

Dehwelans heritage tours

Visitors from around the world visiting Looe for the Dehwelans homecoming this September will have a chance to explore other parts of south east Cornwall, including Polperro, the Tamar valley, Liskeard and Caradon Hill, Looe Island and Trelawne Manor near Pelynt.

Polperro

One of the day trips out is to Polperro on Monday 1st September with a short coach journey along the coast to Polperro. The tour starts at Crumplehorn Mill and continues down into the village to the harbour accompanied by local historians who will unlock the story of this small fishing port, famous in the 18th century for smuggling and privateers. Hear about Zephaniah Job who changed the life of the village, for he was to become the greatest single benefactor in its long history. Over the years, Job managed the smuggling trade. He acted as advisor, accountant and banker to many of the inhabitants as well as the local gentry. Visitors will have a guided tour of the Museum of Smuggling & Fishing and a chance to explore the tangle of narrow streets. Lunch will be provided by of Richard McGeown (Executive Head Chef) who has past experience of working with the country's most famous names under Gordon Ramsay, Marco Pierre White and Raymond Blanc.

Tamar Valley Tour

One of the day trips out on Tuesday 2nd September, is to The Tamar Valley, the river that forms the far eastern Cornish border with Devon. The day starts with a coach trip to Plymouth where visitors catch the scenic Tamar Valley Line to Calstock accompanied by local historian and train 'buff' John Snell. He will tell the story of one of England's loveliest country branch lines.

The Tamar Valley is probably best known for its recent industrial heritage, dating from the great mining boom in the mid 1800s when rich copper deposits were discovered.

The area is part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (Cornish Mining) - declared a World Heritage Site, recognised as having cultural importance on a global level. After a village tour, viewing of the local archive and lunch in Calstock, visitors will be taken to the site of a recently discovered Roman fort and the tranquil Cotehele Quay. The quay is part of the National Trusts' Cotehele House. Visitors will have a tour of the riverside Discovery Museum, before returning to Looe via Kit Hill which has some of the best panoramic views in Cornwall.

Liskeard & Caradon Hill

Another all day trip is to Liskeard and Caradon Hill on Thursday 4th September, starting with a journey up the Looe Valley on the scenic Looe Valley Line railway accompanied by Blue Badge Guide Mark Camp. He will tell the story of the valley from the earlier canal transporting gravel and lime from the kilns at Sandplace to the later railway that not only brought tourists to Looe, but transported copper ore, iron ore, tin and granite from the mines on Caradon Hill to be exported to the world from the port of Looe. The Worshipful Mayor of Liskeard will meet visitors at Liskeard station and after visiting Stuart House and the town museum will be treated to a Cornish lunch courtesy of Liskeard Town Council. After lunch there will be a visit to the dissenters Chapel in St. Cleer and onto Caradon Hill and The Hurlers which form part of the Cornwall and West Devon World Heritage Site.

Trelawne Manor

One half day trip is to Trelawne Manor near Pelynt on Friday 5th September. Trelawne was the former seat of the

famous Trelawny family for over 400 years, although the Manor dates originally from 1450. Local historian and Cornish Bard Carole Vivian will unlock the Manors colourful past with a tour highlighting the history of the Trelawny family, the architecture of the building from its mediaeval roots through to later Victorian additions and the modern day use as a tourist centre. The tour of the Manor will be followed by a tour of Trelawne Barton formally the home farm and its beautiful gardens, topped with a Cornish cream tea.

The family's most famous descendent is Bishops Jonathan Trelawny who was one of the seven Bishops who petitioned against James II granting religious tolerance to the Catholics and as a result of this he was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower on charges of 'seditious libel'. He was subsequently tried and acquitted to much celebration in his homeland of Cornwall.

Bishop Trelawny was immortalised in Hawker's ballad, 'The Song of the Western Men', better know as Trelawny.

Looe Island

There are trips to Looe Island on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th September. On Friday Sir John Trelawny will accompany visitors to the Island. Sir John has recently written a book based on Looe Island and its smuggling exploits. The Island managed by Cornwall Wildlife Trust is about 1 mile off Looe and is a marine nature reserve. The waters around it are teeming with life and it provides a quiet haven for wildlife, with a variety of habitats including woodland, maritime grassland, sand, shingle and rocky reef. The remains of a Benedictine chapel built in 1139 are on the Island. Legend says that Joseph of Arimathea came here with the Christ child. The Island is part of the Looe Voluntary Marine Conservation Area. In 2000, Miss Babs Atkins leased the Island to the Trust to be managed as a nature reserve. The story of how the sisters came to own it is told in two books: *We Bought an Island* and *Tales from our Cornish Island*, both by Evelyn E. Atkins.

Polperro trip £15 Liskeard & Tamar Valley trips £20 each, Looe Island £7.50 Trelawne Manor £10.

For more information on trips, listing of the full event programme and to book tickets visit

www.dehwelanskernow.com or telephone the co-ordinator Edwina Hannaford 01503 264160 or email dehwelanslooe@btconnect.com