

Port Isaac has a long history of Thespian activities. In 1979, after a few years "resting", the Village Hall's floorboards were again creaking from the footsteps and the rafters were ringing with the voices of budding actors rehearsing their lines. So it was, with much enthusiasm and energy, the Port Isaac Players or PIPs were born. Kathie Carney and Lis Ratclif, nee Fletcher, decided on a couple of one act comedies written by well known authors to begin with. They were such a success that it wasn't

New players for Port Isaac

GONE but not forgotten is a phase that might well have been coined for the Port Isaac Players, a once thriving company energetic enough to put on two shows a week throughout the summer for the entertainment of visitors and villagers.

Although it is 25 years since they put on their last play their performances are remembered by players and spectators with such affection that out of their happy reminiscing was born the idea to form another company.

The new company to take up the reins is the New Port Isaac Players and their first performance will be next week at the village hall in Trewetha Lane.

The entertainment, next Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, comprises two one-act plays and an interlude with the Port Isaac Singers.

Said member Kathie Carney, of Rose Cottage, Dolphin Street: "With the best will in the world it is unlikely that we will be able to match the performance of our predecessors by putting on two shows a week during the summer.

"Visitors come in greater numbers, stay longer, make more demands upon us and make it difficult to get together on a regular basis throughout the summer season sufficient players to put on weekly shows.

"But if we can communicate the fun and pleasure we have had during rehearsals, a happy time will be had by all."

Newspaper cutting from Wadebridge and Padstow Gazette March 1979



Margaret Hoskin, Bess Coates, Sylvia McCrohon, Kathie Carney



Cast of "The Man in the Bowler Hat"
 Front row: Dougie Cooper, Anne Gilling, Paul Gilling
 Top row: Kathie Carney, Mark Elland, David Philp, David Welton

Just right, that flavour of 'The Good Old Days'

CORNWALL was given a flavour of "The Good Old Days" on Monday and Tuesday last week when The Port Isaac Players gave their version of old time music hall at the village hall.

The show drew packed and enthusiastic audiences on both nights, and they particularly enjoyed the performance of parish councillor Mr. Dave Welton, who slotted into the TV role of Leonard Sachs with great aplomb. As compere Mr. Welton coped admirably with all his tongue-twisting lines and started the evening by introducing "Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside" as a "nautical hetogency!"

amused as the puny Samson, in his comic strongman act. The adults were entertained by a seaside medley, a London medley and a very drunken tavern medley of pub songs. But the most polished performer in the show was Mrs. Fran Fisher who sang several solos including "Oh, oh Antonio" and "Honeysuckle and the Bee". Her excellent voice would not be out of place in a professional production.

The 22 children in the cast played their charming part in the entertainment, especially with their rendition of "Auntie Monica" at the end of which the audience was given a quick flash of their suspenders!

The Port Isaac Players reformed five years ago but had several problems to overcome with this show. They had been rehearsing for only six weeks, and their 16 adult and 22 children cast had been diminished by a 'flu bug. But the remaining members performed splendidly in costumes made by some of the women members. Mr. Robin Penna accompanied at the piano.

ENJOYABLE

The show obviously lacked technical expertise but it captured the atmosphere of music hall perfectly, and audience participation grew from singing along, to dancing with the cast as they mingled amongst the seats.

The unashamedly amateurishness of the performance mixed with new versions of old songs—"didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Cornwall"—added to the charm of the show and made it a thoroughly enjoyable night out.

VERY DRUNKEN

Mr. Vic Hingley and Mr. Frank Gadman struggled manfully to keep their jokes clean for the women and children in the audience as the comedy duo Frank Slick and Vic Thick, and John Goshall kept the children

Can you hear us? A moment from Port Isaac Players old time music hall production.

Cutting showing members of cast from "The Good Old Days". April 1983

Newspaper cuttings and photos courtesy Lis Ratclif, nee Fletcher