



RICH PICKINGS

Perranporth

John Bateman selects from a wealth of CLs in an area of Cornwall that was once renowned for its tin mining

CORNWALL'S UNIQUE mix of the exotic and the untamed lures tourists in their droves every summer. The north coast resort of Perranporth, with its miles of golden sands and rhythmic ocean swells, is a fine example of how tourism bobbed up to keep economies afloat after the demise of traditional industries.

This former tin mining village now fits the classic seaside resort formula – vibrant and packed in mid-summer, relatively peaceful out of season. As Cornwall addicts know, this magnificent coastline just about has it all. At Perranporth and nearby St Agnes, sunbathers and watersport lovers flock to the sands and quite often stay there for as long as the tide permits and the clouds stay away.

There is, however, a lot more to this patch than beaches. There are coastal paths to clamber, remarkable flora and fauna to study, eerie caves to explore, a fine links golf course to play and a host of inland lanes and villages to discover. If fresh seafood appeals, with the prospect of a dollop of

clotted cream on whatever you choose for dessert, then climb aboard for a short trip around some fine CLs.

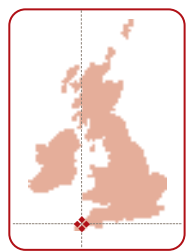
Polgarth Farm, Trevellas, carries a St Agnes address but is only 1½ miles from Perranporth, its listing town. Here, Michael and Anna Parris run their impeccably maintained ¾-acre lawned CL. Hook-ups are located around the perimeter to permit pitch choice and rotation and, whichever plot you choose, you'll find a water tap to hand. The site has something of a slope but nothing to cause concern and, with 11 of the farm's 18 acres under an environmental stewardship scheme, caravanners benefit from a lovely dog walk and numerous other paths nearby.

The site is open all year and booking is advised at all times, essential in peak season. Trevellas Cove, the South West Coastal Path and wonderful beach locations are among the attractions that make this a CL base unlikely to disappoint.

Here, though, is where I fear some of us will part company because CLs without electrics are, sadly, not even considered

by many. It is a pity because a site such as Ocean View, Higher Landrine, which sits inland roughly five miles from both Perranporth and Newquay, its listing town, is a delight.

True, you won't have a hook-up, nor will you have the sea view implicit in the house name. What you will have, though, is a level, lawned spot at the heart of a beautiful 5½-acre garden, lovingly designed, planted and tended by the owners, Chris and Angie Moores. Chris, an early-retired architect, devotes much of his time to the grounds >>



Ordnance Survey
Landranger Maps 200, 204

INFORMATION

SITES

Details of the CLs featured and more choices can be found on pp315-317 of the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2009/2010*



TOURISM

■ **Perranporth TIC**, 8 Tywarnhayle Square TR6 0ER.
Call 01872 575254 or see perranporthinfo.co.uk



Non-stop ocean action – that's the lure of the Cornish coast

DID YOU KNOW?

Perranporth was the inspiration behind Winston Graham's Poldark novels

and, if you plan your visit shrewdly, you could have access to fresh vegetables and soft fruit. Pitching options involve two grassy glades, sheltered by high hedging and ornamental shrubs, with one area backed by pine woodland.

Ocean View sits on a lofty ridge and, in fairness to the original owners, the house does have a view across open countryside to the sea, but for caravanners it is the secluded garden greenery and escapist setting that make this CL a class act.

Motor caravanners Steve and Rachael Minney, from Althorne, Essex, were

relaxing in complete isolation when we arrived to disturb their idyll. "Welcoming owners, lovely site – the perfect choice for a restful break," said Steve.

Friendly co-operation between Club site wardens and CL owners is a pleasing feature of caravan life in many parts of the country, and things don't come much cosier than the link between Little Treamble Farm CL and Treamble Valley Club site, its near neighbour.

Tina and Brian Monahan, Treamble Valley's winter caretakers, combine CL care with their plant nursery and shop,

which stocks a handy mix of practical items and ideal gifts. Tina used to work at the Club site, and it was encouragement from wardens and members that led her and Brian to set up their own 'five-vanner' 11 years ago.

The CL is a neatly-maintained half-acre, with electrics (gremlins omitted the symbol in the *Directory*), plus toilet and shower facilities. With views of Holywell Bay and Perranporth only two miles away, Little Treamble Farm is a well placed and attractive all-year site.

Concern over ground damage has led Josephine and Terry Buscombe to switch their Reen Cross Farm CL, Goonhavern, from all-year to March-October opening. That still leaves ample time, though, to enjoy a well-equipped rural site just a few minutes from Penhale Dunes SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and its walks, butterflies, coastal flowering plants and much more besides.

This open, grassy site has electrics, toilet, shower and dishwashing/veg preparation facilities, plus two hardstanding super pitches. Sensor-controlled lighting for water taps and toilets adds to the home comforts. Booking is essential but note that pup or toilet tents are not permitted.

There are many more quality CLs along this coastal stretch of Cornwall, so take your pick. ■

ATTRACTIONS

- **Heritage Coast** – including Trevaunance Cove and St Agnes
- **Blue Hills Tin Mine, St Agnes** – call 01872 553341 or see bluehillstin.com
- **South West Coast Path** – a four-county 'wonder walk' with memorable views. See southwestcoastpath.com
- **Perranporth Golf Club** – call 01872 572454 or see perranporthgolfclub.co.uk
- **Blue Reef Aquarium, Newquay** – call 01637 878134 or see bluereefaquarium.co.uk
- **Perranporth Surf School** – call 07974 550823 or see perranporthsurfschool.co.uk (seasonal opening)
- **Truro** – Cornwall's capital with cathedral, museum and good shops. Call Truro TIC (on Boscawen Street) on 01872 274555
- **Eden Project, Bodelva** – call 01726 811911 or see edenproject.com
- **The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Pentewan** – call 01726 845100 or see heligan.com