# Hollywood stars transform Mawgan Porth but locals fear being priced out



In the picturesque village of Mawgan Porth, Cornwall, an increasing influx of Hollywood celebrities has sparked a wave of concern among long-term residents. Once a quiet fishing community, Mawgan Porth is now being transformed into a haven for the affluent, leading locals to fear for their ability to remain in a place they have long called home. The mounting pressure on property prices, driven by high-profile individuals such as Cate Blanchett, Jason Statham, and Chris Martin purchasing and converting homes into lavish holiday retreats, has created a divide between the wealthy newcomers and the established community.

Residents report a marked shift in the village's character, with many expressing feelings of unease as their once close-knit community feels more transient. John Bradley, a retired builder, has resided in Mawgan Porth for nearly two decades. He describes the reality of living next to holiday homes, lamenting, “There’s a place down the road which is rented out for £7,500. It’s just ridiculous. It's not even in keeping." His frustration is echoed by others in the community who note that traditional bungalows are being replaced by ‘monstrous’ new constructions, altering the village's aesthetic and driving up property values to unaffordable levels.

The scale of these changes is illustrated by the eco-home being built by Blanchett, following her acquisition of a former £1.6 million cottage. This project, among others, is indicative of a broader pattern of wealthy individuals prioritising investment in real estate as a safe asset class, further exacerbating housing shortages for local families. The term "ghost town" has been used to encapsulate the winter months, when many of these new homes lie vacant, leaving the village devoid of its usual vibrancy.

The tension is palpable within the community, where the economic benefits brought by tourism are weighed against the costs of losing long-standing local residents. Some residents, including Stuart Kirk, owner of the local general store, underline a shared ambivalence. "I see it as an issue from a business point of view," he cautioned, acknowledging the demographic shifts while also noting that many homes are still occupied and the community remains robust. Many locals, however, feel this is not enough, with some blaming the rise in property prices squarely on the influence of celebrities and the affluent.

Amid these changes, a sense of nostalgia persists among villagers. Debbie, a retired resident, reflected on the loss of traditional homes and the character they brought: "There aren’t many bungalows left now, but they were all like this. There aren’t many places to work here for young people to move in and get jobs." The challenges of employing younger demographics in the area contribute to a growing feeling of isolation, leaving many wary that the escalating property values associated with Hollywood glamour may ultimately push them out of their beloved community.

The situation in Mawgan Porth is emblematic of a larger issue evident across Cornwall, where second homeowners are snapping up properties at inflated prices. The relentless rise in real estate demand has triggered discussions about the sustainability of local communities and the need for balanced development that preserves their unique character. While the addition of celebrity presence has undoubtedly put Mawgan Porth on the map, residents are left grappling with the dual-edged sword of fame and fortune, as they strive to maintain both their community and livelihood.

These sentiments are not unique to Mawgan Porth, as similar patterns of gentrification and displacement can be observed throughout Cornwall, signalling a pressing need for policies to address the housing crisis faced by local populations. As longtime residents like John Bradley continue to advocate for community-driven solutions, the village's identity hangs in the balance between the allure of celebrity and the necessity of preserving a vibrant, accessible community for future generations.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14747269/quiet-seaside-village-celebrities-second-home-owners-monstrous.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/columnists/2023/09/01/a-list-hollywood-influx-cornwall-mawgan-porth-jason-momoa/), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/england/cornwall/mawgan-porth-cornwall-town-hollywood-on-sea/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14747269/quiet-seaside-village-celebrities-second-home-owners-monstrous.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.voicenewspapers.co.uk/news/mawgan-porth-locals-say-they-are-being-priced-out-of-living-in-the-community-636223), [[5]](https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/cate-blanchetts-noisy-build-mawgan-9117294)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/columnists/2023/09/01/a-list-hollywood-influx-cornwall-mawgan-porth-jason-momoa/), [[6]](https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/eco-home-climate-crisis-sustainable-cornwall-cate-blanchett-b2505382.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14747269/quiet-seaside-village-celebrities-second-home-owners-monstrous.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.voicenewspapers.co.uk/news/mawgan-porth-locals-say-they-are-being-priced-out-of-living-in-the-community-636223), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/england/cornwall/mawgan-porth-cornwall-town-hollywood-on-sea/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14747269/quiet-seaside-village-celebrities-second-home-owners-monstrous.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/england/cornwall/mawgan-porth-cornwall-town-hollywood-on-sea/), [[6]](https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/eco-home-climate-crisis-sustainable-cornwall-cate-blanchett-b2505382.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14747269/quiet-seaside-village-celebrities-second-home-owners-monstrous.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/columnists/2023/09/01/a-list-hollywood-influx-cornwall-mawgan-porth-jason-momoa/> - This article discusses the impact of A-list celebrities, including Jason Momoa, on the Cornish village of Mawgan Porth. It highlights concerns from locals about rising property prices and the transformation of the village into a 'building site' due to the influx of wealthy second-home owners. The piece also touches on the broader issue of second homeowners buying up housing stock needed by locals to maintain basic services in the area.
3. <https://www.voicenewspapers.co.uk/news/mawgan-porth-locals-say-they-are-being-priced-out-of-living-in-the-community-636223> - Residents of Mawgan Porth express concerns over being priced out of their community due to the influx of millionaire buyers, including Hollywood celebrities. The article details how traditional properties are being demolished and replaced with luxury homes, leading to increased property values and a loss of the village's original character. Locals also mention the village feeling like a 'ghost town' during winter months.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/england/cornwall/mawgan-porth-cornwall-town-hollywood-on-sea/> - This piece explores the transformation of Mawgan Porth into a 'Hollywood-on-Sea' destination, with celebrities like Cate Blanchett and Chris Martin purchasing properties. It discusses the impact on the local community, including rising property values and the construction of large, modern homes that some feel are out of place in the traditional village setting. The article also highlights the mixed feelings among locals regarding the changes.
5. <https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/cate-blanchetts-noisy-build-mawgan-9117294> - The article reports on complaints from neighbors of Cate Blanchett's eco-home construction in Mawgan Porth. Residents claim that the building work has caused significant noise disruption, leading to a loss of holiday rental income and affecting the enjoyment of the area. The piece includes statements from local business owners and residents expressing their concerns over the ongoing construction activities.
6. <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/eco-home-climate-crisis-sustainable-cornwall-cate-blanchett-b2505382.html> - This article examines the construction of Cate Blanchett's eco-home in Mawgan Porth and the reactions it has elicited from locals. It discusses the environmental aspects of the building, the disruption caused by construction noise, and the broader implications of wealthy individuals building large homes in small communities. The piece also touches on the tension between sustainability efforts and community impact.
7. <https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/24150986.cate-blanchett-noise-row-house-cornwall/> - The article details a dispute involving Cate Blanchett's house construction in Cornwall, focusing on noise complaints from neighbors. It includes perspectives from local residents and business owners who have been affected by the ongoing building work, highlighting the challenges of balancing development with community well-being in small coastal villages.