

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, September 2009

Free to explore – New County Hall, Truro throws open its doors for Heritage Open Days 2009

New County Hall will be opening its doors to show off its hidden architectural treasures to residents and visitors free of charge Saturday 12th September, 10.30 – 16.00. Organised by the Architecture Centre Design and Cornwall and planned in partnership with Cornwall Council the activities and openings form part of Heritage Open Days, a national annual event co-ordinated by English Heritage.

This is a wonderful opportunity to come and look around this important Cornish Grade II listed building. Opened in 1966 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and set in landscaped grounds it contains many of its original features and furnishings as well as some exceptional pieces of work by world renowned artists with links to Cornwall. There will be a children's activity trail that adults can help with too! All day access to the 'public areas' plus a more comprehensive tour of the building at 11.30 and 14.00 (places are limited), or why not simply have a picnic in the beautiful grounds.

"Cornwall Council is delighted to have been invited to take part in this year's Heritage Open Days event." said Council Chairman Pat Harvey. *"New County Hall is a landmark building and we hope that as many people as possible will take advantage of this opportunity to explore some of its hidden architectural treasures".*

Heritage Open Days activities will take place all over England from 10-13 September 2009 as part of the European Heritage Days initiative. Up to 1 million visitors up and down the country will enjoy the four-day event, exploring a record 3,500 buildings and events, ranging from private homes, castles, factories, churches, mosques and temples, historic gardens and parks as well as contemporary design classics.

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Full details of Heritage Open Days activities are available at www.heritageopendays.org from mid-July.

For further details please contact Marie Sellars, marie.sellars@acdandc.org.uk or 07969 327525.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The **Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall** was established in June 2006 with support from CABE - The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and Creating Excellence, the regional centre for sustainable communities, to promote quality in the design of the Built Environment. It is an independent, not for profit organisation working in the sub-region towards design excellence. For more details visit www.acdandc.org.uk
- **English Heritage** is the government's lead body for the historic environment in England and is responsible for protecting the best of the country's unique legacy of historic buildings, landscapes and archaeological sites for the benefit of this and future generations. For full details please visit www.english-heritage.org.uk
- Heritage Open Days was established in 1994 as England's contribution to **European Heritage Days**, in which 49 countries now participate.