



# Cornubia

*community, creativity, enterprise*



**Par Bay Community Trust** is a registered charity set up to serve the communities of St Blazey, Par and Tywardreath in Cornwall by preventing or relieving poverty, improving physical and mental well-being, advancing the health of residents, developing the capacity and skills of economically or socially disadvantaged residents, advancing local education and assisting in the provision of recreational facilities. The charity has already purchased a building –Cornubia for this purpose.

## The Need

The charity is set up to serve the communities of Par, St Blazey and Tywardreath. These form the majority of the PL24 post code area (with a population of almost 10,000). This area is perceived by both residents and local stakeholders to suffer from a lack of aspiration and academic achievement, particularly amongst young people, with poor levels of community cohesion and little cross-generation contact. Many people living in the area therefore live isolated lives. This is particularly true for older residents or those living with a disability or other long-term illness.

Almost 15% of the local population report themselves as having a limiting long-term illness; 21.5% of local households have no car or van; and 62.6% of pensioner households are occupied by lone pensioners. Parts of the area (i.e. St Blazey West) also fall in IMD's top 10% most deprived areas of the country with income deprivation affecting both children and older people, and a lack of adult skills another major obstacle. Despite this, the area's population is set to grow with planning applications being approved for significant new housing development in the area.

Feedback from our consultation with local artisans, stakeholders and residents supports the development of a venue in the area to make art and craft activity more accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

The charity's track record already includes securing funding and volunteers to convert an area of waste ground into a community garden with a sensory garden on one side and vegetable growing space on the other. This is now regularly used by local residents and community groups. We aim to cook the vegetables we grow in the community kitchen over the road in Cornubia once it is set up.

## **FEBRUARY 2018**

The official opening date is July 2018 but we have brought forward the opening of the reception area to February. We are aiming to set up a range of support for Jobseekers and for members of the community who will need assistance when Universal Credit applications need to be made online in February. We have a number of people who have no access to the internet and no computer or laptop.

The Par Bay Job Club will be situated in Cornubia in Par. We will provide:

- A bank of computers available free of charge to Jobseekers
- Weekly Job Club open to all.
- Free financial advice
- Advice on computer use
- Advice on writing a CV, looking for a job, interview technique etc
- Free wi-fi access

We are collaborating with Ocean Housing, Devon and Cornwall Housing and DWP to set up this valuable space



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Other organisations with whom we will be delivering the support

- Reed in Partnership (Cv writing, interview skills, jobfinding, mentoring etc),
- Horizon (financial advice)
- Keep Cornwall Fed
- UnLtd

**UnLtd: entrepreneurial advice and mentoring.** An UnLtd award manager will be based in Cornubia which will be a great boon to the local community. Par Bay Big Local has invested in a programme working with UnLtd and the Lottery to grow local social enterprises.

There have been already a large number of social enterprise businesses set up in this area KCF, Horizon, etc.

Keep Cornwall Fed are one of our Stakeholders and we already have space leased in advance to Woolcrafts and workshops, a textile recycling social enterprise <https://texwithbenefits.com/>  
<https://www.cultivatecornwall.com/>

## Benefits of Creativity

Cornubia will become a focus for engagement, inspiration and opportunity for people of all ages and abilities. Creative workshops will be used to inspire, motivate and develop people, helping break-down barriers, reduce social isolation and build confidence. It will also provide a base for local artisans & social entrepreneurs to encourage collaboration and develop a creative environment. The mental and physical benefits of doing creative activity are well documented. Cornubia's creative activities will help people develop their confidence, enhance their self-esteem and reduce feelings of isolation. We will use creativity to engage and inspire people from all walks of life creating a deeper sense of understanding, belonging and community spirit through shared experiences and fun. By working with local artisans offering their creative and teaching skills at reduced costs, we aim to extend these benefits to local people living with disability or long-term illness at affordable rates. The availability of affordable, local based creative activities will make a difference to quality of peoples' lives.