoit** (SW402 340), a Neolithic Chambered Tomb (approx. 3500 BC). Prominent on the skyline, it resembles a giant mushroom, and close up it may be seen to consist of a closed chamber formed by four great slabs, one and a half metres high, leaning in and supporting a huge capstone, 3.7 metres square. The whole dramatic structure was probably originally enclosed within a barrow, and was one of the earliest monuments built by our ancestors, who may have used it for depositing the bones of the dead and performing ceremonies to connect with the spirits. Nearby, at the highest point on this part of the moor, lies the remains of **Chûn Castle** (SW405 340), which dates from the Iron Age, some 3000 or so years later, and may have been a seasonal defensive or gathering place. This large structure was 85 metres in diameter with thick (2 metre) outside walls, and even thicker (4.6 metre) inside walls. Together, these two monuments, the Quoit and the Castle, stand lonely and stark, looking over the West Penwith Moors, down to Pendeen and across to St Just, a reminder of how the land was occupied, farmed and lived in all those thousands of years ago.





If you come across any damage or vandalism at any of the ancient sites please report it to the Cornish Ancient Sites Protection Network, either by telephone 01736 787186 or 01736 787522 or by email to secretary@cornishancientsites.com

For more information about local sites please visit the website www.cornishancientsites.com

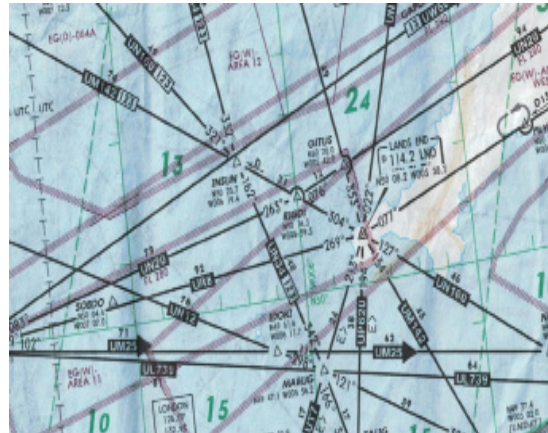
...and a not so ancient site...

When travelling along the North Road to Pendeen many's the dad - or mum that's been posed the question "What's the flying saucer on the hill up there?"

What they are referring to is the large circular aircraft navigation beacon on the brow of the hill to the east of the road.

To give it it's full title it is a VOR (VHF Omnidirectional Range) DME (Distance Measuring Equipment) station and is still used by aircraft approaching the land to fix their position.

This station has the call sign LND (for Land's End)



Circular walks and maps

PENDEEN CARN

A pleasant stroll over Pendeen Carn giving spectacular views of the north coast.

Distance: 1.5 miles. Time: 40 minutes.

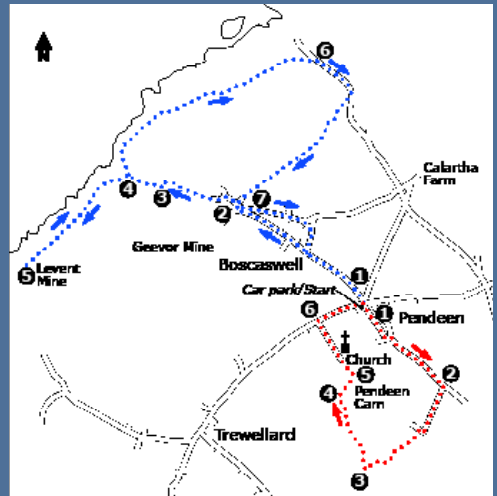
Start: Village free car park.

1. Go up a lane running inland to the left of the car park. Turn left, then right to join a rough track.
2. Turn right up a track just before a stand of pine trees. Reach an area dotted with large boulders.
3. Turn right at a T-junction.
4. Bear right to reach the top of Pendeen Carn.
5. Go down the obvious path from the top of the Carn then follow a lane past the church to the main road.
6. Turn right for the car park.

right down steps and then turn left by a concrete bridge. Follow signs along the coast path to reach Levant Engine House.

5. Retrace your steps, cross the concrete bridge and follow the coast path for three-quarters of a mile to reach a road.

6. Turn up the road and just before a house, cross a stile into a field on the right. Cross another stile by an old building. Turn left and



THE MINING COAST

A fascinating journey through Cornwall's mining past.

Distance: 3.5 miles. Time: 2 hours

Start: Pendeen Village free car park.

1. Cross the road from the car park with care and go down the road immediately right of Boscawell Stores.
2. At an open area after one-third of a mile, go down the lane opposite on the right. Turn left at a T-junction, then right towards the sea.
3. On reaching a field, turn left and follow a raised path down to the coastal mine workings.
4. Cross a plank bridge, turn immediately



follow sign posts to a raised section of path. Cross an open field, then follow a path past the house to the road.

7. Turn left and after 200 yards branch right, then right again. Turn left at T-junction for the car park.

ST JUST TOWN WALK

A short walk around St. Just passing some historic buildings and taking in the viewpoint of Carn Bosavern and the quiet charm of the Tregeseal Valley.

Distance: 1.5mls/2.4km. Time: 1 hour.

Start: Market Square, St Just, in front of the Commercial Hotel.

1. Walk from Market Square past the Co-op on your left, to the town clock and war memorial. Just left of the clock is the grassy amphitheatre of Plen an Gwary. From the clock go right across the main road, with care and go down the lane called North Row passing the newsagent to your right. The last cottage in the small row of cottages in North Row was an original meeting place of the Methodist Society where John Wesley preached. Continue along North Row past the Jackson Foundation to the main road. Turn left and walk back towards the town clock.

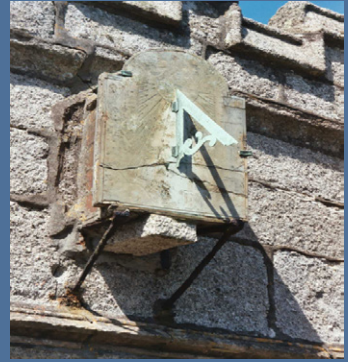
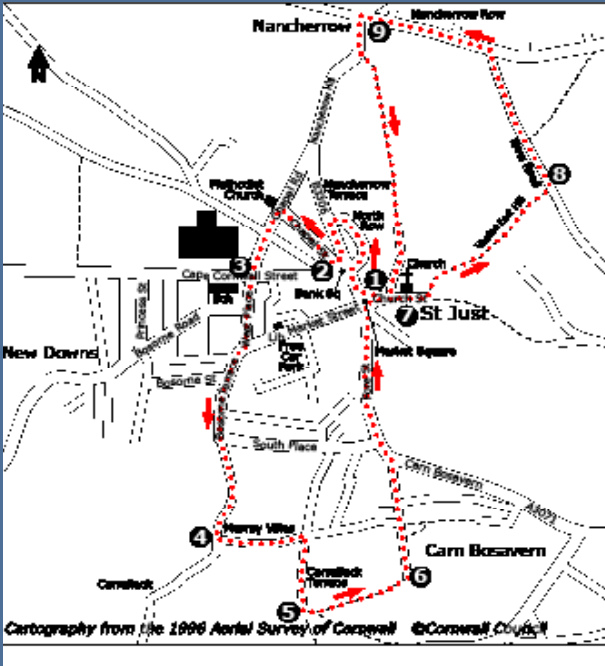
2. Cross the main road by the newsagents and turn right into Chapel Street. On the left hand side of Chapel Street is the Lafrowda Club a former Literary Institute, founded in 1842 as a library and lecture hall. This Grade 2 listed building has an interesting neoclassical facade. Turn left at the end of Chapel Street and go along Chapel Road. The outstanding feature at the junction of Chapel Street and Chapel Road is the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The church was built in 1833 to accommodate

the growing Methodist congregation which often numbered as many as 2,000. This prominent building was said to be the last poignant sight of home for 19th century local miners as they passed Land's End aboard emigrant ships.

3. Reach a T-junction with Cape Cornwall Street. The fine granite building directly opposite the end of Chapel Road was once the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School. It stands on the site of a Methodist Society house where John Wesley preached in 1757. A portion of the roof ridge tracery is missing. This was clipped off by a German bomber during WWII. The aircraft crashed into a row of houses in Chapel Road causing extensive damage but no loss of local life. Cross Cape Cornwall Street and keep left along West Place. Continue along the road past the Methodist Free Church. Keep straight on past the Memorial Park. A short distance further on, there is rather a lonely stile by the roadside. Incorporated in the stile is a stone post with curious moulding. This was one of two 'diabolo' stones from the gateway to an ancient estate. The diabolo section was below ground and was said 'to keep out the devil'.

4. Follow the road round left at a fork where the lane signposted to Cot Valley and the Youth Hostel continues ahead. Go uphill and take the first right into Carrallack Terrace. At the end of the terrace, go over a stile into a field where benches offer 'rest-and-be-thankful' views towards Cot Valley and the offshore islands known as The Brisons.

5. Just before the benches, turn sharp left over the stile and over another stile. Take the left-hand path up past the rocky summit of Carn Bosavern, (this section is quite steep and rocky). The views from the Carn are outstanding in clear weather. The large flat-topped structure ahead is a reservoir.



staircase. This once housed the old parish rooms and a national church school. The impressive stone wall adjoining this building was built during the early 19th century to enclose a garden.

8. Emerge at a public road. Walk left, with care, for 300 yards, then go left again at a

6. Reach a yellow waymark post. Go left over a stone stile and bear right across a patch of grass and rough ground beside the gable end of a terrace of houses. Turn left down a surfaced lane behind the houses. Where the road bends to the right continue down a narrow passageway. At a junction go briefly left then right and continue in the same line to reach steps down to the main road. Keep left and walk down Fore Street with care to reach Market Square. Fore Street is lined with characteristic miners' cottages. Note the stone steps for horse mounting outside the Star Inn. Continue along the right hand side of Market Square.

7. Turn right down Church Street with the parish church on your left. Cross Venton East Square and continue down a surfaced pathway. At the top of the pathway is a handsome building with a fine outside

T-junction at Tregeseal and continue to the junction with the main road. Halfway along this section and just past a telephone kiosk, there is an open water 'shoat' restored. This was fed from a nearby spring and supplied the local community until 1962.

9. Turn left at the main road junction. The building on the right that now houses a gallery was a tollbooth for a turnpike road. There was a ford at the junction until 1813 when a bridge was built. Go over the bridge and then left up steps by the St Just town sign. Bear up right on a grassy path and continue over some fine stiles to pass alongside the church and into Market Square. The group of charming cottages known as Church Square is part of the 17th century 'churchtown'.

THE ATLANTIC COAST

A circular walk from St Just to the magnificent Cape Cornwall.

Stout footwear advised.

Distance: 3 3/4 mls / 6km. Time: 2-3 hours.

Start: Market Square, St Just, in front of the Commercial Hotel. (The walk can also be started direct from the free car park).

1. Walk down Market Street, which is the street leading off to the right of the Commercial Hotel. Pass the free car park and at a T-junction turn left down Bosorne Terrace. At a fork keep straight on past the Memorial Recreation Park. Where the road curves left, continue straight ahead past a Youth Hostel sign and a footpath sign to Cot Valley.

2. Continue for quarter of a mile to where the surfaced road ends by a seat. Go sharp right here and follow the rough track, which soon narrows to a path. Pass a flat-topped stone in the middle of the path, then keep right where the path forks. Reach a road, turn right and go uphill to a cluster of houses at Bosorne. At the houses, bear off left past a 'Cot Valley' traffic sign and follow the surfaced lane for 250 yards to where it ends by a house.

3. Keep ahead along a path. The offshore rock islands of The Brisons are framed neatly ahead. Where the path branches, follow the left branch and at a cross-path continue straight ahead towards a tall mine stack. Cot Valley and Porthnanven can be reached from the cross-path by turning down left and then left again at a broad track. This track leads to the valley road from where a right turn leads to Porthnanven. Retrace your steps to continue this walk.

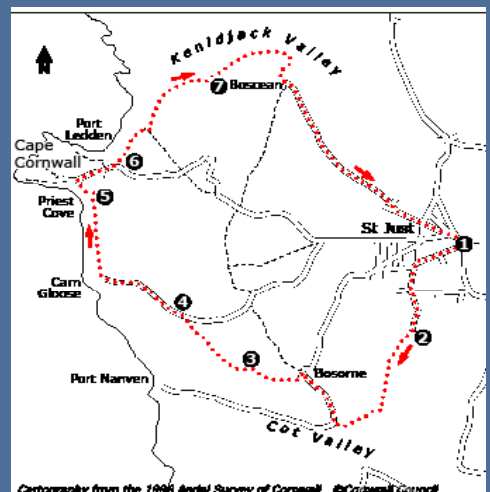
4. Reach a public road with a bench opposite. Turn left and walk down the road past the mine stack and then past the Ballowal

Barrow. At the road end, go right through a gapway beside a fine granite stile. Cape Cornwall is seen ahead in all its glory. Go down a very stony track alongside a golf course.

5. Where the stony track bears round right and levels off at a junction with another track, go sharply by an acorn signpost and continue to the rim of Priest's Cove. Go right and up a flight of wide steps to reach a road. Cape Cornwall can be explored by going down left from here. Turn right up the road and past the car park.

6. About 50 yards above the entrance to the car park, turn off left onto a stony track. Keep on this track, passing a solitary house on the left, and at the next fork keep left and continue round the rim of the Kenidjack Valley.

7. At the next fork, keep straight ahead along the upper path, follow the path to open ground and bear round right to reach the hamlet of Boscean from where a surfaced lane leads back towards St Just. At a junction with Boswedden Road keep straight ahead and across a junction to reach Market Square.



The parish church of Saint Just in Penwith

Founded during the 'Age of the Saints' by Saint Just, (Cornish Ust), one of the sons of 5th century Cornish King Gerient I, there has been Christian worship on this site for over 1,500 years, the Church providing the religious focus for the small farms, fishing and mining communities in the parish. The site is where Saint Just made his base where he planted his cross to mark the site as consecrated ground and where he built his 'cell'. Over time the area became enclosed in a 'lan' which included a small prayer or oratory chapel with beehive huts for his followers. The Cornish name for this area was 'Lanuste', i.e. 'Church-site of Saint Just' and pronounced 'Lan-AIST'. Evidence of the Church's great antiquity can be found all around; the Selus memorial stone, thought to commemorate Saint Just's brother, Selevan, dates from the late 5th or early 6th century and a length of cross shaft decorated by Cornish craftsmen in the Hiberno-Saxon style dates towards the end of the 8th or early 9th centuries.

At least four churches are thought to have stood on the site. The predecessor of the present church was cruciform in design and was commissioned in 1334 and dedicated by the Bishop of Exeter in 1336 during his 'progress' around Cornwall, a 'progress' where he regularised the position of a number of ancient Celtic churches. Here at St Just he dedicated our 'new' building and effectively rededicated the site. The Town's annual 'Feast' celebrations date from this event.



When the two side aisles were added in late 14th and early 15th century the Church lost its cruciform shape but evidence of its original design can be seen on the right-hand side of the Baptistry, nearest the Bell Tower, where a portion of the original wall remains, a similar portion can also be found on the north side of the Church. Other evidence of the cruciform church exists in the lower walls of the Chancel in the form of the Easter sanctuary, piscina and sedile. The name 'Lafrowda', spoken locally as 'La-Throw-Da', which is used to describe the surrounding churchtown area is referred to in ancient documents and deeds variously as 'Lafroudha', 'Lafrooda', 'La Frouda' and 'Lanfrowdha'. It echoes the building of the cruciform church for when broken into its constituent parts the word means 'Church of the Good Cross' in reference to cruciform church.

Unusually for Cornish Churches, the dressed stone of the internal arches, pillars and their capitals of St Just Church are formed from limestone, most probably Bere or Caen stone, thought to have been shaped by

maisons from Brittany with which this area has many long standing connections. Placed on granite footings the pillars are topped with capitals of an early 15th century design. Each is richly sculptured and decorated with a variety of patterns, which include shields, grapes, vine leaves, quatrefoils and roses. On the north wall the fine secco wall paintings of 'St George and the Dragon' and 'Christ of the Trades' date from the 15th century. Their history and preservation is remarkable since they were ordered to be covered with lime wash at the time of the Reformation. More coats of lime wash were added over the centuries and so there the paintings remained until a major restoration of the Church in 1865/66 when six paintings were uncovered - unfortunately only two were able to be saved.



The largest bell in the tower the "St Just Bell" provides an interesting connection with the Royal Navy - one of the names of the churchwardens inscribed on it, is that of Admiral Vernon whose victories over the Spanish apparently entitled him to be named an Honorary Churchwarden. His nickname was "Old Grog" - it was he who started the daily rum ration to the sailors of the Royal Navy. A further connection with the Senior Service is that the naval ensign on the west wall flew on the battleship "Revenge" at the battle of Jutland and was given by Captain Grenfell to the Church for safekeeping. The history of our Church reflects the history of its people, people who have over the generations bequeathed to us an incredible visual legacy, a beautiful tapestry of our Church in its surrounding Christian

landscape. To visit St Just Church today is to tread upon the very 'Land of the Saints' where the first seeds of Cornish Christianity took root. St Just Church offers us a 'brooding spirit of ancient sanctity' from a

long vanished Celtic past and provides a continual place of prayer - a centre of Christianity in good times and bad.

From the Church our attention is directed to **St Helen's Oratory at Cape Cornwall**, located in an enclosure to which it gives the name Park-an-Chapel, i.e., the Chapel Field. The Oratory is almost certainly Celtic in origin and 5th century in date. Rebuilt

and altered more than once down through the centuries very little now remains of its original structure with some of its stone being used to build a cow byre against its east wall in the 1900's. A cross found in the field by a local farmer now adorns the gable end of that cow byre! Some Celtic scholars have suggested that Saint Just may have had a distant family connection with Saint Helen who is well known as Elen in Welsh legend.

The Friends of St Just Church provide a book stall in the Baptistry which contains a range of information leaflets and booklets on the Church and its history.

Pendeen Church

The parish of Pendeen was formed as a Peel district from the large parish of St Just in the 1840's during a time of great mining activity.



It was soon apparent that there was a great need for a church and a parish priest. In 1849 the Bishop of Exeter offered it to the Revd. Robert Aitken who, on finding a barren moor, no church, vicarage or school, returned the way he had come. A petition signed by every inhabitant was sent to the Bishop and Robert Aitken returned and stayed. Services were initially held in a wooden church built in two weeks on the Town Plat, (The Square) and on

November 1st 1852 the permanent church opened for worship. The Vicar was his own architect and Pendeen Church is built on the ground-plan of Iona Abbey, entirely by local labour using granite quarried from the Carn above. With its five beautiful stained glass lancets the east window is of particular interest. An eagle carved in wood by a Levant miner forms the lectern and the font was made by local craftsmen from a solid block of granite. A brass tablet

in the Chancel floor marks the place where Robert Aitken was buried in 1873. The Church is surrounded by castellated walls and entered through an impressive Gothic gateway.

It is open daily between 10am - 4pm.



Preaching houses and Chapels

It is clear from the journal of John Wesley that he was more than ready to travel to all parts of the country to preach to the people and to meet up with the societies formed following his evangelistic efforts. He visited Cornwall no fewer than thirty two times between 1743 and 1789 and on twenty six of these occasions he visited St Just.

In the years between 1797 and 1849 the Methodist movement experienced a series of divisions and upsets which resulted in the creation of various separate societies and chapels. For example in 1890 there were six Wesleyan Chapels, four Bible Christian Chapels and two Wesleyan Reform Chapels in the parishes of St Just and Pendeen, in addition to a separate Wesleyan Sunday School at Tregeseal.

The Wesleyan Chapels were formed as a separate circuit in 1839.

At the present time of all these chapels only two remain open - at St Just Wesleyan Chapel (Chapel Street) and the Wesleyan Reform Chapel (Bosorne Terrace).

Of the others, five are now dwelling houses, two are ruins, one stands empty and one is a Meadery (restaurant).

Wesleyan Reform Chapels

The Wesleyan Reform Union was formed in 1859 by reformers who had split from the Wesleyan Methodist in 1849, but had decided not to become part of the United Methodist Free Church which was formed in 1857.

St Just (Bosorne Terrace) Built 1860
Carnyorth Built 1886 (now closed)

Quakers

On the border of the St Just and Sennen Parishes at the junction of the St Just and Land's End roads, just the other side of Chapel Carn Brea, is a place of great interest that pre dates the arrival of Methodism in West Penwith. The rectangular walled enclosure of a Quaker Burial ground, used between 1659 and 1789. Although between 35 and 40 Quakers are buried here, the only visible grave is the dressed granite tombstone of Phillipa Ellis, who died on 20th October 1677; the wife of John Ellis, a prominent local Quaker. He lived at Brea Farmhouse and was visited by George Fox founder of the Quakers in 1655 and 1663. Like the early Methodists, the Quakers were heavily persecuted for their faith. As Methodism developed, the number of Quaker Societies in Cornwall declined.

St Just Methodist church



The preaching house that had been built in 1755 was added to in 1799 to serve the growing congregations until it was felt that this extended Chapel was not large enough. In view of this the present much larger Chapel was erected in 1833 (according to local press at the time the cost was £1,300). This imposing building with its granite ashlar front and Tuscan columned portico is still a dominating feature in the area - many letters being received from miners who had gone out to America and other countries that the last sight they had of the English mainland was the towering Chapel at St Just.

If the outside of the building was impressive this was matched if not enhanced by the magnificent interior with the fine woodwork and other decorations.

When the church was completed there was a somewhat unusual seating arrangement - there were pews for seating 800 people for which rent was charged (commission paid to a rent collector!). There were further pews seating 1,000 people which were free. Originally there was a separate communion area at the back of the Chapel behind the

pulpit with wall mounted tablets depicting the Lords Prayer and the Apostles Creed. Following alterations in 1893 the communion area was moved to its present position in front of the rostrum which had replaced the pulpit. This move meant pews had to be removed from the front of the Chapel so that the current seating is for just over 1,000 which means it is still one of, if not the largest Chapel in Cornwall.

At the same time as these alterations it was decided that disparity between free seats and those available for 'letting' should be eliminated. All seats should be free!

Heating and lighting such a large building has obviously caused problems over the years. It was difficult in those days to conceive how to light such a large building with oil or gas lamps. It was not until 1947 that the electric lighting was finally installed.

With regard to heating one wonders how many tons of coal or coke were shovelled by successive Caretakers. To have a warm Chapel for Sunday between 1910 - 1920 for instance the fires had to be lit at 4.30pm on Friday, stoked at 9am on Saturday morning, then regular visits until after Church on Sunday. Now the Church benefits from electric underseat heating.

In 1997 the vestry, kitchen and toilet areas of the Church were completely rebuilt within the existing walls and there is now a large modern hall, kitchen and toilets.

Outside is the large burial ground which has become the final resting place for over 4,000 'St Justers' (1,000 of which sadly are childrens' graves) and it is not unusual to see visitors from far parts visiting the Church and burial ground looking for ancestors' graves.

The Cornish Chough



Choughs are definitely the most glamorous and captivating members of the crow family. With their glossy black plumage, curved red bill and red legs they are unmistakable.

Choughs have been recorded as part of Cornish history since, at least, the 13th century. Their old Cornish name is Palores, meaning 'digger' and that's just what they do to find their invertebrate food.

Choughs became extinct from Cornwall in the late 1900's but after a few came across from Ireland in 2001 and settled on the Lizard, it wasn't long before choughs moved around the coast to St Just and in 2008, the first choughs in 150 years were born in Penwith and the rest, as they say, is history. Cornwall's national emblem is back where it belongs, part of Kernow heritage once more.

Today, the majority of Cornwall's wild chough population can be found in West Penwith and in particular the coast line around St Just and Pendeen. Still rare and very much protected by law. Their numbers in this area are approximately 20 birds (Winter 2016/2017). To see them is a special sight indeed and one of the many wonders of this fantastic area and rugged coast-line.



A rich sporting heritage

In an area dominated by industry and manual labour it is, perhaps, unsurprising that sport became an important part of life and nowhere more so than here, with football and cricket, apparently, being played from the mid nineteenth century. With the Victorian drive to formalise sport national associations and local clubs became prevalent at the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and, here, both St Just Cricket and Football Clubs were formed with Pendeen Football Club coming a little later and St Just Rugby Club not appearing until 1967.

Pendeen Rovers Football Club joined the West Penwith League in the 1930s playing on farmers' fields mainly at Portheras Cross. In the 1950s they leased the Boscawell Downs field behind Calartha Terrace and proceeded to spend four or five years removing the stones and levelling the land to produce a usable football pitch. In 1988 the Club purchased the freehold of the land from the Borlase family, an estate totalling about four acres and, in partnership with the Geevor Tin Mine, built a new clubhouse. On the failure of the Mine Supporters the clubhouse closed and was handed to the football club. During its history the club has been successful winning local cup and league titles on many occasions including the Cornwall Junior Cup three times in four years between 1976 and 1980.

St. Just Rugby Club

St Just Rugby Football Club, the first rugby club in St Just, was formed in 1967. In the early years, matches were played on the local school fields, with an upstairs room at the Commercial Hotel as the Clubhouse;

later a small Clubhouse being built on the old Holman's foundry site. The club moved to the current site, further up the valley, in the 1980s, where ground was cleared for a pitch and a new Clubhouse, changing rooms and a car park were built.

The teams have enjoyed various successes over the years, with good Cup runs and reaching the heights of the Western Counties West League. The club's aim as a Junior Club is to bring on and develop the talents of young players and then hopefully move them on to bigger Clubs. Several of our junior members are now in the Exeter Chiefs Academy Squad.

The club runs one or two teams, depending on the number of players available.

Training night is on a Wednesday for players, male and female. League, friendly and cup matches are played on a Saturday, and other local team's Minis use the facilities for matches on a Sunday morning. The club is popular with other teams due to the warm welcome, good facilities and one of the best pitches in the county.

The club is open every day from 7pm during the week and usually midday at weekends.

There is a late bar, free wi-fi, music and non-members are welcome.

The club is very much a part of the local community and holds various charity events during the year including, vintage vehicle rally, fireworks night, charity auctions, duck races, darts and cards nights.

The club operates a thriving campsite during the summer months, with campers having full use of all the club's facilities.

The campsite is situated in a beautiful secluded valley with a footpath leading down Kenidjack Valley to Cape Cornwall. It is also the closest campsite to town and is a very

popular place to camp during the annual Lafrowda Festival.

For further information visit:

www.stjustafc.co.uk

St Just Cricket Club

In the mid to late nineteenth century St Just was home to four informal cricket teams from Cape Cornwall, New Downs, Nancherrow and Carn Bosavern and *'providing a farmer was in either team a field could be available for a friendly game any day of the week'*.

Cape Cornwall Cricket Club later St Just Cricket Club was established in 1880, the



first recorded match being on October 14th when two elevens from Nancledra travelled to St Just with one match being played at Boswedden (the current home) and the other at Carallack.

From the outset St Just fielded four teams and evening fixtures between St Just and teams from all the outlying villages and hamlets, including Botallack and Trewellard, were played frequently. Notable matches were played on Mid Summers Day and came as part of the general celebrations in the town including the Mid Summer Parade, children's sports and tea treat buns.

Although it would appear that an abundance of cricket was being played the early Cape Cornwall Club was short lived and by 1895 had all but collapsed reemerging as the "St Just Larks" building younger and far

stronger teams.

In 1902, the now St Just Cricket Club became a founder member of the West Penwith League formed to make the game more competitive. A game worthy of mention (to St Justers) was the match played in August of that year against Penzance when St Just made the huge total of 326 against a Penzance reply of 47 all out!

By all accounts the club continued to be successful and other than breaks during WW1 and WW2 was in continual existence fielding both men's and, apparently, women's sides including one Irene Thomas who went on to play for Cornwall and England.

The club bought the freehold to the land and built a new pavilion in 1946 much later to be replaced by the current building completed in 2004.

The new pavilion is named after Bryan Warren, a local businessman (Warrens Bakers) who was president of the club and left a legacy to it on his death. The pavilion was opened by Livingstone Lawrence, the first of a number of young overseas players brought to the club. Livingstone played for the Leeward Isles and the West Indies under 23 side.

In more recent times the club has been one of the most successful clubs in the county, taking the county championship on ten occasions including six successive ECB Cornwall Premier League titles from 2004 - 2009. In twenty over cricket the club has won the Vinter Cup on seventeen occasions including a record nine successive titles from 2004 to 2012. The club currently fields four team in the Cornwall Cricket League together with youth sides at under 11, 13 and 15 and girls teams at under 13 and 15. For more information visit :-

stjust.play-cricket.com

St Just Football Club

The 'First and Last' Football Club, as St Just AFC was originally formed, was established in 1894 following a meeting on November 12th in the Church School Rooms and the first game was played on December 1st of that year on a field 'near the vicarage'. This is interesting in itself as most of the fields near the vicarage are far from level!

The colours of the strip were originally to be red and green, however the red seems to have been rapidly dropped and the dominant colour was green sometimes with black stripes; not dissimilar to the current outfit.

From the outset 'The Saints' were a successful club although before World War I only friendly games were played. In 1918 the club was reformed and became a founder member of the West Penwith League being champions in four seasons up to 1940 when the club ceased for the duration of World War II. From the early 1900s to 1940 the home games were played at the 'Recreation Ground' now the site of the comprehensive school.

The highlight of the club's history was 1950 when the club hosted Queens Park Rangers (QPR) to a gate of some 3,000 spectators! This was followed by the worst times in the club's history when the newly formed South Western League tempted away some of the best players and quality and interest dwindled. Step in the recently retired manager of QPR who moved to St Just and, although his tenure at the club only lasted just over three months, managed to restore quality and pride.

In this post war period the club acquired the land at Bosorne, prepared a pitch and built a stand and changing rooms. These were opened in 1952 with the current clubhouse being added in 1979.

Currently the club fields two senior teams in the Cornwall Combination League and the Trelawny League together with Youth sides at under 12 and under 11 totalling over thirty children.

St Just Sports Centre

St Just's very own Sports Centre was created by a small group of enthusiastic locals and, with the aid of a lottery grant and Cornwall Council, was built in 2001. Since that time, the centre has been run by a charitable company, consisting of voluntary loyal Trustees and members of the centre, and employing a Centre Manager and reception staff. The number of people using the centre continues to increase, and the management group are looking to further improvements.

Situated in Cape Cornwall Road beside Cape Cornwall School, the centre has a fully equipped gym, a Spinning Studio, and a large four court hall suitable for many sports including indoor football, basketball, cricket practise, badminton and table tennis. We can also access the outdoor tennis courts during the summer. We are able to offer gym inductions and run several fitness classes including Tots Zumba.

The centre is very much based upon the needs of the community, and accommodates all ages and fitness levels, adapting operations and support as required wherever possible. As part of this support, there are several options regarding payment varying from one-off to multiple card usage. Visitors to the area are always welcome. Opening times are variable, but please call in, telephone 01736 787856, visit :-

www.stjustsportscentre.co.uk
or find them on Facebook.

Place names of St Just Henwyn Plasow Plu Ust

Most of the place names in the parish are in the Cornish language, although two exceptions:

Cape Cornwall (English) and **The Brisons** (French) are included here.

BARTINNEY: (Breteny C13) bre tyny, "rump-like hill"

BOJEWYAN: (Bosuyon C14) bos Uyan, "Uyan's dwelling"

BOLLOWALL: (Bolouhal C14) bos Louhal, "Louhal's dwelling"

BOSAVERN: (Bosavarn C14) bos Avarn, "Afaern's dwelling"

BOSCASWELL: bos Caswal, "Cadwal's dwelling" (personal name meaning "battle-worthy")

BOSCEAN: bos sehan, "waterless dwelling"

BOSCREGAN: bos crugyn, "dwelling by a small barrow"

BOSORNE: bos Horn, "Hoern's dwelling" (personal name meaning "iron")

BOSTRAZE: (Penstras C13) pen stras, "head/end of a flat-bottomed valley"

BOSWORLAS: (Bosworlosk C13)

bos war losk, "dwelling on burnt land"

BOTALLACK: bos Talek, "Talek's dwelling" (personal name meaning "big browed")

BREA: bre, "hill"

BRISONS, The: French brisant, "reef"

BUSVARGUS: bos vargos, "buzzard's dwelling" or "Bargos's dwelling" (personal name after the bird)

CAPE CORNWALL: Modern chartmaker's name coined 1589. Its Cornish name was

KILGUTHE EAST (C16), kyl goth Ust, "gooseback at St Just"

CARN EANES: (Carn-Inis C16) carn enys, "isolated/remote tor"

CARN GLOOSE: (Careg Glouse C16) carrek los, "grey rock"

CARN KENIDJACK: (Carnidjack C18) carn ujak, "hooting tor"

CARNYORTH: carn yorgh, "roe buck's tor"

CHAPEL CARN BREA: chapel carn bre, "chapel of the hill cairn"

CHYROSE: chy ros, "roughland house"

DOWRAN: down-an, "watering place"

GEEVOR MINE: (Wheal an Gever C18) whel a'n gever, "the goats' mine"

GURLAND: (Gorlan C14) an gorlan, "the fold/pen"

GWENVER: gwyn-vor, "white sea"

HAILGOWER: helyg-lowarth, "willow garden"

HENDRA: hen-dre, "home farm"

KEIGWIN: ke gwyn "white hedge"

KELYNACK: kelynek, "holly-grove"

KENIDJACK: (Kenygiek C14)

"fuel-gathering ground" (another different name from CARN KENIDJACK)

KENYTHON: ke'n eythyn, "the furze hedge"

LAFROWDA: lan vreder, "brothers' church enclosure"

LESWIDDEN: lys wyn, "white court/ruin"

NANCHERROW: (Nanserou C15) nans erow, "acre valley" (a Cornish acre was more than 60 English acres)

NANJULIAN: (Nanselin C14) nans elyn, elbow-shaped valley"

NANPEAN: (Nansvyon C14) nans vyan, "little valley"

NANQUIDNO: (Nansgwynyou C14) nans Gwynyow, "Gwyniou's valley"

PENDEEN: pen dyn, "fort headland"

POLPRY: pol pry, "clay-pit"

PORTHERAS: porth erys, "ploughland cove"

PORTH LEDDEN: porth ledan, "wide cove"

PORTH NANVEN: (Porthangwin C14) porth Angwyn, "Angwyn's Cove" (personal name meaning fair-haired man)

PRIEST COVE: (Porthuste C14) porth Ust, "St Just's Cove"

ST JUST: (Lanuste C14) lan Ust, "St. Just's church enclosure" (the parish saint was an early Celtic priest called Yestin)

TREGESAL: (Tregathihael C13) trethyal, "Catihael's farm" (personal name meaning "generous in battle")

TREGIFFIAN: (Tregivyan C14) tre gefyon, "tree-stumps farm"

TREVEDRA: (Treverdreth C17) tre war dreth, "farm on sand"

TREWELLARD: (Trewylard C14) tre Wylard, "Gwylard's farm"

TRUTHWALL: (Trewothwall C14) tre Wodhwal, "Godual's farm"

WHEAL OWLES: whel als, "cliff mine"

WOON GUMPUS: ("The Gump") an wun gompes, "the level/flat downs"

ZAWN A BAL: sawan a'n bal, "cliff-chasm at the mine"

ZAWN BRINNY: sawan bryny, "crows' cliff-chasm"

Information

Area telephone code - 01736	Tourist Information St Just Library (Telephone 788165) (Email: stjusttourist@cornwall.gov.uk)
Banks Cash back facilities are available in some local shops ATM facilities at St Just Post Office Premier Store	Pharmacy Ramsay Pharmacy, Fore Street, St Just (Telephone 788440)
Post Offices Bank Square (St Just) The Square (Pendeen)	Police Station 101 - non-emergency
Churches St Just Parish Church Pendeen Church St Just Methodist Church Wesleyan Reform Chapel (Free Church)	Emergency Services Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance and Coastguard (Dial 999 or 112)
Doctors / Health Centre Lafrowda Car Park, St Just (Telephone 788306)	Royal British Legion Market Street, St Just (Telephone 787101)
Hospitals Royal Cornwall Hospital, Treliske, Truro (A&E) (Telephone 01872 250 000) West Cornwall Hospital, Penzance (24 hour urgent care service) (Telephone 874000) NHS 111 (Health advice and information) (Telephone 111)	Free Car Parks Lafrowda Close, St Just St John's Terrace, Pendeen
Library Lafrowda Car Park, St Just (Telephone 0300 1234 111) Open Tuesday Thursday AM Saturday AM	Public Toilets In car parks, above and at Cape Cornwall, St Just Bus Service St Just to Penzance (and on to St Ives) Land's end to St Ives (through St Just and Pendeen – summer only) A limited service is available to Sennen, St Buryan and Cape Cornwall. (Full timetable details available at www.firstgroup.com)