

**Chapel Street Creative Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

Received from Chapel Street Creative CIO:-

*'Since the last report there is little to update as the Hall has not had much going on over the Summer due to the majority of Hall users being on Summer Vacation.*

*We have had a new group start Called ChiChi fi', led by Sarah Lee. The sessions are delivered to adults between the age of 18 and 50 currently to approximately 8-15 people. Chi Chi-Fit is an upbeat exercise/dance session to music based on lively musicals and currently delivered on a Thursday morning at 10am - 11am (see leaflet attached).*

*CSC will be submitting our annual return to the Charities Commission this month and will make sure that a copy is circulated to you also.*

*We plan to have a trustees meeting on Thursday 18th September at 7pm, I am just in the process of drawing up an agenda, please feel free to note any relevant points which might be of use to the Council.*

*Main points will be to discuss the final Lottery spend which we hope to use towards renovating the downstairs kitchen to make it more attractive and accessible, advertising the space further and forecasting the financial year taking into account the colder months ahead and utilities provisions.'*

Councillor Peter Lapin

**REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES – TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS**  
**PENZANCE COUNCIL – 15 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Penzance-Concarneau Twinning Association

There have been a number of events since the last update from Cllr Law as submitted to the Full Council meeting on 21 July.

A party of around 20 adults from Concarneau visited Penzance in late July, hosted by members of the Twinning Association. The weather was unaccountably fine and a great time was had by all, including at the reception held at Penzance Cricket Club where we were entertained by Buccas Four (minus one) plus Cllr Law and his “Shiver me Timbres” duo. Representatives from both towns spoke very warmly about the ties of friendship between our communities.

In August, a delegation of four from Penzance (myself, my consort Jane, plus Twinning Association Chair Karen Bennett and Peter Crumpler) visited Concarneau for the annual Filets Bleus Festival as guests of the Mayor of Concarneau. Traditionally, official invitations have been extended to attend each town’s festival (Golowan in Penzance, Filets Bleus in Concarneau) in alternate years, so the expectation is that an official invitation will be sent to the Mayor of Concarneau for Golowan 2026.

During our recent visit, I met with members of the Bagad Bro Konk Kerne (the Concarneau pipe band), who were such a success when they came for Golowan in 2024. They are very keen to come back to Penzance for Golowan 2026. Their 2024 visit was a logistical and funding challenge, so the intention is to set up a meeting as soon as possible with the Twinning Association, the Golowan Band and Golowan CIC to see how we can put things on a more organised footing for next year.

We also discussed the possibility of musicians from Penzance being invited to take part in the 2027 Filets Bleus Festival (initial plans for the Golowan Band to take part in the 2025 edition were shelved due to organisational difficulties). Given the ties with the Golowan Band established when the Bagad visited Penzance in 2024, they would be an obvious choice, and Buccas Four have performed at Filets Bleus in the past. Kernow Pipes and Drums would be another popular choice.

It would be useful to start planning this now, as there is a possibility that the council at Concarneau may be able to provide accommodation (visiting musicians from some of their other twin towns took part in this year’s festival, and were housed in council-owned accommodation). The idea is that our visiting musicians would be part of the big parade on the closing festival day, but also perform on the festival stage and at other venues in the town. The Filets Bleus festival attracts tens of thousands of people and is a highlight of the Breton summer calendar, and would be a great showcase for Penzance – and for Kernow, given our Celtic connections. The priority now is to liaise with the Filets Bleus organising committee and the Concarneau Town Hall to secure agreement in principle, so that musicians can be lined up.

The Filets Bleus visit was also an opportunity for a working meeting between representatives of the two Twinning Associations and councils to discuss current and future projects including:

- A visit to Penzance by young people from Concarneau, scheduled for April 2026 (NB – organising visits by Penzance students to Concarneau is more difficult, due to safeguarding constraints).
- A visit by a group of adults from Penzance to Concarneau in July or September 2026.
- Partnership between Penlee RNLI and SNSM Trevignon (the Concarneau lifeboat). Plans are under way for a visit to Trevignon by members of the Penlee crew during 2026. Karen and Peter from the Twinning Association met with the lifeboat crew and volunteers during the August visit, and are returning in early September to join the SNSM on the annual “pardon” held on the Îles de Glénan). A similar exchange is being discussed between firefighters from the two towns.
- Book exchanges: regular book exchanges continue between the Concarneau “médiathèque” and the Morrab Library, plus a possibility of a brief staff exchange.
- Potential exchange of students between Senara (the Penwith College restaurant) and the Saint-Marc catering college in Concarneau.
- Remembrance: as is now traditional, the Twinning Association provided four poppy wreaths for our Concarneau counterparts to lay at the four Commonwealth war graves in and around Concarneau on Remembrance Sunday.
- Isles of Scilly ferries: Piriou, a shipbuilder based in Concarneau, was commissioned to build the two new ferries to serve Scilly: the freight vessel (Menawethan) and the passenger ship (Scillonian IV). Both twinning associations felt that given the links between the two towns, it would be worth exploring the possibility of holding a joint ceremony when the two vessels are brought into service (now expected to be July 2026 for Menawethan, and March 2027 for Scillonian IV).

Overall, the Concarneau twinning is flourishing, thanks largely to the efforts of Peter and Karen, and their counterparts in Concarneau. And the recent exchanges between the towns (especially our visit to Concarneau for the 80th anniversary of the Liberation) have raised the profile of Penzance in the Concarneau area, and more widely across Brittany.

### Penzance-Cuxhaven Twinning Association

At the time of writing, a group of four people from Penzance are on a visit to Cuxhaven – a much smaller group than usual, reflecting the length and cost of the journey as well as the difficulty recruiting new members.

A group of young people from Cuxhaven are due to visit Penzance next year, and there are hopes that if the visit can be well planned (in particular through tie-ups with local schools and musicians, for example) this might raise the profile of the twinning, especially with a younger demographic.

### Bendigo and Nevada City Twinning Associations

These two twinning associations, with partner towns in Australia (Bendigo) and the USA (Nevada City), are joint associations with St Just in Penwith, and reflect historical mining links between the communities.

As far as I am aware, these two twinning associations are currently dormant – there certainly appears to have been no activity from the Penzance side during my time as Mayor. It would potentially be worth liaising with St Just Town Council to find out whether there is still interest in these twinning arrangements from their point of view.

### The future of our Twinning Associations

The nature of town twinning has changed in recent years, for a variety of reasons: safeguarding constraints (such as the need for DBS checks) that prevent families from hosting young people; the impact of the Covid pandemic and Brexit; the decline in take-up of foreign languages in schools; and the rising cost of travel. In addition, changes to Penzance Council's grant policy in 2021 removed regular funding from the Twinning Associations, which are now almost entirely self-funding (including travel costs).

My experience of the two active associations suggests that at least the two active twinning associations bring benefit to our community, building on our spirit of openness and hospitality to learn from and share experiences with other maritime towns with different cultures but much in common. Although Penzance Council no longer provides regular funding, there is ongoing support through councillor involvement, not to mention awareness-raising through coverage of twinning events on Council media.

That said, there is potentially a debate to be had on how Penzance Council support for twinning might look in future, potentially as part of the forthcoming Cultural Strategy review.

*Cllr Stephen Reynolds – Penzance Town Mayor – 2nd September 2025*

**REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES – PENZANCE REGENERATION COMPANY**  
**PENZANCE COUNCIL – 15 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Penzance Regeneration Company (PZRC) is a community-owned entity that is responsible for three of the ongoing regeneration projects in Penzance: Market House, 94 Market Jew Street (“94 MJS”), and 28-30 Market Place.

PZRC is currently constituted as a Community Interest Company (CIC), and is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors (including the Town Mayor as designated representative of Penzance Council). The Town Clerk attends PZRC Board meetings in an advisory capacity.

The ultimate aim is for operational management of the three projects to be handled by three separate legal entities, with PZRC Board fulfilling an oversight role.

Further information is available on the website: <https://pzrc.co.uk/>

**Market House (Town Deal project)**

PZRC acquired the freehold of the Market House building using Town Deal funding, and is now restoring the eastern end of the building and bringing it back into use thanks to Town Deal and other funding sources – including the recent award of nearly £700,000 from the Heritage at Risk Capital Fund.

The project involves the creation of (i) on the lower ground floor, space to be occupied by Penzance Council housing the corporate services team and a town centre help desk, to provide face-to-face support in accessing public services; (ii) on the upper ground floor, in the old Market Hall, a food hall including three “food pods” to be let out as incubator units for local street food entrepreneurs, plus a bar and around 50 covers; and (iii) on the first floor, a “fine dining” restaurant providing job opportunities for local young people in catering and hospitality.

The current expectation is that contractors will go on site by the end of September, with works expected to last around 18 months.

**94 MJS (Town Deal project)**

This project is in the old Poundstretcher building (or the old Tesco for those with longer memories), which is owned by Cornwall Council. The project involves taking building on a 30-year lease and fitting out a bouldering centre (for all ages) on the top two floors – a more family-oriented offer at street level, and a more technical offer at first floor level. The basement area is envisaged as providing a wellness/conditioning zone that would complement (and not compete with) local gyms.

Initial work on the building is being carried out by contractors for Cornwall Council, with a view to PZRC’s contractors coming on site early in the New Year to begin fitting out works – including bouldering walls designed by the team responsible for the climbing walls at the Paris Olympics.

28-30 Market Place (Future High Streets funded project)

PZRC has acquired the freehold of the old Lou's Shoes building at the bottom of Causewayhead, currently regarded as one of the biggest eyesores in Penzance town centre.

The aim here is to deliver 8 affordable one-bedroom apartments on the upper floor reserved for local people, and a retail space at street level.

Contractors are expected to start work on site by the end of September, and the end result will be to refresh the exterior of this strategically-located building and bring it back to occupancy.

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All three projects involve the repurposing of existing buildings, and as such present a unique set of challenges around planning, design, construction and legal issues.

Navigating these issues has been complex and time-consuming, and the volunteer Board members deserve huge credit for the considerable time, energy and personal commitment they have invested in bringing each of the projects to the stage where they are close to contractors going on site to begin delivery on the ground.

As the projects move into the delivery phase, the next challenge is to develop operational models that will ensure the long-term viability of each project.

The Town Clerk and I will continue to support and advise the Board members as these projects move forward, helping to ensure that these regeneration projects are to the long-term benefit of our local community.

*Cllr Stephen Reynolds – Penzance Town Mayor – 3rd September 2025*

**REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES – PENZANCE BID**  
**PENZANCE COUNCIL – 15 SEPTEMBER 2025**

As Town Mayor, I sit on the Board of Directors of the Penzance BID and attend the regular monthly online Board meetings as the designated representative of Penzance Council. Relations with the BID on an operational level are managed through regular meetings and frequent communication between the Town Clerk and the BID Manager (Sarah Shaw). Both of them take a very hands-on, can-do approach to dealing with issues affecting the town and the BID levy payers.

Current projects include:

Town-Wide WiFi: this project, funded by the Town Deal, has been delivered by Penzance BID and has been operational in the town centre since the end of July.

Wayfinding project: the remaining Section 106 funding from the Sainsbury's development has finally been used to commission a survey to kick-start the long-awaited wayfinding project, intended to finally replace the old, tired and long-outdated signage we still have in the town centre.

PZ Food Festival: following the success of last year's inaugural Food Festival the BID has been actively partnering with (and sponsoring) the 2025 edition, due to be held in Penlee Park from 19-21 September. This has included close partnership working with Penzance Council around the use of Penlee Park.

In addition, the BID Manager and Town Clerk have been very actively involved in dealing with two major town centre issues this summer:

Market Jew Street roadworks: Sarah and James were instrumental in ensuring maximum coordination between the street works carried out as part of the Town Deal improvements and the essential gas main replacement works by Wales and West Utilities, plus the bus station improvement programme works around the Branwells Gyratory. Since then, they have been liaising regularly with Cormac and the Town Deal project management team about operational issues around access and deliveries, and about delays to some of the street works. The aim throughout has been to minimise disruption to businesses, residents and visitors, and to ensure the works are completed on time.

Crime and ASB: Here too, Sarah and James have been very hands-on in dealing with the marked uptick in ASB and criminal behaviour in recent weeks. The BID operates the DISC reporting system used by local traders to share intelligence, and also helped fund the new CCTV system operated in partnership between Penzance, St Ives and Hayle Town Councils. On Wednesday 3rd September, the BID Manager, Town Clerk and I attended a meeting at with officers at Penzance Police Station to discuss how all parties could work together to improve the situation. A number of positive suggestions emerged around intelligence sharing, reporting and multi-agency coordination, which are due to be followed up on at the Safer Penzance meeting on Thursday 4th September.

*Cllr Stephen Reynolds – Penzance Town Mayor, 3rd September 2025*