

Cornish Buildings Group 'Buildings at Risk' Project

Caring for Cornwall's heritage

Newsletter No.21

A three-year project led by the Cornish Buildings Group and supported by Historic England and the Cornwall Heritage Trust, commenced in September 2020. The funding supports a case officer in order to help identify and monitor buildings at risk and seek solutions for neglected, redundant or derelict listed buildings and unlisted buildings.

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For Sale – Bodmin Methodist Chapel



High on our list of concerns, this former chapel is not listed, is in a conservation area and in a very poor condition. A recent enforcement case was assigned to Cornwall Council Building Control because of falling slates and serious cracks in the fabric.

The recent auction particulars note that the building offers a 'residential development opportunity to acquire a former Methodist Chapel/Ambulance Hall with implemented planning permission already in place for conversion into 4 mews style dwellings, with the accommodation arranged over three storeys, comprising of three x two-bedroom houses and a one-bedroom property, with car parking on site'.

Guide price £125-150,000. [For details](#)

Sold – Trinity Methodist Chapel, Penzance



Trinity Methodist Church, Chywoone Hill, Newlyn, Penzance, has been sold for £142,000. We will watch this with great interest. This Grade II* listed former Nonconformist Wesleyan chapel, dating to c1834 and enlarged 1866, has one of the most complete early 19th century chapels in Cornwall. No longer used for religious worship. The building is in a conservation area.

Chapel an Gansblydhen, Bodmin, under new ownership



Built in 1840, this former Wesleyan chapel has long been a landmark at the top end of Fore Street. As it marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Methodism, it was named the Centenary Chapel or 'Chapel an Gansblydhen' in Cornish. Methodism began in the mid-18th century, owing, in large part, to 'the extensive travelling and organisational abilities' of John Wesley. During the 1980s, the chapel was altered inside and out.

The chapel is not specifically 'at risk'. It has operated as a Weatherspoon's public house for many years but was earmarked, along with several others, by the organisation for closure and disposal. We understand it has been bought and is still operating as a business.

Mousehole Chapel in the News



A Grade II* Methodist chapel in Mousehole is planning to sell its Sunday school building to raise £500,000 towards the repair of woodworm and dry rot problems.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-63726986>

The chapel was founded in 1784, enlarged in 1814, internally remodelled in 1844 and re-fenestrated during the late 19th century. The two-storied exterior was rendered probably 1905, the date shown on the facade. The Wesleyan chapel features an ornate pulpit and organ loft linked to horseshoe-plan gallery on slender columns. These features date to c1834 as does the complete set of seating with grained box pews. The stained glass is late 19th- and early-20th century. There are memorials dedicated to those who lost their lives in the First World War and in the Penlee lifeboat disaster.

Cornwall Council will not pursue repairs to Scarcewater chapel, St Stephen



Is all hope now lost for saving Scarcewater chapel? The building is not listed but nonetheless is a heritage asset in a shockingly poor condition.

In a letter to the Cornish Buildings Group, Serena Wearne, Senior Development Control Officer for Cornwall Council, wrote

I write to confirm the outcome of my investigation into the above matter. Having visited the site, I found that Scarcewater Chapel and the adjacent Sunday School/Cottage are both heavily covered in ivy, with the Chapel having some slates missing. There is no evidence of any debris falling onto the roadway and whilst, overgrown, it does not have a detrimental effect on the area. I conclude that both properties are not in a condition to warrant the intervention of the Planning Authority as an untidy site. No further action is proposed, and my case is closed accordingly.

I trust this clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely

A great shame that a building with much local history will be lost through neglect.

Updates on other chapels at risk

Zion Chapel and Sunday School, Trevarthian Road, St Austell work is progressing well as per approved planning application PA21/05140

Carharrack Methodist Church, Chapel Terrace, Carharrack, Grade II* chapel of 1805 in World Heritage Site. Conversion to residential units progresses as per approved planning application PA20/11000 and PA20/11001.

Wheal Busy Chapel <https://wordpress.com/posts/buildingsatrisk.wordpress.com>

Guidance for Methodist and Non-Conformist chapels in Cornwall produced by Historic England, the Methodist Church and Cornwall Council can be found

at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/guidance-methodist-nonconformist-chapels-cornwall/heag257-methodist-and-nonconformist-chapels/>

And finally....worship of another kind

The former Coryton Arms still causes concerns from those who pass it on a regular basis. We have no updates on progress on this building however these photographs were taken this week.



Information required

If anyone has any information about the condition of South Herodsfoot mines then please get in contact.





Published by buildingsatrisk

Since 1969 the aims of the Cornish Buildings Group have been to stimulate interest, appreciation and knowledge of good building in Cornwall, and to encourage the erection, protection, repair and recording of such buildings. Like any amenities group, we depend on numbers, strength and support of our membership, who provide the force and knowledge that have made us effective for over fifty years. We encourage the protection and repair of historic buildings whether these are listed buildings or simply good examples of traditional building. We aim to encourage good architecture and to raise the general standard of building throughout the county. We hope that our generation may leave behind it buildings which will be looked back on with that same pleasure and enjoyment that we experience when we look at the architecture of past ages.