

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT TO CORNWALL, 19 NOVEMBER

You are visiting Cornwall on Friday, 19 November. You have three separate points of call as well as two Party functions.

The press, radio and television will doubtless hope for a word with you during the day. At the end of your first visit or the beginning of your second, would be obvious moments for you to say a few words on any burning issue of the day to reduce the risk of being pestered too much later on. Content to decide at the time, depending on events and demands?

Your first stop is the Murdoch and Trevithick Workshop for the Mentally Disabled, Redruth. You are scheduled to spend one hour there (10-11 am) but there is a lot to see - eight workshops - and clearly there is a danger of over-run. There will be a photo facility in the domestic training shop and in the copper shop but I suggest you progress without too much lingering through the rest.

The workshop is in effect two centres - the Murdoch for the severely handicapped and the Trevithick for the less handicapped. It is run by the County Council Social Services Department and although it used to treat the mentally ill, it now caters only for the mentally handicapped. The trainees (150) are of a range of ages and degree of handicap. The accent is on social and work training designed to help the handicapped play as responsible and adult a role in the family as possible. Considerable efforts are also made to overcome illiteracy and innumeracy.

On arrival, five steps up and another single step up, and through the door into the Murdoch Training Centre. You will be met by Councillor Julian Williams, Chairman, Cornwall County Council; Councillor J J Daniel, Chairman, Social Services Committee; Councillor H C Williams, Chairman, Personal Services Sub-Committee; Mr G K Burgess, Clerk to the Council; Mr Richard Lingham, Director of Social Services; Mr Roy Hendy, Chairman, Kerrier

District Council; Alan Groves, Cornwall County Architect; and Mr John Davies, Manager of the Workshop. David Mudd MP (Falmouth and Camborne) will be present.

Your guides will be Richard Lingham, Director of Social Services and John Davies, Manager of the Workshop.

From the Entrance Hall you go into the Domestic Training Department where girls and boys will be icing Christmas cakes. The instructor in charge is Grace Scentlebury. (PHOTO FACILITY)

Next you go to the Education Room, a small room where Mrs Jan Heywood will be working with four students. She concentrates on the problem of illiteracy and innumeracy. There is room for you and Mr Thatcher but not really for anyone else. (STAFF TOILETS HANDY)

On to Workshop 1. The trainees here are pretty severely handicapped, especially those at the far end of the room. Dolly Morgan will guide you to those capable of responding to questions. Dolly's young assistant, Diane Smitharem, is there under the YOP scheme. Suggest no need to linger at the far end of the room. Linda Frost is in charge.

The Copper Shop where Bernard Harris is the instructor. He is an ex-foreman coachbuilder [he first came to the centre following a nervous breakdown but suggest that you do not reveal that you know this]. Examples of the work, which is impressive, are on display round the walls and you will be given a copper dish by David Andrews who made it himself. The work has been accepted for exhibition by the Cornish Crafts Association and some was also sent to Buckingham Palace (at the Palace's request) on approval. (PHOTO FACILITY)

Workshop 2. Ken Shaw is the instructor and most trainees at the near end are making wooden stools and can talk for themselves. At the far end Mrs Davies (wife of John Davies, the Manager) is in charge. There they are making Christmas crackers, prescription pads and wage packets for the workshop staff. Look up to your left through the windows to see the swimming pool roof. This was paid for (£10,000) by money collected by the Trelawney Club for the Mentally

Handicapped which meets fortnightly. Suggest you acknowledge the fund raising efforts, especially Mrs Joan Teague, Treasurer, and very much the "moving spirit". Phase two of the effort is to collect a further £5,000 to complete the "covering in" of the swimming pool.

Passing through the Games Room (table tennis/billiards etc) and the Dining Hall (empty) you come to the Trevithick Industrial Unit, a more advanced workshop for the less severely handicapped.

Pottery Workshop where Mrs Sue Sampson is assisted by a recruit from the CEP (Community Enterprise Programme). Keeping to rather a narrow walkway on the right of the long room, you will see along that wall some of the work on display and, to your left, potters' wheels in use, clay modelling etc.

Through the loading bay into the Woodwork Shop. Instructors are Ron Tippett, Charles Freestone and Frank Trestrail. Notice, just to the left as you go in, some workshop products on display including slatted bath seats made for the Social Services Department, a wooden mallet and tent pegs.

About turn at this point and then left into the Sewing Workshop. Mrs Harris is in charge. Beware and don't trip over a pipe running along the floor between the sewing machines facing you. At the far end of the room Charles Blower looks after the Leather Shop where they will be making Christmas decorations, including Nativity angels. You will be introduced to Tony Atkins who finds lodging and work for trainees leaving the centre and provides general support to them.

Coming to the conclusion of your tour in the Entrance Hall of the Trevithick Unit where more workshop products are on display, you leave by the Front Door seven steps down and a curb step in addition.

Your programme envisages 20 minutes to drive from the Workshop for the Mentally Disabled in Redruth to the Coastguards Maritime Rescue Centre, Pendennis Point, Falmouth. My advice is to allow half an hour for the journey.

The Rescue Centre was opened on 10 November 1981 by HRH the Prince of Wales. It is the nerve centre for Maritime Search and Rescue over a stretch of coastline from the Isle of Wight to the Scillies and 1,000 miles into the Atlantic. Linking in with INMARSAT (the International Organisation for Maritime Satellite Communications) it is the first rescue centre on the eastern side of the Atlantic capable of responding to maritime distress calls via satellite.

As you would expect, there is a magnificent sea view but it is an exposed site so you should be dressed to cope with wind and/or rain. You walk over quite difficult cobbles, up one step to slate flags and another single step into the building. If the weather is fine, relatives of staff (around 40) will be gathered outside on the grass to your left to see you arrive. In the case of bad weather, the families will be accommodated inside in the Information Room on the ground floor hoping to see you briefly as you leave the Centre.

You will be met by Lt Cmdr J T Fetherston-Dilke, MNI, RN (Ret'd), Regional Controller; Captain P K C Harris CBE, MNI, RN (Ret'd), Regional Controller; and Mr M Collins, Deputy Regional Controller. Your guides will be Captain P K C Harris and Mr R Roberts.

There is a Royal Lifeboat Fund collection box in the front reception, and on the wall facing you is a large pebble mural of a shipwreck which is the work of a local artist, a lady called Threlfall. Half-way upstairs is another dramatic picture - an oil painting of a wreck and a rescue helicopter. Upstairs (rest room and toilet handy).

Into Emergency Planning Room, from where you can see the Operation Room but not be heard by those (including media) who are in the Operations Room waiting for you. Three steps down to small visual look-out section with wonderful view of sea, ships etc and windscreen wipers on the windows. About turn, back up three steps, across and down three steps into the Operations and Display Room.

(Press photo).

Walk around clockwise to see telex, telephone and radio messages received at special desks and information display on large vertical charts.

You are due to leave the Rescue Centre at 12.15 pm.

12.30-13.40 Lunch Reception for Party workers at Princess Pavilion, Falmouth, is private except for the usual local photographers.

After lunch you are due to arrive at 13.55 at the Truro Pottery and Old Kiln Museum, Chapel Hill, Truro.

The oldest pottery in Cornwall, its history can be traced back over 200 years. The Museum part is centred on the 17th Century brick bottle kiln and there is an area where work of other Cornish craftsmen is on display. The pottery itself offers a wide range of wares, all handmade. Dennis Hills took over the place just over a year ago. He has mechanical engineering and industrial glass interests elsewhere in the UK, is interested in education and was Governor of a comprehensive school and a member of the CBI Education Committee. The pottery now has 18 retail outlets and recently exhibited at a Trade Fair in Morlaix, Brittany (Truro's twin town).

As you arrive, up a short, sharp car ramp, on the pavement to your right will be standing Councillor Hockin, Mayor of Truro and Very Rev David Shearlock, the Dean of Truro. Advice is that you should not feel constrained to do more than acknowledge them briefly.

You will be met by Dennis Hills, who will be your guide, and Mrs Hills, their son Kelven and daughter Karen, all of whom are directors of the pottery.

As you walk through an arched entrance, notice on your left a ceramic mural featuring the kiln, Truro Cathedral and the viaduct. It is the work of a Cornwall Technical College student. Walking across the yard past the bottle kiln, you go up a ramp (there are ramps everywhere to cater for the disabled) inside and

into the Throwing Room. There are racks full of pots, potters at work etc. (PHOTO FACILITY)

Notice the miniature pots which are thrown using a needle, to substitute for finger and thumb.

Through to the Kiln Room (watch out for uneven floor). There are two kilns. The one on the left is gas-fired with a fibre ceramic lining (the same material which is used to protect the nose cones of rockets from over-heating).

About turn and back through to the Museum area. Down a ramp past wall display of early photographs into area where work of other craftsmen is displayed. Currently on show here are pots made by Clive Bowen.

Down a further ramp to see the museum exhibits, including cloam ovens (for baking bread), bussas pans (for salting pilchards), pitchers (for clotted cream) etc. On your right you can see through an observation window into the old kiln which is lit up from within.

Your tour finishes in the front display area where you can see their current stock. You will be given a pot of some sort as a memento of your visit.

You are due to leave the pottery at 14.40.

15.20 your Tea Reception for Party workers in St Peter's Church Hall, Bodmin, is private except for the usual local photographers.

No demonstrations are anticipated but obvious issues of local concern include:-

- Unemployment
- Fisheries
- Lack of industry
- Lack of communication
- Fears of railway closures
- Plans for container terminal at Falmouth.

ROMOLA CHRISTOPHERSON

15 November 1982