

Port Isaac Music Festival '09

There couldn't have been a better place in the world to be over the Bank Holiday than in Port Isaac. The Sunday Times listed it as one of the top 40 places to spend the weekend and they were right. The weather was the best it has ever been for the Port Isaac Music Festival, the sun shone, the sea sparkled a beautiful Mediterranean blue and crowds filled the Platt and the Village Hall to enjoy the live music.

In what has now become tradition, the Fishermen's Friends opened the Festival with their first Friday night outing of the season on the Platt. Ian McNeice was on hand to introduce them to a capacity crowd and as always they sang brilliantly interspersed with their now legendary banter and chat. What a start and it set the tone for the rest of the weekend.

First off on Saturday afternoon came the aahh factor with performances from our Brownies and Rainbows. Clearly they had been rehearsing hard and they did so well and enjoyed themselves as much as the audience enjoyed them.

They were followed by ukulele duo, the Uke Dukes; then from way down west, The Devil's Hat Band brought a taste of old time hillbilly music; the Four Busketeers played woodwind jazz; Claudia Caolin-y-Compania danced flamenco to some stunning Spanish guitar; La Famille Pomme, aka Steve, Maggi and Annie Appleby, gave the Osmond's a run for their money with Annie's version of 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' being second to none; newcomer to the village, professional

flautist Kathryn G Williams LRSM played for us; and closing the afternoon, acoustic guitar from James Corachea of Trebarwith.

'The best Salsa band in Cornwall', Kabasa, at the Village Hall on the Saturday night, got everyone up and dancing and rumour has it that Salsa classes might be starting up soon.

Janet Chad's cake stall soon sold out on Sunday as the St Minver Band opened the proceedings. It was an afternoon of such a mix of different styles of music. As the sun beat down, last minute stand in, Charlie Harris, on holiday from Holsworthy, was a true professional; as was Liz Rowe who entranced the crowd with her harp; Paul 'Sunset' Johnson performed a set of many different styles; talented singer/songwriter Luke Deakin's set resonated across the harbour; and finally 'Blind Lemon Nancy and the Knuckle Draggers made it all look so easy as they brought the afternoon to a close as only they could. Nobody wanted the afternoon to end.

The Port Isaac Chorale gave a magnificent performance in St Peter's Church and then it was Gordon Giltrap in concert in the Village Hall. It was standing room only as people arrived for tickets on the door and Gordon did not disappoint.

The changing weather on Monday did not matter as the Seriously Awful Sinfonia (SAS) performed in the Church. Don't believe their name because they are definitely not awful. It was all great fun



and the audience were each given instruments to play during a stirring rendition of the 1812.

And all too soon it was the Festival finale, and what a finale it was. The man from St Minver, the one and only Johnny Cowling was on stage for over three hours and was brilliant. Liz Brown's visiting nephew has probably gone home needing therapy, and as for our Pussy Cat Dolls – rumour has it they went on somewhere afterwards and made a night of it! People have been talking about the show ever since! What a perfect ending to a perfect Festival.



Charlie Harris

There are so many people to thank who made the whole thing possible. Let's start with all the performers – thank you to you all. With the exception of the three concerts in the Village Hall, all the musicians gave their talent and time for free – thank you.

A big thank you to the Harbour Commissioners and all the Fishermen for allowing us to use the Platt; thank you to St Peter's Church; and thank you to the RNLI for loaning us two of their gazebos.

An enormous thank you to the Fishermen's Friends who, as well as opening the Festival loaned us their sound equipment for the Platt events and also sub-contracted out to us their sound man!

And behind the scenes – so many people helped but a special thank you must go to Barbs for her paintings that decorated the Hall, Bill, Ness, Andy, Martyn, Alan and the Bunting Girls. Without you all the Festival would not have been possible. Here's to 2011.

The Festival Committee

Photos from the Festival are now on the website www.portisaacmusicfestival.co.uk



Port Isaac Rainbows

Port Isaac Brownies



Gordon Giltrap



Claudia Caolin y Compania



The Fishermen's Friends in action: Trev checks out that the beer has arrived!



La Famille Pomme, aka Steve, Maggi & Annie



The Four Busketeers



The Devil's Hat Band

Johnny Cowling



The St Minver Band

