

Leave More Than Footprints; Reimagining the Roseland Centre for a new era of outdoor learning, adventure and connection

By Deborah Lambert

“Saving a place is only the beginning. The real challenge is creating a future worthy of its potential.”

Some journeys begin with a single step.

Others begin when a community decides that a place, and the possibilities it holds, are too important to lose.

Nestled in the peaceful village of St Just in Roseland, Cornwall, the Roseland Centre has spent generations welcoming people into the landscape that surrounds it. For many young people, it has been a place of first adventures: first residential experiences, first nights away from home, first encounters with the natural world and the confidence that comes from discovering what they can achieve outdoors.

Through paddling, walking, sailing and other outdoor experiences, the Centre has helped generations build resilience, curiosity and a lasting connection with nature. For many, those early experiences became much more than memories; they helped shape future choices, aspirations and a lifelong relationship with the outdoors.

When the Centre faced closure following its sale by Cornwall Council, it seemed that this chapter might be coming to an end.....instead, a new story began.

People who had walked its paths, stayed within its walls, paddled its creeks and explored the waters of the Fal came together alongside local residents and supporters from across the wider community. Many carried memories of moments of challenge, discovery and connection; experiences that had influenced the people they became and with a strong belief in the importance of such a place.

Through a community crowdfunding campaign, they secured the Centre's future; not simply preserving what had been, but creating the opportunity to imagine what could come next.

Today, the Roseland Centre is community-owned and guided by its trustees, with a vision for a new era of outdoor learning, walking, adventure, wellbeing and connection, building a new future based on the centre's heritage.

A place that once inspired young people taking their first steps into outdoor adventure is now not only opening its doors to schools, but offering an adventure partnership with university field studies groups, canoe and sailing groups, walking groups, community organisations, and friends and families who want to explore Cornwall; to connect and create their own stories.

Connection with nature.

Connection with ourselves.

Connection with one another.

The outdoors has the power to transform lives. Sometimes that transformation comes through challenge and adventure; sometimes through quieter moments,

noticing the changing light across the water, the call of curlews over the saltmarsh, the discovery of a hidden path or the simple satisfaction of arriving somewhere special on foot.

The future of the Roseland Centre is being shaped by those who come here.

Every visitor, every walking group and every shared experience will become part of its continuing story.

Discover Cornwall's Quiet Peninsula

The Roseland Peninsula is a landscape that rewards those who take their time.

Protected as a National Landscape, it offers ancient woodland, peaceful creeks, hidden beaches, winding lanes and sweeping views across the Fal Estuary towards the sea.

Yet despite its beauty, the peninsula retains a rare sense of tranquillity.

Here, time slows ... it is about noticing what lies between the start and finish of a walk or journey; the ever-changing views across the River Fal, the movement of the tides through sheltered creeks, the shifting seasons, the wildlife, a river crossing and picturesque villages.

Trails wind through ancient woodland, across farmland and along the coast, connecting walkers with historic churches, quiet villages and landmarks such as St Mawes Castle, where centuries of maritime history overlook the waters that have shaped this peninsula for generations.

From the Roseland Centre, a network of footpaths opens the way to exploration. Walkers can join sections of the South West Coast Path, discover peaceful circular routes and follow trails that connect the hidden corners of this remarkable landscape.

Whether you are following a gentle coastal walk, taking on a longer route or sharing an adventure with friends, the Roseland Peninsula rewards those who travel slowly. Here, every step brings a deeper connection to the landscape, its history and the communities that call it home. Here, each route offers its own story; a viewpoint across the estuary, a forgotten track-way, a church tower rising above the trees, a quiet creek-side path or a place to pause and take in the view.....every trail has the offers to change how we see ourselves and how we notice and connect to the world around us.

A Place Being Written by Those Who Visit

The Roseland Centre is more than a base for exploring Cornwall. It is a place where adventures begin, continue and evolve.

With comfortable refurbished accommodation across five bedrooms, generous shared spaces and the flexibility of catered or self-catered stays, it provides a welcoming base for walking groups, Ramblers, outdoor clubs, community organisations and friends exploring together.

The Centre is designed for groups who value the experience of staying somewhere with character; a place where people can return after a day outdoors, share stories, plan the next route and enjoy the simple pleasure of good company....the conversations after a day on the trail ...the laughter around the tablethe friendships renewed the confidence gained from trying something new and the memories that remain long after the journey home.

The Roseland Centre will not simply be a place people visit, it will be a place people help to recreate.

Leave More Than Footprints

Walkers have long understood the importance of leaving no trace. To tread lightly, to respect the landscape, to protect the places we love for those who follow.

At the Roseland Centre, we believe there is another way we can make a difference.

Every visit helps sustain a much loved community-owned outdoor centre built around the belief that meaningful outdoor experiences matter, where young people can discover independence and resilience. Where people can reconnect with nature and with each other. Where shared experiences can inspire curiosity, confidence and a lifelong appreciation of the world around us.

The footprints may fade with the tide or the next rainfall, but the impact of your visit can continue for years to come.

Walking Towards the Future

The Roseland Centre is being reimagined as a place where walking, outdoor learning and adventure, conservation, wellbeing and community come together.

The Centre was saved because people believed in its potential; now its future will be shaped by everyone who walks through its doors. Every visitor becomes part of the journey. Every group adds another chapter. Every stay helps support and create the next generation of outdoor experiences.

Because saving the Roseland Centre was only the beginning.

Together, we are creating a place where adventure can begin, memories can grow and connections can last.

We'd love you to walk with us.

Plan Your Walking Escape

The Roseland Centre offers exclusive use to walking groups, Ramblers, outdoor organisations and friends seeking a welcoming base from which to discover the landscapes of Cornwall's Roseland Peninsula. Whether planning coastal walks, countryside trails, longer routes or simply time to reconnect outdoors, groups have the freedom to create their own experience. With an on-site caretaker and flexible accommodation, the Centre provides a relaxed and sociable base where walkers can explore at their own pace, return to share stories and become part of the continuing story of this special place.

Links to walking trails here:

1. Starting at St Just in Roseland, explore the peninsula's winding wooded creeks, farmland and coast paths.
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cornwall/porth/roseland-messack-creek-and-woodland-walk>
2. i-walk from St Just to St Mawes
https://www.iwalkcornwall.co.uk/walk/st_just_to_st_mawes
3. Circular walks on the Roseland Peninsular:
https://www.iwalkcornwall.co.uk/walks/near/the_roseland

Find out more by visiting the centre website: <https://theroselandcentre.org/>



The Roseland Centre
St. Just-in-Roseland
Truro
Cornwall
TR2 5JA

Email: enquiries@theroselandcentre.org

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