

NEIL LINDSAY

Village hall is given a new look by TV team

A MAKEOVER of a Cornish village hall has transformed it beyond the wildest dreams of Port Isaac residents.

Over the bank holiday weekend the BBC television programme DIY SOS chose it as a venue for their first live broadcast.

Village hall treasurer Dee Randell said the building was so dilapidated it was nearly closed last year and the new look had delighted everybody.

"It was wonderful. We could not imagine what it was going to be like. But it was light and airy. It was just a hall to die for," she said.

"Before it was cold, very shabby. It was just tatty.

"The kitchen had been condemned and it didn't have any central heating."

Mrs Randell said the village hall group had written to the programme over a year ago but had not expected to be selected so had planned their own fundraising activities.

"It would have taken us three years to do what they did in a few days," she said.

"The whole team worked really hard.

"They were there till three o'clock in the morning on some days."

As well as being repainted, the hall has a completely new kitchen area and has been supplied with the materials for central heating which are yet to be fitted. News of the



● PROCESSION: Villagers and the St Minver Silver Band outside the hall before Monday's unveiling

makeover quickly filtered around the area she said and the village shop was flooded with inquiries about the hall – with some people wanting to take photos.

"Its the only hall that's here for the

whole community," she said.

"But it's mainly used by the playgroup so this has been great for them.

"But with all the publicity I think we must have the most famous vil-

lage hall in the country now."

Port Isaac was chosen as part of an ambitious project by the DIY SOS show, hosted by Lowri Turner and Nick Knowles.



180 DIY SOS makeover the Village Hall - May 2001 - what a weekend

The 'After Makeover' party - Nick Knowles joined Steve Appleby's band and is pictured here with Johnny Mc, Maggi Appleby, Liz Brown and Marion Andrews

Photo courtesy Marion Andrews, Newspaper cutting courtesy Dee Littlechild