

Perranuthnoe Parish Council **By email only**

4th April 2022

Dear Councillors

St Michael's Mount – Mount Memories Pass

Due to Covid-19, access to St Michael's Mount moved to pre-booked timed tickets. This was crucial during 2020 and 2021 to manage visitor numbers safely.

It became clear that timed entry significantly relieved pressures on the island's staff and infrastructure, its boating services, catering facilities, toilets, paths and lawns through a reduction in the number of visitors on the island at any one time.

Importantly, pre-booked timed tickets also better managed the pressures on Marazion and its community from the ever increasing and previously unregulated number of people visiting the Mount. St Michael's Mount will continue to operate on a timed ticket basis in 2022.

The introduction of timed tickets did, however, impact local residents and three new initiatives have been introduced to ensure our local west Cornwall communities have their own access arrangements.

Free Access Period for all

The village and harbour is free to visit for everyone between 1st October and 31st March during opening hours.

From 1st October 2022, the Steward's House will open its ground floor as a newly created art gallery. This will also be free to access for all. It's first exhibition is a special collection that depicts life in west Cornwall pre-1950. The Steward's House is situated on the harbour front and a part of the island that has never been accessible to visitors.

The Marazion Pass

The Marazion Pass provides Marazion residents, as the Mount's closest neighbours, with free access to the village and harbour between 1st April and 30th September during opening hours. Alongside the Free Access Period, this will give Marazion residents year-round access to the harbour and village.

The Mount Memories Pass

Because the Mount is important to people not just in Marazion but across west Cornwall, 1,000 single use passes will be available through the year. Each pass will give a group of up to four people free access to the castle and garden as well as the village and harbour for a one-off visit during opening hours.

The ideas to apply for a pass could include:

- A special emotional tie to the island e.g they or a family member used to work on the island or were married on the island
- To mark an occasion e.g a wedding anniversary or significant birthday

- To revive a happy memory e.g this could be as simple as having visited the island with a grandmother at a particular time of the year for a number of years
- To create a new memory e.g to propose to a partner or for parents to take children to the castle or garden for the first time
- To cheer up a loved one or a friend following a difficult time

We would also welcome nominations from Perranuthnoe Parish Council for people within your community who you would like to recognise for a particular reason with a Mount Memories Pass. If this is something you would like to do, please send nominations to me by email (harvey.thomas@staubynestates.com).

These new initiatives will be reviewed again at the end of the 2022/23 season. Further information on each initiative and how to apply is available on the St Michael's Mount website (www.stmichaelsmount.co.uk).

I would be delighted to attend a Council meeting to field any questions that you have in relation to the new access initiatives. Please let me know if that would be of interest.

Yours sincerely

Harvey Thomas

Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Tara Sherfield, Cornwall Councillor