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PENZANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



NEWSLETTER



Issue 50

27th June 2011

NEWSLETTER

With all of the mid-summer reveling and buccaneering on the Prom your Vice Chair has been delayed in pushing out the much awaited Chamber Newsletter.

CHAMBER MEETING Tuesday 5 July 2011 (7.30 pm)

Tuesday 5th July sees the second of the new format Members' Quarterly Meeting/Social commencing at 7.30pm in the Penzance and Newlyn RFC Clubhouse in Alexandra Road.

We have invited Hadrian Piggot, Penzance Business Network, to come and speak to us about the newly formed Penzance Seafront Forum; an attempt to create a community led planning forum that enables Penzance to speak with one voice about the future of its seafront. We may also be able to tell you more about what the MP is proposing for Penzance Harbour!

The Committee will summarise what work they have been undertaking on your behalf and you will have an opportunity to question the Committee and raise matter of concern and of interest to other members.

The meeting is open to all so please encourage non-member businesses to attend with you. There will be a buffet and opportunity to network afterwards.

If you have a pressing item to raise at the meeting please email the Chairman, copy Secretary, so we can do our homework before the meeting.

Golowan/Pirates on the Prom.

Congratulations to the Golowan team for a stupendous effort this year and especially Clare Trevaskis and Angie Butler, for their inspired "Pirates on the Prom" spectacular – a truly historic event in several respects. It is normally difficult to envisage a public event large enough to fill Penzance Promenade but we certainly had one on Sunday with 8,734 people dressed as pirates. It was a wonderful sight in the blazing June sunshine. Spooky how a number of well known local faces slipped convincingly into pirate personae with minimal costumes – it must in the genes!

Penzance Seafront Forum.

The Penzance Seafront Forum (formally created on 24 June) ran a stall on Quay Day to engage with the public and find out which of the many pressing problems on Penzance Seafront deserved attention first. Members of the public were encouraged to place a pin on an enlarged satellite view of the seafront to identify their highest priority for attention – a more difficult task than it sounds given the number of pressing issues. Inevitable the Promenade, Jubilee Pool, South Pier, and Harbour Car Park picked up a

lot of pins.

The stall was put together with help from the Chamber of Commerce, Penzance Business Network, Penzance & District Tourism Association and manned by volunteers from just about all of the combatant groups of the IOS Ferry/Option A controversy.

The Forum's website (www.penzanceseafront.com) is now up and running. Please subscribe to the Forum's email newsletter at the website to be kept in informed on important developments including the Olympian Homes plan for Harbour Car Park (still to be made public by Cornwall Council) and whatever our MP has in mind to fill the large hole created by the loss of the IOS Ferry Project.

MP's Proposals for IOS Ferry Link

We do not have much detail yet on what our MP envisages will replace the failed Route Partnership project. He is believed to be visiting the Department for Transport this week to discuss possibilities.

The issue of the replacement vessel appears to be out of the DfT equation at present. With the IOSSC's fallback vessel plan having been accepted by the DfT as evidence that the IOSSC can fund an adequate (if limited) solution themselves they (DfT) are off-the-hook (the Minister's decision letter appeared to suggest some help with a vessel might be considered in the future - possibly). That leaves two harbours requiring grant funding.

The DfT have reportedly indicated that only a much reduced grant will be available for Harbours. This could be bumped up with ERDF match funding if matters moved quickly but, given inflation, the amount available for harbours could end up being around half of what was originally proposed in real terms.

The Council of IOS is understood to be examining a much reduced project to deal with the most serious regulatory deficiencies of St Mary's Harbour. This would run as a separate standalone project and no longer be held hostage to what happens (or fails to happen) at Penzance. Our MP is reportedly very keen to keep the two projects together but it is difficult to see any advantage in this and certainly not for the Islanders. Whilst the combatants in Penzance are committed to finding a better way of working together it does not mean that different aspirations for the future of Penzance Harbour, entrenched over the last 2 years, are going to be resolved overnight.

For anything to happen our MP needs a competent body to act as the applicant and an expert project team to deal with the multi-million pound public procurement. We all know where there is such a team but it has been horribly knocked about and abused so it is difficult to see it 'coming out to play' without some cast iron assurances from our MP.

Tax return deadlines and penalties

The HMRC have beefed up their regime of penalties for late filing of self assessment tax returns. It is now fixed at £100 if one day late (not negotiable). After 3 months it increases at £10/day such that the total penalty is £1000 after 6 months. There are further penalties if your return is more than 6 months overdue. <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/sa/deadlines-penalties.htm>

Icarus Films (Cambourne).

Icarus Films (www.icarus-films.co.uk) is launching a new project, a web TV channel using the power

YouTube, and is looking for local businesses & professionals to get involved.

One of the first shows they are looking to produce is a regular series of little "How to" videos in a similar vein to the BBC show "Trade Secrets". (Example - <http://youtu.be/sU47hEe96TQ>)

If you think you might have a use for Icarus' 30 Second Webspot Video packages (a great way to get video content on your website and social networking pages) then get in touch with Icarus Films today.

Call 01209 718842 or email enquiries@icarus-films.co.uk

CORNWALL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Cornwall Chamber Business Breakfast (20 July 2011)

The July 2011 Cornwall Chamber breakfast (in Truro) will be available to book online from Tuesday 20th June. If you want to know more and book then go to :..... <http://www.cornwallchamber.co.uk/events/91/>

Another Development in Truro!!!! (is there any other place in the county??)

A detailed planning application has been submitted for a new Park-and Ride scheme, Cornish Food Centre (including a Waitrose and Cornish food hall), household waste recycling centre and 98 new homes on land to the east of Truro.

The project is a partnership between Cornwall Council, the Duchy of Cornwall, Waitrose and local food producer group 'The Taste of Cornwall'.

Called the Truro Eastern District Centre, the scheme would allegedly :

- Cut traffic from the East of Truro by 15% every day
- Create around 210 jobs
- Generate £6m-£8m in additional sales for local food producers
- Meet urgent local housing need
- Plant 6,000 new trees.

You can find out more at www.truroedc.co.uk including a detailed Q&A about the project.

You can read the full press release at <http://www.dca-pr.co.uk/Latest-News/Duchy-of-Cornwall/Planning-application-submitted-for-Truro-Eastern-D-123.aspx>

FROM PDTA NEWSLETTER

This item on Energy Performance Certificates has been picked out from the new PDTA newsletter as of interest to some members. The item below focuses on holiday lets but it applies to most rental property (domestic and commercial). The Landlords Guide (see below) is a useful resource

Energy Performance Certificates for Self-Catering Holiday Lets.

Owners of self-catering holiday lets may have heard rumour of the requirement for such properties to have EPCs as from 30 Jun 2011. Some may have received unsolicited emails from commercial assessors offering their services. The facts are provided below:

Summary: An EPC is required if holiday letting property is rented out and occupied for a combined total of 4 months or more in any 12 month period. Certificates are required from 30 Jun 2011. The certificates last 10 years. Cost (from Google) in the £40 - £70 + VAT range. Enforcement is the responsibility of Trading Standards and they can issue a penalty notice (standard penalty appears to be £200).

Law/Statutory Instrument. The basic rules are laid out in Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 991. Title: BUILDING AND BUILDINGS, ENGLAND AND WALES. The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. Document can be viewed [here](#) . The exemption for short holiday let properties in the original regulations was withdrawn with effect 1 Apr 2011 following a Government consultation report ("Making better use of energy performance certificates and data. Summary of Responses. Nov 2010. – can be viewed [here](#))

Landlords Guide. You can download a Landlords Guide (dated Feb 2011) from the Dept of Communities & Local Government dated Feb 2011 [here](#). The bottom of page 27 includes a question and answer about holiday letting property. There is an example EPC in this document.

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