



**'discovering what's on our doorstep'**

## **Evaluation Report: Caravanserai Activities Programme July – October 2009**

Caravanserai <http://fieldsite.wordpress.com> has grown from strength to strength, illustrating that *'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts'*.

The activities programme (funded by FEAST) is inseparable from the support given to us by a wide range of people and institutions. As such Caravanserai pays tribute to the generosity, reciprocity, participation and inspiration of all partners, artists, writers, post graduate students, academic researchers and most importantly the local community and visitors to Treloan – where the project is hosted.

In this sense, before attempting to evaluate the specific activities supported by FEAST it's important to outline the emergence of the project – if you like, the preparation of the ground that has made it's facilitation possible.

The activities programme that formed the basis of our application to FEAST and consequent support arose from an initial research and consultation stage. This established the necessary foundations, community relations and practical conditions for the project to evolve. Through an immersive approach that foregrounds dialogue and shared activities (such as starting an allotment on site) a shared commitment arose with Pete and Debs Walker (owners of Treloan- 'a non creative business') to explore how the arts might raise awareness of the locality and the importance of a sustainable approach to tourism<sup>1</sup>.

The garden itself is a useful metaphor (as well as a 'real life' engagement) that underpins the ethos of Caravanserai. As such it is evocative of ecological thinking that concerns itself with the interconnectedness of things...society and environment.

The garden at Treloan has sustained hospitality throughout the project, its produce working its way onto the tables of our resident guests, or shared at fireside sessions and village events. It is within this atmosphere of generosity and trust that practitioners have been invited to work and local residents and visitors have been inspired to participate.

Ecology and sustainability are at the heart of Caravanserai - reciprocity, immersion, invitation, and hospitality give the project its emergent properties. This is the 'art' of Caravanserai – reflective of it's meaning as a place where caravans or companies of people meet –a place of shared exchange and conviviality.

*Caravan – a company of people*

*Caravanserai – a place where caravans meet*

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the various community connections established, at an early stage in the project we invited Manda Brookman, director of CoaST (Cornwall Sustainable Tourism Project) to give a presentation for Transition Roseland. This took place in the village hall; it was our first village event and provided an opportunity to gauge local interest in environmental issues.

## **Context:**

Treloan is situated on the edge of the villages of Gerrans and Portscatho. With a resident population of approximately 900, the local community hosts a large influx of visitors through second home ownership & holiday lets. Treloan itself hosts over 2000 visitors throughout the high season.

There is a tendency to think of the caravan site as somewhere where people are in motion and transient and the village as static and continuous. However, this easy distinction, which brings with it a politics of belonging and identity, is disrupted by the many layers of community in which people come and go, stay for different amounts of time either through desire or need, and are differently in motion through the site and the village.

The campsite is intrinsically connected to the social fabric of village life. Treloan not only serves tourism, the owners and site team are also involved in numerous community activities and the running of local amenities inclusive of the village school, shop, church and social club.

This interdependent relationship between local residents and visitors, between village and campsite and between the many local networks and societies has provided fertile ground for creative exploration.

As such artists, writers, local residents, academic researchers and post-graduate students, have been invited to be in residence within the Caravanserai project to explore and respond creatively to this unique context.

These residencies have triggered numerous participatory, inclusive, performative and experiential activities such as intimate fireside poetry and music sessions, film screenings, wild food walks, shared meals, poetic artworks encountered in the landscape and hands on skills sharing in willow coppicing, hurdle & charcoal making, and raft building for Portscatho's Regatta day.

The nuances and textures of the various entanglements of people, objects, materials, and ethos are still ongoing as the project evolves. The next stage of the project will be the production of a 'guide book' for the start of next years tourist season (funded by RANE – *Research into Art Nature and the Environment*, University College Falmouth). This 'guide book' will re-present images and writings from the activities programme combined with local anecdotes and useful information pertinent to raising awareness of the locality and promoting sustainable tourism at Treloan.

Caravanseai celebrates the local environment and culture through '*discovering what's on our doorstep*'. The project support awarded by FEAST has been invaluable in terms of facilitating creative engagement with issues relevant to Cornwall and we hope that we have managed to go some way toward meeting the aspirations outlined in the funding strand that has supported us...

*"Environmental issues are affecting and will continue to increasingly affect our lives in Cornwall, and we are interested in creative engagement projects which allow people to explore, debate, learn, comment, and even create solutions for some of these challenges".* **'Telling the stories that challenge and change the world'**

## Activities:

The full chronological programme of events can be accessed at <http://fieldsite.wordpress.com/whats-on/summer-2009>

*"Annie and Debs and everyone involved, This is the most incredible list of events. It is very exciting."* Jill Edwards, Priest in charge at St Gerrans with St Anthony and St Philleigh Trelowen, Rosevine, Portscatho, Cornwall

In terms of the original schedule the **awning programme** (weekly – hospitality bring and share film screenings and local history talks) evolved into regular fireside sessions, the awning if necessary providing weather protection. However we were extremely lucky weather wise with our regular wednesday fireside evenings that gained in momentum throughout the season.

Two awning film screenings were held, one of which was 'A Farm for the Future' (July 22<sup>nd</sup>) attended by local residents, campsite visitors and a resident academic geographer (as part of extended research linked to UCF / Univ. of Exeter). A lively discussion followed the film re. our reliance on fossil fuels, and the change of lifestyle / mentality necessary to address the challenges of peak oil & climate change.

The second film screening formed part of the Open Caravans day (Aug 24<sup>th</sup>) – an opportunity to view 'Caravans: A British Love Affair' a documentary telling the intriguing story of caravanning in Britain from the 1950's through to the present day. During this day three unique caravans sited at Treloan were available for viewing and resident holiday makers were also invited to open their caravans to experience at first hand a range of design, interior décor and the accompanying stories / histories associated. The only unforeseen drawback of this intention was the fact that people were caught up 'invigilating' their caravans so the flow of interest imagined was less collective than it might have been. During our evaluation session with the campsite owners it was decided that this was an interesting idea that could work better if organised as a tour on a more amenable date. The Open Caravans took place in the middle of a busy week of village events (Fun Day & Regatta Day) so was less well attended than our other events.

The awning came into it's own as an invaluable workspace for artists, writers and students involved in the project - as well as being a communal meeting and eating place for resident artists, project helpers / volunteers, visitors and village locals.

The regular Wednesday **fireside sessions** were extremely successful...

*"To some, the word 'caravan' means the summer is here and the roads are clogged with visitors trailing their homes down the A30. But for the Caravanserai Project at Treloan Coastal Holidays on the Roseland, 'caravan' is used in its more historical meaning; that of a group of people or 'company of companions' travelling along the ancient trade routes like the 'Silk Road' between Asia and Europe. While a 'Caravanserai' is a place where such 'companies of people' would meet – a shared place of exchange, rest and conviviality."*

..If you were present at any of the weekly 'Fireside Sessions' held at Treloan over the summer, you will have heard Mac Dunlop - our 'master of ceremonies' - relay this story about Caravanserai, before introducing resident writers such as Alyson Hallett, Portscatho's own Cat Holman, along with many invited poets, storytellers and

musicians. As well as Cornwall based poets such as Penelope Shuttle, Caroline Carver, and performers Dominic Power and Chris Gray, we have had the pleasure of listening to Gerrans historian Chris Pollard, Du Hag Owr our local Sea Shanty group (formed in response to an initial invitation from Caravanserai to sing at our village hall Open Day Aug 8<sup>th</sup>), along with wonderful music & poetry from local village residents and visitors to the campsite. Each event has taken us by surprise as people contributed creative activities. Some had never written before, let alone read to an audience. In terms of FEAST criteria to '*build people's confidence and creativity*' we are aware that there are local people who have positively gained from the trusting and convivial atmosphere of these sessions and who have come away with in a renewed sense of self and confidence in their abilities to perform in the future.

These fireside events attracting 40/50 people at each of the five sessions have resulted in visitors coming to Treloan because of them, such as J & B - travelling musicians who then went on to perform at the local pub as part of the Fun Day / Regatta week. Added to this others asked to extend their bookings (difficult at high season) in order to attend more sessions.

Numerous instances of spontaneous creativity from visitors and local residents occurred - we witnessed extraordinary talent ranging from 13yr old master fiddle players to heartfelt accounts of ex servicemen, young children reciting their poems and local historical anecdotes provided by experienced performers, singers and poets.

Having gained momentum at such a rate we look forward to these sessions evolving in the future as they have done this year, through creative input and shared experiences.

*The summer has been made special by the wonderful efforts of everybody at Treloan. Wednesdays have been a day to look forward to and I have met some lovely people around the campfire. Long may it continue.*  
Andrea Insoll (Portscatho)

*"Wednesday evenings are a joy for everyone and a brilliant idea. Everyone meets together and you can meet new people and sing and laugh.. cheers"*  
Bea aged 10 - visitor

*Thanks for another great evening.  
The weather wasn't always fine but the company sure was, down at Teloan on fireside nights we all answered the call. We laughed at Mac when he told us of his brothers wings, and how his telephone was just about to ring. We had singers and poets and storytellers too, for down at old Treloan you don't just watch the view. Chris Insoll talked about himself or was it all about me, but with all that smoke in your eyes it's very hard to see. What I learned at old Treloan was very simple to me, if you put like minded people in a field the whole World seems free.*  
Chris Pollard, local writer and singer songwriter, Gerrans.

*This whole project has just been wonderful.* Pauline Grisby, Leicester

*A lovely campsite, wish we could stay longer and have another cosy campfire feast.* Jules age 5 (visitor)

*Lovely idea to have a meeting around the fire* Helen (visitor)

## **FEAST – A local food banquet (Aug 6<sup>th</sup>)**

Earlier in the year we organised a talk by Manda Brookman of COAST for the local transition group. Inspired by Manda Brookman's statistic "a 10% increase in local produce bought by the hotels and catering industry across the region would generate £45m and 2000 jobs" Cornwall Taste of the West. So we put forward a challenge – 'how about 100% local produce? Support local producers and local retail outlets - create delicious culinary delights to bring and share at a festive banquet'.

Over 100 people showed up to a beautiful setting in the project field with a sea view. Resident artist Greg Humphries made barbeque charcoal from local willow (thanks here to local residents Jude and Tony Tomlinson for permitting access to their willow coppice). Food foraged during the day in a walk led by Greg, village resident Allan Collins and wild food expert Rachel Lambert along with all manner of local produce was cooked on the various barbecues.

Mac Dunlop welcomed guests to the Caravanserai project and present company of people in a moving speech that asked us to remember those no longer with us – reading a poignant text written by FEAST project manager Laura Hardman only a week before she died "My dad always says 'if you never change, you never grow' and I think it's dealing with challenges and problems that enable us to change. We all have coping strategies for the here and now, sometimes we need the inspiration to move beyond the unknown and taste the future. I'd like to think that art can help us change and I hope that some of our FEAST projects will elicit this change in people's lives.

Mac then dedicated the lighting of a fire sculpture created by Bristol artist Hannah Cox to Laura - the crowd drifted across the field to watch it burn in silence, against the backdrop of night sky and full moon above. Hannah's documentation of the FEAST event is at <http://www.hannahcox.netgates.co.uk/gall.html>

Returning to the campfire we were enthralled by fantastic fiddle and guitar music provided spontaneously by campsite visitors, followed by numerous anecdotes, stories and offerings from people participating in the celebration.

The overall consensus in our evaluation session with Treloan owners was that this was a unique and inspiring event that we would want to emulate in the future with a longer lead-in providing more information re. local producers and retail outlets and inspirational recipes re. creating dishes from local produce. (The forthcoming guide book will be designed with this in mind).

## **'HOW TO / HANDS ON (creative making sessions):**

### **Gathering the Threads - make, do and meet**

A drop in day session at Gerrans Parish Memorial Hall, Portscatho (Aug 8<sup>th</sup>)

Penryn based artist Lynne Devey led a workshop on recycling clothes for locals and visitors "Re-Dress" <http://www.re-dress.org.uk>, Cornwall's 'Stitch n Bitch' (knitters, spinners, feltmakers) focussed their skills on participating in an art installation by Cornwall based artist Greg Humphries that conveys the process of traditional woolcraft skills - from the fleece to spinning the yarn, to the knitting.

As well as demonstrating various crochet & knitting techniques one member of the Stich n Bitch group led a session in making a colourful and strong shopping bag from recycled plastic carrier bags.

Stalls included Gerrans Church Fairtrade stall, Mary Pollard's bric-a-brac for Jollity Farm animal sanctuary and a participatory exhibit: "Bringing it Home: Climate Change and Roseland's Landscapes", a chance to be involved in new research on Roseland's futurescapes with Prof Catherine Brace and Dr Hilary Geoghegan, Geographers from University of Exeter's Cornwall Campus.

<http://climatetolandscape.wordpress.com/2009/07/16/we-will-be-at-the-hands-onhow-to-event-in-portscatho-on-8th-august-2009/>

Treloan visitor Alison Arthur provided us with delicious homemade cakes, tea & coffee. The day was also filled with music - piano playing from Mac, and as it turns out – this event was also the inaugural performance of the now established local sea shanty singers Du Hag Owr (Black and Gold).

Over 100 people attended the day which exemplified how we can get together, make, learn and do in a warm and lively atmosphere - and at the same time support local charities and initiatives on a not for profit basis. The church Fairtrade stall raised over £100; Alison's café raised £100 for the RNLI and Mary's stall £357 for Jollity Farm.

*Re: Gathering the Threads.. make, do and meet It was an amazing afternoon and it was fantastic to meet such creative people! From all on Jollity Farm - We wish to say a HUGE thanks to Annie, Mac, and Debbie at Treloan Coastal Holidays who hosted the event, for inviting me to have the Jollity stall. And to Chris and Sarah Vandome for for helping out during the day. Thank you to everyone who contributed - thank you everyone who attended £357.00 was raised for Jollity Farm's Feed & Care Expenses Mary Alice Pollard, local photographer Gerrans.*

<http://home-and-garden.webshots.com/slideshow/573966867SBHHqZ> (Mary's slide show)

### **Raft building (Aug 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>)**

Local village resident Simon Holman (boat designer/educator Falmouth Marine School) constructed a beautiful raft from recycled materials and willow donated by the neighbouring farm, which was then covered in canvas. Assisted by Mac Dunlop and a steady stream of helpers the raft was entered into the Portscatho Regatta raft race on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The raft was a great talking point - much admired for its natural construction, but unfortunately not quite as fast as we had hoped, or was it the steering which was heading for the wrong yellow bouy?

### **DESIRE LINES – collaborative residency project:**

#### **Writer in residence - Cat Holman**

Cat initiated a postcard project on site "We're always sending cards and letters *from* Portscatho – now it's time to send some back..." postcards received were read at fireside events. She also inspired people to write and perform through leading a workshop in the Caravanserai project van. Cat has created a blog of her residency at <http://writeundercanvas.wordpress.com> and you can hear some of her work on the Caravanserai project website.

*"It felt as though I was about a hundred miles from home when I woke up in the van this morning. Despite sharing some of the same view of the sea, and a few familiar faces, the campsite feels very different from home. It's amazing how a new location can change your perspective. Not only is Arthur's Field somewhere I don't visit very*

*often (not having any need to camp), it's also very new to me to be living in a caravan. It's so quiet and peaceful here, it's giving me a chance to appreciate what we already have in the village, which I certainly take for granted at times. The space in the van is fantastic for a residency – good areas to work in, no complications or diversions like internet or phones, and the knowledge that I should be immersing myself in my surroundings and writing.* “ Cat Holman, Portscatho writer in residence

**Writer in residence - Alyson Hallett** <http://www.thestonelibrary.com>

Alyson's writings have permeated the site, a carved stone sits at the entrance "negotiations of form are endless". Poetry books, writings and logbooks have been in the showers, toilets and washing up area. Where people walk to wash their dishes words on the concrete floor echo the inspiration of being in a beautiful place.. "tread softly because you tread on my dreams" (Keats). Subtly placed slates and concrete poems have inspired visitors to make their own. One family adorned the fireside with painted text on stones – phrases such as .."soliloquy on serpentine", "syllables on slate", "grammar on granite" foregrounded an evening of inspired poetry, stories and music. Poetry has entered the local community, Alyson and fellow poet Mac Dunlop read poems to the residents of Eshcol House nursing home, poetry became the centre point of a gallery window in an installation by local artist Chris Insoll. The new Harbour Gallery in Portscatho generously exhibited a poetic piece by Alyson "how blue the sky, how fast the river, how brief the rose, how sweet the day"

Alyson's project about migrating stones was featured on Radio 4 at 11am on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2009

*"Caravanserai is a remarkable project. Under the watchful guidance of Annie and Mac, Pete and Debs, creativity is not only allowed to flourish but is positively encouraged. The response has been stunning. The toilet logbooks filled up with poems and pictures, people who have never written before have begun to write and there has been an increasing wave of appreciation for poetry and the ways in which Caravanserai embeds artistic practice in daily life. As a poet, I have been trusted to get on with my work and to share it in a variety of ways including workshops, open discussion sessions and the siting of poetic texts, one of which was sprayed onto a concrete floor, whilst another was burned with a pyrographic pen into a fence post. The result of this is twofold: as a poet my work has been quickly integrated into the fabric of place: also, the sited work looks as if it has always been there, as if it was meant to be there. This is the joy of Caravanserai. It invites anyone and everyone to creatively connect with the ongoing, ever-changing nature of landscape and the resulting abundance of delight can only be attributed to the extraordinary commitment and vision of Annie Lovejoy and Mac Dunlop in collaboration with Pete and Debs Walker. I thank them for this – the experience has changed my life."*

Alyson Hallett – writer in residence

**Writer /Artist in residence - Mac Dunlop** <http://thepoetrypoint.wordpress.com>

Mac's residency extended throughout the season (and in that sense accomplished far more than the designated 'artist in residence' funding). Mac produced writings and text based artworks such as the much commented on (especially by passing walkers) 'a smile left hanging in the air' – a handwritten script formed in metal and sited above the campsite entrance welcoming people to Treloan. He has also organised the fireside sessions inviting performers and led them as 'master of ceremonies', maintaining the flow and keeping things going. Recordings he has made of these evenings combined with associated conversations and atmospheric soundscapes were installed in a tent. This created a surprise and humorous encounter that gave insights to various aspects of campsite life and the creative activities that had been going on throughout the project. Being involved from the start

in establishing the relations necessary to the facilitation of Caravanserai, he also assisted the resident and visiting artists with any technical or practical skills they needed. Added to this he has also documented and published an overview of the poetic interventions that have been created within Caravanserai for Cornish World Magazine. Oct/Nov 2009 <http://fieldsite.wordpress.com/press>

*'It has been a wonderful transition over the last few weeks, seeing how the plans and ideas for Caravanserai have come to fruition. The Walker family have created a cosy family friendly atmosphere, and have been enthusiastic about the creative side of inviting poets and writers to work here. The resident writers and artists in turn have been inspired by simply being provided with the time and place to think, and try out ideas.*

*As both a writer and Poetry Editor of Cornish World Magazine, it has been an inspiration for me to see poetry written fresh, talked about, recited, and off the page - we have literally had words written in the landscape, word sculptures, 'grass shadows', words in concrete and hung on the walls, even fire sculptures. Meanwhile I've seen people who say they've never written a poem before having a go at it, and then finding the courage to read their words in public alongside professional writers and performers at our weekly 'Fireside Sessions'.*

*It's often the simplest things that leave a lasting impact, and for me it has been the simple combination of sharing a fire and some food with strangers and friends, and listening to the storytelling, poetry and music as the night draws in. There is something timeless in that, something that harks back throughout our shared histories, cultures and languages, something we have in common with our ancient ancestors, something shared long before words were ever written down to record it.'*  
Mac Dunlop, writer /artist in residence

**Artist in residence** – Annie Lovejoy <http://www.annielovejoy.net>

Annie's focus has been on the conceptual underpinnings of the programme, it's management, documentation, design, publicity and the hosting and negotiating of linked activities, associated academic involvement and student placements. Her interest is in an immersive and durational approach to context-led responsive arts informed by transdisciplinary explorations – especially the situated knowledges and expertise of local people. Caravanserai forms the practical element of Annie's doctoral studies, hence the academic involvement in the project. As such this has enabled a wider dissemination of the project in specific fields such as those of the arts and human / cultural geography. A joint paper with Professor Catherine Brace (Univ. of Exeter), written collaboratively in the project residency space was presented at this years Royal Geographical Society conference in Manchester.

<http://fieldsite.wordpress.com/associated-research> Another Caravanserai residency collaboration with Dr Harriet Hawkins resulted in a limited edition (1500) publication *insites: a notebook* for the same conference. <http://fieldsite.wordpress.com/publications>

*"Caravanserai is ongoing and the stories continue and will be carried afar by locals & visitors through memories and shared experiences. As an artist interested in how the processes of 'doing' art can be part of everyday life it's been amazing to see how the invited writers and artists have responded to this unique place – and in turn how locals and visitors have become involved. This project has shown me the importance of 'being' in a place and just 'doing', getting on with what we all do best - it has really brought home to me that integrity and interest in ones work is a magnet that draws involvement & nurtures creative involvement... a convivial sharing of what's on our doorstep, generosity, inspiration, knowledge and skills.*  
Annie Lovejoy, Caravanserai



## **COMMUNITY HARVEST CELEBRATION (Marquee at Treloan) Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009**

### **Balti night (Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

The idea for this event emerged from the fact that over the years villagers have often clubbed together to order curries with someone driving off to collect them. So we invited Falmouth's Balti curries to be on site for a day to prepare exquisite Nepalese and North Indian cuisine for our guests. 42 people attended this event, the majority of whom were from the local villages of Gerrans & Portscatho.

### **Treloan Festival (Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

In the 'bring and share' spirit of our fireside events everyone got involved to make this happen – a kind of 'harvest festival' of local community connections and talent. A party that celebrated the Walker family's move to the village, the campsite they've made so special and the success of the Caravanserai project.

The day involved the return of some Caravanserai performers and artists such as poet Alyson Hallett and artist Hannah Cox (who created another fire sculpture in the project field, which we witnessed burn accompanied by the Du Hag Owr shanty singers). Cornwall based artist Lois Wild re-created her project 'a celebration through cake' a popular sharing of cakes made by project participants and herself that were created and decorated to represent peoples involvement in the Caravanserai project and festival. Local stallholders sold bric a brac & Fairtrade as they had done previously in the village hall open day we organised in August.

Various local musicians and bands played and the evening finale was a session by the Maria Daines band who had travelled from Cambridge to voluntarily play at the invitation of local residents Mary & Chris Pollard. The PA /sound system was volunteered and run by a local resident and the whole collection of village festive lights were delivered for the event (spontaneously) by the landlord of the local pub.

Over 100 people attended this event on a rather dull and rainy day, a full programme of the day's events (with links to video clips and images) is available at <http://fieldsite.wordpress.com/whats-on>

On evaluation we deemed Treloan Festival a great success & confirmed that it would become an annual event. The number of people that attended was significant in that we would want it to remain at that level, so as to ensure that the event celebrates and showcases local skills and talent. Added to this, it was decided that some performers from further afield could be invited to perform in exchange for holiday accommodation, and with enough lead in, we might be able to cover their travel costs by organising other venues for them to play at.

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## To conclude:

In terms of the objectives to meet FEAST guidelines and criteria the project has achieved it's aims as follows:

Provided opportunities for creative engagement with environmental issues of relevance to Cornwall in terms of the context of a particular location.

Developed confidence within the community to participate in and develop further skills & creative projects (evident in the comments collated, particularly the initiative of local resident Allan Collins to learn traditional skills in crab pot making to ensure that the knowledge is passed on – full story is available here:

<http://greghumphries.wordpress.com/2009/07/06/treloan-portscatho-grid-ref875347>

Provided a unique venue for transdisciplinary explorations and the sharing of knowledges from different walks of life (which will continue to be disseminated through academic liasions, research and development of the project)

Established the relations that will allow for project evolvment.

Treloan Coastal Holidays is committed to continued support of the Caravanserai project; and we have received an offer of financial support from a village resident toward kick starting a fund for future arts residencies.

Caravanserai has maximised the potential of existing programmes to generate further outcomes and wider dissemination of the project through hosting artists, writers, post grad students and academic researchers. The outcomes of these liasions will become building blocks for future initiatives such as the forthcoming 'guide book' (funded by RANE - Research into Art, Nature and the Environment UCF).

Connections made throughout the project will be maintained and nurtured, as the general consensus from the comments received is that if possible, Caravanserai should continue.

*"you've brought the community and campsite back together – just like you said you wanted to"* Debs Walker, Treloan Coastal Holidays

*"Thank YOU for all you have done - this is a better place because of you and Mac - Debbie and Pete and all those wonderful people you have introduced to our area !"*  
"local resident Mary Alice Pollard

*Thanks to Debs, Pete, Annie & Mac for showing us how to enjoy each other's company, for giving people the opportunity to try something new and for bonding the village, the people in it and the people that come to visit. I've never seen so much love towards others, thanks a million.* Local resident Allan Collins

The potential for sustaining an arts / ecology residency space at Treloan is an exiting option in terms of facilitating and supporting work that is integral to and engaged with the locality. Certainly the campsite owners (as partners in the project) are more than happy to continue with their support – in their position as a tourist business this offer comes with all the necessary health and safety procedures (applicable to public arts practice) in place. Caravanserai is a viable and fantastic opportunity for a residency space to develop that is sensitive to the locality and facilitated through trust. Artists here are encouraged to respond creatively, without the constraints of over-arching thematic curatorial structures, remote committees or inflexible bureacracies.

**Extract from poet in residence Alyson Hallett's diary:**

Monday evening: 7.30 p.m. 17<sup>th</sup> August

*I have the feeling that I am being returned to myself as an artist and poet – that there's enough time and space here to play, experiment, make mistakes, start again. I forgot to bring blu-tack with me and set off into the village to buy some. Ralph's store didn't have any and the post office didn't have any either. The man behind the post-office counter was surprised to discover they'd run out. "How much do you need?" he asked. "Not much," I said. He fished a packet out of a drawer, broke off a healthy lump and gave it to me. Next I went to Eshcol to introduce myself. The introduction was brief but as I was leaving I heard someone say, "Will you be stopping and sitting on the bench with me?" It wasn't what I'd planned, but I said "Yes, I'll sit a while with you." The conversation turned as conversations turn from The Lake Isle of Innisfree to Daffodils to The Lady of Shallot. "The nuns would be pleased with me," Carmel said, as she remembered the poems the nuns had taught her. Later still, we agreed that gold was no colour for a car and that most cars now had no elegance. We looked at the huge ship moored out to sea. "It's blue," I said. "Is it?" she said. "Yes," I said. "It gets bluer the more you look," she said, "look, it's so blue it's navy." I walked back into the village in search of shandy at the Plume. Before getting there however Chris called me into his gallery. "You'll need torches on Wednesday night," he said, "for when it gets dark. So the poets can see what they're reading." And so what returns me to myself as a poet and artist? These unexpected encounters, the ease of moving through this place, the extreme gentleness and time unfolding like a chiffon scarf in a breeze. Nothing particular, just moments such as these.*

**Response from Treloan - Debs Walker**

*The project Caravanserai has been wonderful. Our local community and campers have had great fun joining in with the artists and many have been inspired by them so much so that Rachel Best a camper from Wales is coming back next year to do a workshop with the children teaching them how to draw with chalk and charcoal, Mrs. Coldicott will be returning to do foraging jams and chutneys musicians have been popping out from everywhere and 6 local people have written poems and read them at our fireside sessions. This project has not only made our campers enjoy their holiday more and tak home good memories it has helped the community to get together. Thanks to Annie, Caravanserai, and Feast, Treloan Coastal Holidays is a nicer place to be and stay.*

**Statistics forwarded to Feast Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 2009  
(re. ACE annual review).**

On 13 Oct 2009, at 12:27, Reece-Romain Victoria wrote:

Dear All

ACE will be undertaking an annual review of FEAST in a couple of weeks time and we would like to be able to present them with statistics and good news stories from projects funded in year one of FEAST; this will also help us to start building the case for funding beyond the initial 3 years. Please could you let me know the following info (and if your project is on-going please could you give me projected figures):

- Number of artists employed
- Number of volunteers involved
- Number of beneficiaries (audience and/or participants)
- Number of communities involved
- 6 one-liners about your project (e.g. feedback / quotes / feel-good snippets of info)

It would be a huge help if you could let me have this by **Monday 19 Oct.**

Many thanks

Vicky

Vicky Reece-Romain, Administrator  
Creative Services, Cultural Services, Cornwall Council  
[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)

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**Direct involvement:**

*Number of artists employed* - 4 artists / 2 writers / 1 boat designer / 1 local historian / 3 musicians / 2 poets /

*Number of volunteers involved* - approx 50 helpers (inclusive of festival performers, art students etc)

*Number of beneficiaries (audience and/or participants):*

July / Aug 5 Fireside poetry music sessions - 250

Feast local food banquet (aug 6) - 100

harvest meal / festival (oct 3) - 150

workshops & open days - 100

*passing viewers / encounters* by local residents of Gerrans & Portscatho & visitors to Treloan - impossible to estimate  
(eg. Treloan hosts over 2000 visitors throughout the high season)

*Number of communities involved* -

geographic communities - local residents of Portscatho/Gerrans, tourists & visitors to Treloan

communities of interest - eg. academic / arts / geog / literary / transition group / craft groups / students etc

## Secondary involvement:

Internet users via the project blog <http://fieldsite.wordpress.com> and associated websites, as follows:

Treloan coastal Holidays <http://www.coastalfarmholidays.co.uk>  
Feast <http://www.cornwallculture.co.uk/feast>  
Hannah Cox <http://www.hannahcox.netgates.co.uk/gall.html>  
Cat Holman <http://writeundercanvas.wordpress.com>  
Greg Humphries <http://greghumphries.wordpress.com/category/portscatho>  
Annie Lovejoy <http://www.annielovejoy.net>  
Mac Dunlop <http://thepoetrypoint.wordpress.com>  
Charlotte Stranks <http://gnu43.blogspot.com/2009/04/as-part-of-my-cec-work-experience-i.html>  
RANE (Research into Art, Nature and the Environment)  
[http://rane.falmouth.ac.uk/lovejoy\\_dunlop\\_details.html](http://rane.falmouth.ac.uk/lovejoy_dunlop_details.html)  
From Climate to Landscape: Imagining the Future <http://climatetolandscapes.wordpress.com>

Local Press: (West Briton / Cornish World) <http://fieldsite.wordpress.com/press>

### Publications:

Limited Edition *insites: a notebook* for RGS <http://fieldsite.wordpress.com/publications>  
Forthcoming Caravanserai / Treloan *guidebook* (estimated - 1500 copies)

### Project presentations:

UCF Association of International Art Schools  
<http://www.falmouth.ac.uk/1177/aias-conference-2009-51/symposium-449.html>  
Bos Arts – ‘This Weekend’ Arts Seminar <http://www.bosarts.org/seminar-09.html>  
Royal Geographical Society Conference <http://fieldsite.wordpress.com/associated-research/>

## Some responses (e.g. feedback / quotes / feel-good snippets of info):

*One day that changed my life – while working locally I met for the first time 2 people Greg Humphries and Annie Lovejoy, between them they have released a passion within me to work with raw materials especially willow. Thanks to them I have now made plans to go on a number of courses, one of these being willow crab pot making, an art sadly lost in the village. With all these new skills they have encouraged me to pursue, I will then teach and pass on these lost skills – and the gap will be bridged. I will always remember what you have done for me, thanks. Your friend forever, Allan Collins, local resident*

*As a poet my work has been quickly integrated into the fabric of place: also, the sited work looks as if it has always been there, as if it was meant to be there. This is the joy of Caravanserai. It invites anyone and everyone to creatively connect with the ongoing, ever-changing nature of landscape and the resulting abundance of delight can only be attributed to the extraordinary commitment and vision of Annie Lovejoy and Mac Dunlop in collaboration with Pete and Debs Walker. I thank them for this – the experience has changed my life. Alyson Hallett – writer in residence*

*Annie's and Mac's residencies, along with those of the other resident writers and artists weave the local community into larger networks. Drawing attention to what is on the doorstep, they enmesh local anecdotes and histories, revive dying craft techniques and instigate environmental practices and discourses in an organic interlacing of politics, history and poetics. To be geographer-in-residence (inverting the normative terms of artistic residency) was to think amidst, and to experience, these creative occupations of place and to critique the concept of residency in the context of terms such as dwelling, duration, mobility, community and connectivity. Dr Harriet Hawkins (University of Exeter) Geographer in residence*

**blog comments:**

October 3, 2009 "Amazing community spirit and dedication by all" Zest - Canadian environmental ezine

May 20, 2009 "Steve and I enjoy being involved with the projects at Treloan in a very small way and we do miss everyone and wonder how it's all going when we are at home. Looking forward to seeing everything grow and develop over the summer and maybe being involved with a few events" .Alison Arthur, Truro

September 8 2009 "your sites are full of richly interesting work" David Crouch, Professor Emeritus in Cultural Geography and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Derby UK - author of numerous books / journal articles on leisure, tourism, landscape & culture.

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