

## **Benefits of an International Dark Skies Landscape**

Cornwall Council, with Caradon Observatory, have set up a Steering Group to identify & promote the economic advantages of Bodmin Moor being an International Dark Skies Landscape.

Summer is obviously important to Cornwall, and other similar areas elsewhere with Dark Skies sites have found that there can be a significant uplift in the local economy during winter months. These benefits extend to peripheral areas as well, and Morval is peripheral to Bodmin Moor. This is good news for those offering visitor accommodation and those offering ancillary services and other attractions.

Ideas put forward to the Steering Group include

- advertising winter holidays for 'dark skies' visitors,
- running half-day courses for hotels/B&B's etc to help changing tentative Dark Skies enquiries into confirmed bookings,
- Cornwall Dark Skies Quality mark for pottery/art/jewellery etc,
- outreach in other complimentary areas (in Cornwall & beyond)
- bidding for and hosting conferences (including those for the International Dark Skies Association).

If you have any ideas about things that could/should/might be done to help Dark Skies promote the local economy (directly or indirectly) please contact me on 240218 or email: [mikejwillmott@gmail.com](mailto:mikejwillmott@gmail.com).

Mike Willmott (member of the Cornwall Dark Skies Steering Group)