

# Milestones

## October

The **Combined Universities in Cornwall** project is approved for almost £5 million of Objective One funding as part of an £8.8 million package to continue start-up work. The CUC is projected to create 1,000 jobs and generate £31 million a year for the local economy.

Work starts on a **50,000sq ft factory** at St Columb Major, one of the largest speculative factories to be built in Cornwall for several years. The £3.2 million RDA project is backed by £1.7 million from Objective One.

## November

A **£3.6 million rural tourism marketing fund** was launched with the help of more than £1 million of Objective One funding. The scheme will run for four years and offer grants of up to 50% for projects up to a total value of £100,000.

**Cornwall's cultural industries** received a £730,000 boost with the launch of a skills training project supported by £330,000 from Objective One and involving more than 25 arts organisations across Cornwall.

## December

**ACT NOW**, a £12.5 million project to bring broadband Internet and e-business training to Cornwall is launched with £5.25 million from Objective One. The project aims to create 1,000 jobs by encouraging 3,300 Cornish businesses to make the most of e-commerce. Cornwall's Objective One programme reaches a **major milestone** with the value of Objective One grants earmarked for projects now standing at more than £100 million. Ten new projects were recommended for approval for £27.6 million of Objective One funding in December, taking the total amount of grant allocated so far to £100.4 million.

**Helpline** freephone 0800 0280120

**Website** [www.objectiveone.com](http://www.objectiveone.com)

**Address** Objective One Partnership Office, Castle House, Pydar Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2UD.

**Telephone** 01872 241379

**Fax** 01872 241388

**Email** [objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk)



The Objective One Partnership  
for Cornwall and Scilly



Objective One is  
part-funded by the  
European Union

The Objective One Programme for  
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

# Review: October – December 2001



Mike Dunn from BT, Objective One programme director Bill Bawden and Nigel Ashcroft of Cornwall Enterprise launch ACT NOW at the Goonhilly Earth Satellite Station.



## Keeping in touch

If you need more information about Objective One please call the Helpline or visit our website.

We will be producing quarterly and annual reviews of the programme on an on-going basis – let us know if there is particular information you think we should include in future.

Produced by the Objective One Partnership Office

Confidence  
Change  
Partnership  
Quality



The Objective One Partnership  
for Cornwall and Scilly

## Now we've really taken off



John Lobb

The last few months of 2001 saw the Objective One programme pass the £100 million milestone in terms of the amount of funding allocated to projects. Much of the hard work in developing the Task Force strategies has been concluded and together these now provide a good basis for guiding new project applications.

The number of project approvals and the spend by those already approved have markedly increased during the last few months in particular and I expect this accelerated performance to continue during 2002.

Given the focus and efforts put in over the past 12 months, my hope is that Cornwall will be able to tap into the promised performance reserve for those high achieving Objective One areas. This is my aim, which I hope is shared by all of us in Cornwall.

Just before Christmas saw the approval of the ACT NOW project, a major initiative to bring broadband telecommunications services to small and medium sized businesses in the County.

Together with business support services the introduction of these facilities will give Cornwall a new competitive edge and enable the County to develop its ICT capabilities.

In what was undoubtedly a very difficult year for many businesses there were strong signs towards the end of 2001 that business recovery was well in train.

The overall economic trends created by the difficult world trading conditions can be expected to exert considerable pressures on us all but in Cornwall we have many positives to look forward to during 2002.

**John Lobb, Leader of Cornwall County Council**



## Year of achievement

As one of the key partners in the Objective One programme, the South West Regional Development Agency is closely involved in a number of significant projects aimed at bringing lasting prosperity to Cornwall.

We have committed almost £900,000 to the ACT NOW project to bring broadband access to the county, and we are a key player in the Combined Universities in Cornwall initiative, where we are investing more than £13 million.

The RDA is also helping to develop Cornwall's skills base. Our £750,000 investment in the award-winning Let's Do IT project, which provides ICT training for small and medium sized companies, has levered in an additional £302,000 of Objective 1 funding in 2001–2003.

We are also investing £550,000 in providing training and skills for workers in Cornwall's marine sector, supported by £95,000 from Objective One.

The RDA is also the agreed lead partner in providing sites and premises in Cornwall for businesses wishing to relocate and expand.

To reflect the extensive programme of land acquisition and development being generated by the programme, we have recently appointed a five-strong Cornwall property development team, part-funded by Objective One, including a dedicated manager for the £150 million regeneration of Camborne, Pool and Redruth.

The next few months will also see the completion of two key Objective One projects that have been jointly funded by the RDA.

The £4 million Tolvaddon Energy Park near Camborne sets new standards in design and environmental sustainability, providing 31,000 sq ft of workspace across 19 different units. It is nearing completion and there is already interest from local businesses in occupying two-thirds of the units.

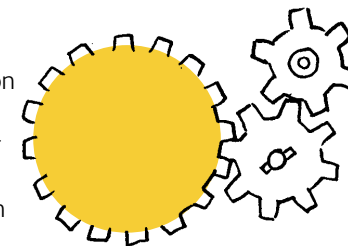
And at St Columb Major the RDA, with Objective One support, is building a 50,000 sq ft factory, one of the largest speculative builds in Cornwall in recent years. As I write there has already been great interest in the factory and we hope to be able to announce a new tenant shortly.

As we move in to 2002, the RDA will continue to work hard with its partners to ensure Cornwall takes maximum advantage of everything Objective One has to offer.

**Sir Michael Lickiss  
Chairman, South West Regional  
Development Agency**



Sir Michael Lickiss



## Cornwall leads the way in broadband revolution

Thousands of rural businesses in Cornwall will benefit from a multi-million pound investment in broadband Internet technology which was announced in December.

Called ACT NOW – Access for Cornwall through Telecommunications to New Opportunities Worldwide – the £12.5 million project aims to upgrade 12 of Cornwall's telephone exchanges with ADSL broadband technology.

It will also provide an intensive support package to 3,300 small and medium-sized businesses to help them make the most of the exciting new developments.

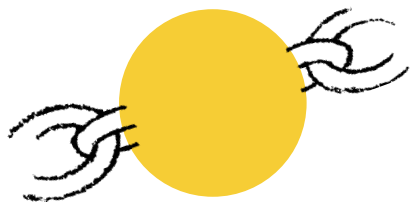
This is the first time such a package has been put together for a rural area of the UK, and is expected to be used as a model for other regions.

ACT NOW is supported by £5.25 million of Objective One funding – the largest single grant to date – and has come about through a groundbreaking partnership between BT, the South West Regional Development Agency, Cornwall County Council, Cornwall Enterprise, Business Link Devon & Cornwall and Cornwall College.



Nigel Ashcroft at the launch of ACT NOW at the Goonhilly Earth Satellite Station.

It will place Cornish businesses at the forefront of the e-business revolution, allowing them to increase productivity, cut costs and compete on the world stage. The three-year project is expected to create more than 1,000 jobs.



ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) transforms the pair of copper wires between a local telephone exchange and a customer's telephone socket into a high-speed digital line capable of delivering large quantities of data at a fraction of the time it takes traditional 'narrowband' technology.

It is 'always on' so there is no need to dial up a connection. Users can also make voice calls while connected to the Internet, using the same telephone line. As well as the 3,300 directly participating businesses, more than 10,000 other businesses and 93,000 households in Cornwall will be connected to broadband-enabled exchanges once the roll-out is complete. Nigel Ashcroft of Cornwall Enterprise, who chairs the Objective One ICT Task Force, said: "We have put together a service that can be tailor-made to suit individual SMEs to ensure they reap the huge benefits of broadband technology."

BT's initial investment in the broadband infrastructure will be £1.7 million, supported by £910,000 of Objective One funding. Four telephone exchanges will be upgraded at first. The rest are expected to follow as demand increases, which is why Cornish businesses are being urged to make the most of the new technology and sign up as soon as it is available in their area.

The £10 million business support package will include a subsidy for the first 18 months of the ADSL contract.

The bulk of the support package is being funded by £4.35 million from Objective One. Other main funders include SWRDA, which is putting in £873,000 and Cornwall County Council which is putting in £200,000 through its economic development company Cornwall Enterprise.

**Businesses wanting to know more about ACT NOW can call 01872 322931.**

## Celebrations of Marconi's first



Guglielmo Marconi at Poldhu Amateur Radio Hut, with a morse key like the one used by his grandfather to make the first transatlantic transmission 100 years ago.

Just 24 hours after the launch of ACT NOW, Cornwall was celebrating another telecommunications first that had taken place exactly one hundred years earlier, with the official opening of the Objective One-funded Poldhu Marconi Centre.

The visitor centre and community facility has been created on the site where radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi broadcast the first transatlantic signal from Poldhu on The Lizard to Newfoundland in Canada.

The centre was officially opened on December 12, one hundred years to the day since that first groundbreaking broadcast which sparked a worldwide communications revolution.

The National Trust developed the project with Marconi PLC and the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club with the help of £142,000 of Objective One funding.

The new centre is expected to attract radio enthusiasts from around the world, helping to boost the local economy.

As well as celebrating Cornwall's historic role in Marconi's pioneering work, it is also an important community facility and one of the first buildings to be completed under the Objective One programme.

## CUC builds confidence in education

2001 was the year the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) project started to become a reality and Cornwall's education sector began to feel the real benefits of Objective One.



Seen as the flagship Objective One project in Cornwall, the CUC aims to attract an extra 4,000 new students by 2010, creating a projected 1,000 new jobs and generating £31 million a year in the local economy.

The 'hub' of the CUC will be at the Falmouth College of Arts campus near Penryn, where a £43 million phase one investment programme is on course to start in the next few months.

A further £16 million will be invested at the CUC's so-called 'rim' sites – namely the further education colleges in Cornwall. They have joined forces with Falmouth College of Arts, the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter, the College of St Mark and St John in Plymouth and the Open University to make the CUC a reality.

In October, the Objective One programme approved almost £5 million of funding as part of an £8.8 million package to enable the CUC to continue its essential start-up work.

Two further bids for £25.6 million are in the pipeline and are expected to be approved shortly so that construction of the first phase of the main campus can start.

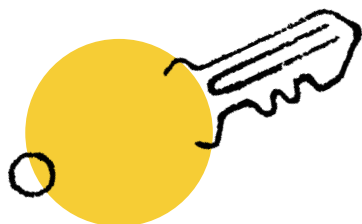
And the CUC's impact is already being felt. In July, Truro College announced it was building a £4 million centre of excellence, supported by £1.67 million of Objective One funding, to enable it to deliver new courses in support of the CUC.

Also in July, the Camborne School of Mines – which will be relocating to the CUC hub campus – announced a £1.5 million Objective One project aimed at building on the international expertise that already exists in Cornwall in the earth and environmental sciences.

And there was further good news in July with the announcement that an ultra-modern £5 million training centre to attract more students into the engineering and construction industries and equip them with the latest skills is to be built at Camborne Pool Redruth College. Over £2 million in funding for the centre is being provided through the Objective One programme.

Objective One programme director Bill Bawden said: "These are just some of the projects from the last year that demonstrate how the CUC is helping to build confidence across Cornwall's education sector.

By working in partnership, Cornwall is starting to build an integrated delivery programme that will help us retain our young people by offering them a more diverse range of opportunities."



## Under the Objective One umbrella

There is now a whole range of umbrella funds up and running under Objective One to which Cornish businesses can apply directly for cash support.

Among the most successful have been three funds run by the South West Investment Group which offer a combination of interest-free loans and grants. The funds have been part-financed through £1.57 million from the Objective One programme.

There are six further Objective One umbrella funds available to businesses offering a range of grant support for diversification, capital investment and marketing, details of which are on the following pages.

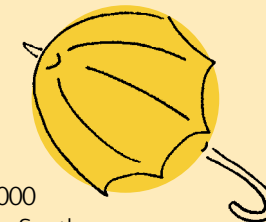
In recent months the funds managed by the South West Investment Group have helped a boat-building firm, a swimwear manufacturer, several tourism-related projects, a furniture manufacturer and many other small and medium-sized businesses.

A total of 71 local businesses have received nearly £750,000 in the last seven months alone.

One project was the conversion of a group of historic barns in North Cornwall into a high-quality leisure and tourism business.

Thanks to an interest-free loan from the South West Investment Group, the Caradoc Centre was opened recently by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall to provide residential painting courses in beautiful surroundings and a traditional setting.

Bookings are already looking promising and the centre was recently featured on local television.



And a £3,000 grant from the South West Investment Group has helped Launceston-based, HPC Trading to design and develop new furniture products. The company manufactures and supplies a variety of metal and timber components – such as legs and integral slats – for the furniture industry.

Formed a year ago, the company already has a contract with a major bed and furniture-making company in Somerset and is planning to progress into full furniture ranges in the near future. In doing so, it will expand its workforce, adding two full-time staff to its two existing part-time workers.

The South West Investment Group is one of the primary routes for many local businesses to source Objective One funding. It has been delivering financial help to Cornish (and Devon) businesses for a number of years and has a proven track record.

For more information contact the South West Investment Group, Trevint House, Strangways Villas, Truro, TR1 2PA, Tel 01872 223883, fax 01872 242470.

**For full details of the umbrella funds see pages 8&9.**



The Caradoc Centre near Delabole.

# Objective One umbrella funds

## ● Small Business Grant Scheme

To provide grants to start-up and small businesses employing less than five people where traditional finance cannot be obtained. Priority given to same sectors as Cornwall Business Enterprise Scheme.

### **Type of funding available**

Grants of up to £3,000 – for capital equipment, marketing costs – including trade shows and exhibitions, feasibility/consultancy costs.

**Contact:** South West Investment Group at Trevint House, Strangways Villas, Truro, TR1 2PA. Tel: 01872 223883, fax: 01872 242470; swig@btinternet.com

## ● Cornwall Business Growth Fund

Provides repayable interest-free loans to support businesses employing between 5 and 250 people where traditional finance cannot be obtained. Priority given to same sectors as Cornwall Business Enterprise Scheme.

### **Type of funding available**

Loans of £3,000 to £50,000, repayable over one to five years for same activity as above.

**Contact:** South West Investment Group, as above.

## ● Rural Tourism Improvement Fund

To offer targeted financial assistance and associated support for farm tourism in Cornwall via a delegated grant scheme.

### **Type of funding available**

Capital grants scheme (max 50%).  
Environmental grant scheme (max 70%).  
Application & business plan development fund (max 80%).

**Contact:** Phil Aubrey or Annette Cole at SW Tourism on 01392 353228 or 01392 353229; acole@swtourism.co.uk

## ● Cartwheel rural tourism marketing grants

Funding towards the cost of marketing activities for all eligible farm tourism businesses, farm accommodation organisations and co-operating groups who can demonstrate continued involvement in agriculture and associated activities.

### **Type of funding available**

Fast Track grant: of between £500 and £2,000 to help with new marketing activities (max 50%).

Larger project grant: for projects with a total value of up to £100,000 and costing more than £2,000 (max 50%).

**Contact:** Cartwheel, Darts Farm, Topsham, Exeter, Devon EX3 0QH. Telephone 01392 877842 and ask for Marie Stainwright, or visit [www.cartwheel.org.uk](http://www.cartwheel.org.uk)

## ● Rural Diversification Capital Grant Initiative

Financial assistance and associated support for farm tourism via delegated grant scheme.

### **Type of funding available**

Facilitation and initial casework (max 100%): pre-investment assistance.

Pre-investment support (max 80%): consultancy advice including development of business ideas.

Capital grant – mainstream and fast-track (max 50%): capital grants to assist 45 initiatives per year. Fast track system for smaller schemes with maximum gross cost of £10,000.

**Contact:** Richard Adams at Business Link for Devon & Cornwall on 0845 600 9966. [devcwill.businesslink@prosper-group.co.uk](mailto:devcwill.businesslink@prosper-group.co.uk)

## ● The Cornwall Food and Drink Partnership Scheme

Jointly managed by Business Link Devon & Cornwall and Taste of the West. Provides capital grant funding to food and drink manufacturers, caterers, wholesalers, retailers and primary agricultural producers. Can be used for capital/processing equipment, refrigerated vehicles and limited structural work. Fish producers and processors are ineligible.

### **Type of funding available**

Grants are available up to 50% of the total project cost, providing this does not exceed £100,000. Fast track system available for projects valued at less than £10,000.

A technical advisor and business advisor are provided to help develop applications.

**Contact:** Graham Woolcock, Business Link Devon & Cornwall, Harleigh Road, Bodmin, PL31 1AH. Tel: 0845 600 9966. Or Carrie Brent, Cornwall Taste of the West, 7 The Courtyard, Trewolland, Liskeard PL14 3NL, Tel. 01579 349363; fax: 01579 342290, email [carrie@cornwalltasteofthewest.co.uk](mailto:carrie@cornwalltasteofthewest.co.uk)

## ● Cornwall Business Enterprise Scheme

Repayable, interest-free loans to start-up and small businesses employing less than five people where traditional finance cannot be obtained. Priority sectors: life sciences, marine engineering, renewable energy, tourism, food, environmental and earth technology, multi-media.

### **Type of funding available**

Loans of £3,000 to £25,000, repayable over one to five years – for capital equipment, marketing costs, costs of consultancy, costs of services (e.g. computer software), purchase or adaptation of buildings.

**Contact:** South West Investment Group at Trevint House, Strangways Villas, Truro, TR1 2PA. Tel: 01872 223883, fax: 01872 242470; swig@btinternet.com

## ● Cornwall Film Fund

Supports production of film and TV projects in Cornwall and script development by Cornish writers.

### **Type of funding available**

Feature film and TV project development: 45% max of development budget (up to £50,000).

Production of short films: 45% max of development budget (up to £50,000) to produce short films for cinema and/or broadcast.

New script development: £10,000 max available to Cornish resident writers to develop new feature film and TV drama scripts.

**Contact:** Colin Rogers on 01872-322886; [office@cornwallfilm.com](mailto:office@cornwallfilm.com); [www.cornwallfilm.com](http://www.cornwallfilm.com)

## ● Speciality Food and Drink Marketing Grants Scheme

Managed by Taste of the West to support SMEs who produce and process speciality food and drink. Must demonstrate that benefits of funding will extend to primary agricultural and horticultural producers. Fish producers and processors are ineligible. Items covered include public relations, promotional literature, packaging design, e-commerce, market research and others.

### **Type of funding available**

Fast Track: up to £2,000 total project cost (maximum grant rate 50%).

Mainstream: up to £25,000 total project cost (maximum grant rate 50%).

Maximum grant available during the 4 year project is £25,000. Capital items up to £5,000 may be eligible if used for marketing activity.

**Contact:** Sue Sargent, Project Officer, Cornwall Taste of the West, 7 The Courtyard, Trewolland, Liskeard PL14 3NL. Tel. 01579 349363; fax: 01579 342290, email [sue@cornwalltasteofthewest.co.uk](mailto:sue@cornwalltasteofthewest.co.uk)

## Creating space for local business

The last 12 months has seen considerable progress on the provision of new workspace for Cornish businesses, with a number of projects due to be completed early in the New Year.

Workspace projects with a total value of £10 million have come on stream in 2001, with £4.45 million of that sum coming from the Objective One programme and with the remainder coming from the public and private sector.

Two of the biggest projects – the £4 million Tolvaddon Energy Park near Camborne and a 50,000 sq ft £3.5 million factory at St Columb Major, will be completed in the next few months.



But as well as these large projects, there are a number of smaller developments which aim to deliver start-up units and office space for some of the 90% of small firms in Cornwall employing less than 10 people.

One such project, to provide eight starter units at the Tamar View Industrial Estate, is now complete. Plymouth-based EBL Developments built the £316,000 private sector scheme, supported with £103,000 from Objective One.

Elsewhere in South East Cornwall, three Objective One projects from Caradon District Council are on track to deliver a further 56 starter units to meet a surge in demand from local companies looking to expand.

The Torpoint Marine Drive Workspace Centre is already nearing completion and will provide 28 start up units and office space following a £772,000 investment. It is scheduled to be finished in April.

A further 20 units are being built at Liskeard thanks to a £674,000 investment. Work started on site in November and the project is due for completion in May.

And at Millbrook tenders were recently invited for the construction of eight units, at a cost of £549,000 including land acquisition. Contractors are expected to be on site in May.

Steve Vinson, Caradon District Council's economic development manager, said: "These four projects, valued at £2.3 million, will provide 64 new units in the District and that will be in the space of around 12 months.

Compare that to the last year of the Objective 5b European funding programme in 1999, when there were just seven new units, and you get an idea of the step change we're seeing in activity rates.

Enquiry levels in 2001 dipped during April and March because of the foot and mouth crisis, but by November and December they were actually ahead of the same time the previous year.

We're committed to ensuring that we can meet that demand and help our businesses to grow."

## Making the most of our heritage

The historic environment and cultural heritage of Cornwall and Scilly have long been recognised as unique assets that need to be treasured.

Cornwall, for example, has 1,316 scheduled monuments, among the largest number in any county. It has more than 12,000 listed buildings, 137 Conservation Areas and 54 historic gardens.

The Isles of Scilly, meanwhile, have one of the highest concentrations of ancient monuments in the country and internationally renowned prehistoric remains and Bronze Age burial sites.

Then there are the 33 museums, employing 120 people, attracting more than 600,000 visitors annually and generating more than £5 million a year for the local economy.

Add to that the rare archives and historic libraries – including the Cornish Studies Library, specialist collections at Fowey and Launceston and the Gibson photographic archive, and you start to get a picture of how important heritage is.

The Objective One Heritage Task Force has been working hard during 2001 to draw up a strategy that recognises the strength of all these assets. It is seeking to develop the region's heritage industries in a sustainable way for the long-term economic, social and environmental benefit of Cornwall and Scilly.

Task Force Co-ordinator Julie Seyler explained: "What we've found from talking to a wide range of heritage groups is that many of them have a difficult existence, have little access to professional support and that there is a lack of coherence in the sector as a whole.

Our strategy lays the foundations for a new heritage body we are calling 'Heritage Kernow' which seeks to identify and maximise opportunities for the sector to work together, and so far the feed-back has been extremely positive.

We also want to establish a pool of professional advisers who can offer heritage bodies advice ranging from curatorial support to marketing, and in tandem with this have a heritage business team to provide professional business planning.

We also want to develop higher levels of training provision for people in the sector and would like to establish a Cornwall 'heritage at risk' fund to support conservation and preservation measures.

We are also building on the Cornwall Heritage Access Information Network (CHAIN), using new technology to create greater public access to heritage material.

It's all about boosting the capacity of the heritage sector and improving what it has to offer for the long term benefit of Cornwall and Scilly."



Caerhays Castle, one of Cornwall's historic houses and gardens

## Pentreath Industries – making all the difference

One of the biggest Objective One success stories of the year has been Pentreath Industries, a registered charity and limited company providing work experience, training and employment opportunities to more than 400 Cornish people recovering from mental ill health.

Pentreath was among the first group of projects to be given Objective One funding in October 2000, and since then 246 of its trainees have achieved nationally accredited qualifications ranging from NVQs to one-day Health and Safety courses.

In December, 120 trainees attended a special awards ceremony in Newquay to receive their training awards. All of them had been through one of four different Pentreath projects part-funded with £1.7 million of Objective One support.

Objective One programme director Bill Bawden, who presented some of the awards, said: "Pentreath Industries is making a huge difference to the lives of hundreds of people in Cornwall recovering from the effects of mental ill health, and I'm delighted that Objective One has played a major part in making that possible."

Another milestone for Pentreath Industries was the opening in October of a new training suite next to its headquarters in Bugle. The redundant building, which is more than 100 years old, was donated to Pentreath by china clay company Imerys.

The South West Regional Development Agency contributed £16,328 towards the £36,000 conversion costs, with an identical sum coming from the European Regional Development Fund under Objective One.

It was officially opened by John Mahoney, head of mental health at the Department of Health, who described Pentreath's work as "fantastic". He said his department was looking at how it could be used as a model nationwide.

"I think Pentreath can really teach the rest of the country a tremendous amount about the huge value in getting people recovering from the effects of mental ill health into some form of meaningful work," he said.

"Mental illness can cause a catastrophic loss of confidence and self esteem, so the benefits of work are enormous in reversing that process and leading to the recovery of social roles. Pentreath are way out in front in delivering this approach."

Penny Robertson, chief executive of Pentreath Industries, said: "Blunging House has made a huge difference to the amount of training we can offer and the number of people we can help.

We needed more space to enable us to run short courses because they are very good at improving people's confidence and self-esteem in a relatively quick time, which is very important.

Once you've experienced mental illness it's important that you can see things improving quickly, and that's what these short courses can achieve."



John Mahoney and Pentreath Industries chief executive Penny Robertson open the new Blunging House training suite in Bugle.

## “ How Pentreath is helping me

### Trainee Kate Gilyead explains how Pentreath Industries is helping her.

"Pentreath is probably the most positive thing that I have been offered as a person with a mental illness. I have been attending for six months and it has made a great difference to me.

Because of my illness and because of peoples' attitude to my illness, I had lost all confidence in my ability to work and interact socially. It is wonderful to be treated with respect and understanding by people who 'know', and to be able to interact with both staff and other clients as an individual. It is also very important to me to be making a useful contribution.

Pentreath is providing me with the opportunity to find out what strengths I have and to develop them within a safe environment. It also enables me to recognise my limitations and to seek and experiment with healthy strategies for coping with them.

This is helping me to put myself and my illness into perspective, which is helping to build my confidence, enabling me to function more efficiently, and hopefully improving my prospects."



## Let's keep spend on target

Successful Objective One applicants are being asked to submit their claims for grant at the appropriate time to the Government Office South West to help ensure that the programme hits its spending targets.

The European Commission sets strict targets for the Objective One programme. If the targets are missed there is a risk that Cornwall will not be able to draw down its original funding allocation.

To ensure that doesn't happen, and to increase Cornwall's chances of qualifying for a £12 million bonus payment from Europe, projects are being urged to make timely claims as their projects progress.

Objective One programme director Bill Bawden explained: "The way structural funds work means that applicants have to draw the grant down quarterly in arrears by submitting claims to the Government Office South West.

We just want to remind applicants to submit those claims as soon as they are able, to ensure that we have a steady level of spend throughout the lifetime of the programme. It also frees up GOSW staff to concentrate on new project applicants rather than chasing the successful ones."

Mr Bawden said the Objective One programme had so far spent £8.52 million, putting it well on track to hit the first spending target of £25 million by the end of this year. If Cornwall's programme can exceed its spending targets by the end of 2003, it could qualify for a bonus payment from Europe.

Mr Bawden said: "We're hoping that by the time the programme reaches its interim evaluation in December 2003 we'll be ahead of target.

This means we would qualify for a bonus payment from Europe worth around £12 million. That's what we're striving for and successful applicants can help us qualify for that by keeping their grant claims coming in."



### Cornwall and Scilly on track

Government figures released in November showed that the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Objective One programme is keeping pace with the three other Objective One regions in the UK.

Trade minister Alan Johnson, in a written Commons answer to St Ives MP Andrew George, outlined the different levels of commitment and spend for Cornwall, Merseyside, South Yorkshire and West Wales.

This was the first time official data had compared the different regions and showed that Cornwall and Scilly had committed a similar proportion of its Objective One budget as Merseyside and was well ahead of South Yorkshire. Only Wales had committed a greater proportion of its budget.

In terms of spend, Cornwall and Scilly was slightly above South Yorkshire and below Wales and Merseyside. Since then the level of spend has increased from £6 million to £8.52 million.

## The money allocated so far

During the fourth quarter of 2001 grants together worth £38.24 million were approved for 26 new projects, bringing the total of projects now approved to 147.

Added to the £60.16 million already allocated for projects (as well as money allocated for technical assistance), this brings the total allocation to date to £100.41 million.

### Projects approved

The first table below gives a breakdown of the numbers of projects approved and the funding awarded as at the end of September 2001, and during the past quarter.

### Total budget allocated

The second table indicates the remaining sum identified for technical assistance – the money provided to assist with the management and delivery of the programme.

Total programme allocation at the end of December 2001 is £100.41 million against the total budget for 2000 and 2001 of £93.3 million.

This is the total money allocated so far and will come from four European Structural Funds – the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG).

Grants will be paid to applicants on a regular basis over the course of the project—arrangements will differ according to each individual scheme. Grants will usually be claimed by projects in arrears using receipts for money spent up front.

### Projects approved – number and grant value

Fund	Approved to Sep 2001	Value of grants (£m)	Approved Sep–Dec 2001	Value of grants (£m)	Total projects approved	Total Value (£m)
EAGGF	25	£10.43M	3	£ 2.60M	28	£13.03M
ERDF	51	£29.13M	8	£ 33.71M	59	£62.84M
ESF	48	£20.07M	1	£ 1.97M	55	£22.04M
FIFG	23	£0.53M	8	£ 0.04M	31	£0.49M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>£60.16M</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>£38.24M</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>£98.40M</b>

### Total budget allocated – to date

Fund	Grants approved	Technical assistance	Grand Total	Total budget for 2000 & 2001
EAGGF	£13.03M	£0.00M	£13.03M	£17.40M
ERDF	£62.84M	£1.20M	£64.04M	£53.50M
ESF	£22.04M	£0.50M	£22.54M	£18.80M
FIFG	£0.49M	£0.31M	£0.80M	£3.60M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£98.40M</b>	<b>£2.01M</b>	<b>£100.41M</b>	<b>£93.30M</b>

In order to achieve the expenditure targets set for the programme by the European Commission, it is crucial that successful project applicants submit their claims for grant to GOSW at the appropriate time. Failure to do this may eventually result in an underspend which may lead to funding being lost to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.