

An ongoing saga - the wind, the rain, lorries pulling them down, bulbs being pinched or broken... the problems are endless ... and then there is the unenviable task of putting them up in the aforementioned wind and rain ... clearly it is a Christmas miracle that our village gets a display!!

Port Isaac

Christmas Lights

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (LIGHTS)

On the first day, we switched on, and had a lovely do
Then the lights up on Church Hill blew.
On the second day, a juggernaut fetched a few down
Ten bulbs just outside Harold Brown's.
On the third day it rained a storm, high winds and sleet
And the Platt string ended up in the leat.
On the fourth day, some kids, or a bunch of loutish fellers
Nicked a dozen bulbs just behind the cellars.
On the fifth day, the lights on the gig went out
And ditto the string from Mark Prout.
On the sixth day of Christmas, it blew a hurricane
Up the street chugged the Playgroup's little train.
On the seventh day the line blew outside the Liberal Club
And the tree wasn't yet in its tub.
On the eighth day of Christmas, we mended quite a few
Then the line up from Tony and Pat blew.
On the ninth day of Christmas, the weather had us beat
And bang went the lights in Middle Street.
On the tenth day of Christmas, I nearly went insane
When Mark Prout's blew up once again.
On the eleventh day of Christmas, the weather really had
Three strings went, and I started to go mad.
'What about the twelfth day?' I hear you say -
On the twelfth day, a gibbering lunatic, frothing
At the mouth, and capering on the cliffs,
Looking for a launch pad to eternity, was
Led away by the men in white coats,
I hope to be in till AFTER next Christmas.

Yours, Eric (Chairman - Christmas Lights)
January 1994



What I really want to ask is - I am looking for some willing, eager volunteers, able to climb ladders and who know which end of a light bulb to plug in, who can spend a few hours on a windy street in drizzle and who believe in Santa Claus, to help Byron and me with the Christmas lights. If you've got a bit of time in early November and meet the above criteria and you aren't too p..._d off with Monk's Mutterings please phone 880651.

Bob Monk
November 2002

PORT ISAAC ILLUMINATIONS
I would like to thank all who supported our Bingo Night on 23rd October. Almost without exception, the shopkeepers, hotels and cafes from the top to the bottom of the village, gave us a really good selection of prizes. As I said on the night, these people deserve our custom, as they are always being asked for prizes and they give willingly. Many thanks to all who attended and special thanks to my band of lady helpers. We raised the princely sum of £140.00. We hope to 'switch on' about Friday 14th. December at 6.00pm, with carol singing, hot mulled wine, mince pies, sausage rolls, etc. Watch out for the posters; it will be a great night. Let's get lit up!!
Eric Stokes.
December 1990

ILLUMINATIONS

This is my last year as Chairman of 'The Lights', and Muriel has also asked to step down as Treasurer. Mike Edkins of the 'Lion' has agreed to form a new committee, and we wish him all the luck in the world. Many thanks to all my helpers through the years, especially Muriel Spry, and others too numerous to mention. Laurence Reeves and Graham Woods have done wonders helping me repair last year's damage, and by the time you read this we hope to have the lights up and ready for the big Switch-on at 7.00pm. on Saturday 10th. December. St. Breward Band, mulled wine, mince pies, and lots of lovely carolling, so come and enjoy a good night.
Cheerio, Eric.
December 1994

PORT ISAAC ILLUMINATIONS

Well Done Port Isaac!
Many thanks for all your donations, which ensure another and better display of lights. The Coffee Morning at Margaret Clarke's on November 4th. raised £279. From the considerable large donations to the humblest pensioner's quid, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. My special thanks to all our helpers: Muriel, Margaret, Mary (I'm running out of M's), Geoff, Linda, Alison, Mike, and many others, including the lads who helped put 'em up. Don't forget Switch-on-Night on Saturday December 11th at 7.00 pm. Come along and see where your money went. See you then. Happy Christmas.
Eric.
December 1993

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

If the weather is kind to us, the lights will be erected on the first Saturday in December. If you are able to help, join the crew at 10.00am at the Golden Lion.
Switch-on will be at 7.00pm. on Saturday 14th. December. St. Breward Silver Band will be playing from 6.30pm. - please give your support by way of applause and donations - they make no charge on this night. Mulled wine, kiddies' punch, mince pies, and sausage rolls will be available as usual. Again, no charge is made but donations will go towards upkeep of the lights.
December 1996

Christmas Lights competition

As announced last month, the Christmas Lights Competition is running again this year and entry is free.

An independent judge will be asked to choose the displays he/she thinks to be best, which might not be the biggest or the grandest. Details of when the judging will take place will be sent to entrants nearer the time.

To get planning your Christmas lights display. Then complete and return to entry form below and send to: Mel Dingle, 22 Trewetha Lane, Port Isaac, Cornwall PL29 3RW.
November 2007

PORT ISAAC ILLUMINATIONS

A good year for the lights, I think you'll agree. Switch-on night was a great success. Imagine 100 bulbs alight in your house for 6 hours a night, for a month. That's what our 'juice donors' gave us. No strings are less than 50 bulbs. Plus a lot of these people gave donations and helped to put them up. Thanks a million folks! Thanks also to our fund-raising team of ladies and the lads who put them up! A great effort in sometimes dirty weather. The response to our appeal was great, with many postal donations, but perhaps it made it all worthwhile when a pensioner stopped me in the street and gave me £2 because the lights are lovely. Sorry about the tree going dark after Christmas, but as usual, some brainless idiots stole all the bulbs. Next year we will be even better with more 'Ships and Shapes' on Roscarrock. Ta! and Happy New Year everybody.
Eric Stokes.
January 1993

PORT ISAAC ILLUMINATIONS

At Christmas, we hope to extend the lights even more (including a string up Roscarrock Hill to reflect in the harbour). This, of course, means funds, and to this end we are holding a Prize Bingo in the Church Rooms on Tuesday 28th. May, organised by Carole Richards. We urgently need prizes for this and any item from a tin of beans up to a Rolls Royce is very welcome. The shops and pub in Fore Street already contribute handsomely to this scheme, including free electricity at Christmas, so please help us out by donating prizes and attending the Bingo. All prizes and donations to Mrs. Spry at the Golden Lion or me at Eric & Audrey's. Thanks folks, and I'm sure you'll enjoy the lights even more at Christmas.
Eric Stokes.
April 1988

ILLUMINATE YOUR LIFE!

Help Erect the Christmas Lights
At 6.30pm. on December 16th, Port Isaac Christmas Lights will be switched on. The St. Breward Silver Band will be playing and mulled wine, mince pies, and sausage rolls will be available outside the Golden Lion. You will appreciate that a lot of effort goes into the erection of the lights and volunteers are required for the job. Weather permitting - we will need a gang of helpers from December 2nd. - phone Mike at the 'Lion' on 880336 if you are able to help.
Pat Sweett.
December 1995

PORT ISAAC ILLUMINATIONS

Once again the lights were a pretty sight, and the switch-on night was a great success. I must apologise to the St. Breward Band, who had to endure comments from uninformed people about 'being late', but they were playing to a pre-arranged programme for Cancer Research, not for the lights.
The usual gales delayed erection, and continued after they were up, but the only gremlins were the tree, and the new string at the top. Better luck next year.
To mention all those involved would take a whole page of Trio, so I'll just say thanks to: 1. All the lads who put them up and dismantled them. 2. Everybody who donated electricity and money. 3. John Harris, a visitor, who regularly donates £50. 4. Mike Daly, who worked hard repairing wiring, and erecting extra lights with Steve. 5. Neville and Enid, and all at the Golden Lion who organised the wine, etc. on switch-on night, and do most of the fund raising throughout the year. 6. Henry Stickland of the Harbour Shop who gives up half of his garage to store them all. 7. Steve Hewett for all materials at cost (Some free). Many thanks everybody, the Old Lady called Port Isaac, has put away her Jewelled necklace for another year.
Eric Stokes.
January 1991

PORT ISAAC ILLUMINATIONS

Once again, thanks to all who made the 'lights' possible. So many helpers on the erection side made a short job of it, and the 'Switch-on' night was a great success. Special thanks to St. Breward Band, P.I. Singers and hoteliers who supplied mince pies, etc. Unfortunately, theft and vandalism meant at least 100 bulbs were stolen. The Xmas tree lost so many that rain flooded the holders and fused the School House several times, so it was decided, for safety, to switch off the tree before Xmas. If you know anyone with a mental age of about 8 and a stock of coloured 15w. bulbs, please give them a few pats low down on the back preferably with a baseball bat. We will be back next year with even more lights, donations permitting. A few facts: 1. Over £1,000 was raised during the year (mostly in raffles at the Golden Lion). 2. The longest string on Roscarrock Hill was lit from Northcliffe, courtesy of Mr. Rolf Elscholz. 3. Three people with holiday homes gave cheques for £50 or over. 4. Twelve people, including three private houses (Mary Reid, Andy Walton and Mr. Elscholz) gave free electricity. 5. We now have over 1,000 bulbs, which virtually last only 1 season. 6. The Parish Council donated £75, also £40 for Trelights. 7. Port Isaac Relays supplies all materials at cost price.
Eric Stokes.
January 1990

PORT ISAAC LIGHTS

Thanks to everyone who joined the happy band of Christmas Lights erectors. They worked in near Arctic conditions but knew that, when done, sustenance would be available in the 'Lion', courtesy of Mike.
The 'switch on' was heralded by the usual 'bang' - and all the lights stayed on! Mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies went down well and donations on the night exceeded £50. Thanks to the St. Breward Band. Also to everyone who contributed by cooking, helping to serve, and donating 'unwanted' red wine. Thanks also to those who made individual donations of money, which will put us in the black for next Christmas. Happy New Year!
Pat Sweett.
February 1996

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Although we are now looking forward to Easter and a new season, a few words are in order to thank everyone who helped, in any way, with the Christmas Lights. The weather was kind on 'Switch On' night and there was plenty to eat and drink and the Lights fund benefited by approximately £80, which is a good boost for this year. Nigel and Frank's 'Star' looked great above 'Rogue's Retreat' and Hathaway, so, if anyone with a good vantage point, would like to construct a Christmas Shape, materials and bulbs can be provided. A special thanks to the St. Breward Silver Band.
Pat Sweett 880130.
February 1997

PORT ISAAC ILLUMINATIONS

Provided the weather holds out, the lights will be switched on at 6.30pm. next Friday, 8th. December. We hope to extend the lights to Middle Street, Parts of Church Hill, and Rose Hill this year. Come and join in the fun, outside the Golden Lion, with free mulled wine (also non-alcoholic punch), mince pies, sausage rolls, etc., (courtesy of the local hotels). Come and sing a few carols with the Port Isaac Singers. Eric Stokes.
December 1989

TRELIGHTS LIGHTS

On Thursday 21st. December at 7.00pm. the Trelights Christmas Lights will be switched on.
February 2002

Port Isaac Christmas Lights "the best ever"

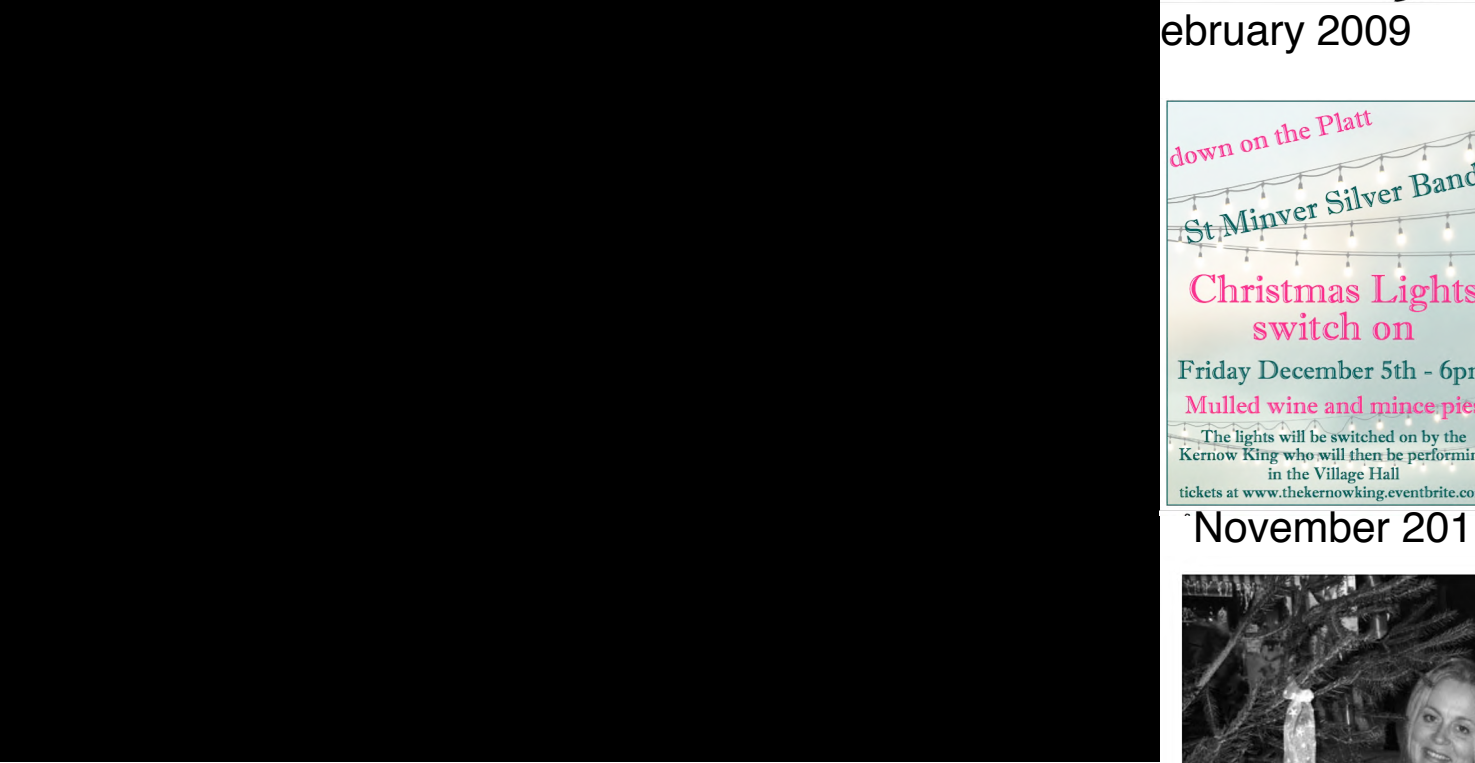


"we are now officially a village of angels!"

Port Isaac is now a mass of beautiful twinkly lights and angels. It's been the aim for many years to light up the top and the bottom of Port Isaac and this year we have! Thanks to a grant of £7000 from the Doc Martin Fund (with a further £3000 to come) we have been able to come up with a sustainable plan. The remit has been to give the Christmas installations a 'Port Isaac theme'. Dave Danson-Hill has surpassed even his giant rhino, which appeared on Lobber in the summer, with angels, Father Christmas, dolphins and huge presents displayed at various points around.
There are many people to thank for their hard work in getting so much achieved in
December 2015

all welcome
Trelights Xmas lights switch on
December 18th, 7pm
followed by mince pies mulled wine in Trelights Chapel

The Christmas Lights Nicki B is on the case



February 2009
down on the Platt
St. Minver Silver Band
Christmas Lights switch on
Friday December 5th - 6pm
Mulled wine and mince pies
The lights will be switched on by the Kenner King who will then be performing in the Village Hall
tickets at www.docmartinfund.org.uk
November 2011
July 2010
Port Isaac's Christmas Memory Tree
As well as being a happy time, Christmas is also a time of memories, a time when we all remember loved ones and friends. So, this year our village Christmas Tree is going to be our 'Memory Tree'. Everyone is invited to tie a ribbon on the tree in memory of someone they have lost.
The tree will be up on its usual Little Hill site outside the Post Office from December 13th waiting for your ribbons. The lights on the tree will be switched on with the Platt lights on Saturday December 15th at 6.00pm.
A big thank you to Trevathan Farm who have once again donated our Christmas Tree.
"I heard the bells on Christmas Day. Their old, familiar carols play, and wild and sweet, The word repeat. Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!"
longfellow
December 2007

PORT ISAAC ILLUMINATIONS

Raffles and Bingo and a Jumble Sale planned, 85 quid from the Parish was grand.
New bulbs at cost from Steve Hewett, Tony Sweet fetched the tree from the forest wot grew it. A stout gang of lads hung the lights in the streets, Mike Daly and Neville performed prodigious feats. Switching-on night, a maroon hit the skies, The band from St. Breward, hot wine and mince pies. Carols were sung, the weather was fine. All thanks to Muriel and the crowd from the Lion. The gales did their worst, for the next week or so But we managed to keep most lights all aglow, The rain it lashed down, and the wind was 'blowing, They built a windfarm to keep us a'going. The 'juice' was supplied by a dozen or more From Rogue's Retreat to Graham's Drug Store. Mark Provis and Barry lit up the valley, Mary Reid lit the gloom in Squeeze Belly Alley. To Calum and Neville I take off my hat. Mouse Robinson gave us the juice for the platt. Andy Walton, he set Rose Hill all aglow. The tree was lit up by Jon Cleave (the P.O.) Dave Philp and John Coshall lit the top of the hill. Northcliffe's new owner paid the Roscarrock bill. Mike Warner's Old School set Fore Street alight. (Plus litres of wine for the switching-on night). Bless all you good folk and for this very reason I wish you good luck for the '92 season.
Thanks everybody. Eric.
January 1992

Lights fund breaks the £3000 barrier!

The Christmas lights have now been taken down and I would like to thank everyone who helped with this. As you will have seen, the lights were not without their problems - all out of our control - and the following extract from Steve Hewett's letter to Denmans Electrical Wholesalers, St Austell, will go some way to giving an explanation:
February 2002

PORT ISAAC CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2013

Good news! We are a newly formed group with the sole mission of re-instating all the Port Isaac Christmas lights together with all the 'Switching on Evening' entails; singing Christmas carols on the Platt, drinking mulled wine and eating mince pies with the RNLI in the Lifeboat house and generally seeing in the festive season together. Just like the old days!
Our aim is to raise money throughout the year to pay a local electrician to supply and put up Christmas lights next December.
If you would like to help with fundraising ideas or anything else please come along and join us for a drink in The Edge on Thursday February 21st at 7.30pm. We already have pledges of £200 to get the ball rolling. With a whole year ahead of us it shouldn't be too difficult.
February 2013



December 2nd 2016 was Port Isaac's Big Switch-on with a lantern procession through our beautiful village. Well, we promoted it as a procession but it turned out to be a wave of homemade lanterns carried by local children and very proud parents, and topped off with the majestic and graceful 'EI', Port Isaac's very own Angel of the North (Coast)!

As the crowds paraded themselves through the village they passed St Peter's Church with her cross brightly lit and then went down Fore Street passing our Lobster Pot Christmas Tree (donated by Tom & Jeremy Brown). Hundreds of people took photos of our 'tree'.
The light corner at the bottom of Fore Street - that is featured in so many of the old Lifeboat photographs - brought its own little problem as 'EI' had to take some adjustments and teasing round, all expertly handled by Dan, Tom, Harry and Jack. The children parted the waiting crowds, making way for 'EI' to take pride of place on the Platt. The children then gave a wonderful and heartwarming performance of The Angel Song - Port Isaac's very own new Christmas song which they had written themselves. Wonderful. Then the countdown to the Switch-on, 10, 9, 8 ... Merry Christmas! Yes! All the lights came on! Mulled wine, mince pies and happy, smiling people. It couldn't have been better.
The lanterns and 'EI' would not have been possible without Caroline Cleave and her cohorts from ARTiculate. What a remarkably talented and patient group they are. Their lantern workshop up at the Village Hall was a resounding success with dozens of children and grown-ups learning how to make 'wifty' lanterns. Hopefully this was the birth of a new Port Isaac tradition.
Does anyone have any good photos of the Angel that we could possibly use for a Christmas card next year please?
the story of the lights ... so far
Our new lights would not have been possible without the support of the Doc Martin Fund and some very generous donations from local businesses and home owners and, possibly most importantly, our small band of volunteers who made the effort, in all weathers, to get the lights and installations up.
We are still learning what things work and what doesn't, but with our initial investments into new LED lights (mains and battery operated), our main commitments are to public safety and being eco-friendly. The switch to LED generally shows a 90% reduction in electricity consumption.
Although there are no labour costs as all of the manufacturing, maintenance and installation is done by our band of volunteers, there are significant costs involved with materials and repairs, hence we will be trying to organise fundraising events through the year. So watch this space.
As a group we are already putting together ideas for later this year ... yes, it's only eleven months until we light up again!
Chris Lanyon
February 2017

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Big Switch-On
Join the Torchlit procession behind the St Breward Band that will leave the top of Back Hill at 6.00pm
Bringing a torch
Mulled wine will be served from its usual spot outside the Golden Lion
The band will then play Christmas Music on the Platt until 6.30pm when the lights will go on.
The band will then play Christmas Carols
Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls will be served
(a reminder to all you cooks who so generously bake these - please hand your donations into the Golden Lion during the day)
Raffle

A huge thank you to the intrepid band who put up the lights in record time
December 2005



Natasha McCormick and Cheryl Webster tie on their memory ribbons
Sylvia, Georgia & Elsie hand out mince pies

switch-on night



Getting ready to lead the procession, Port Isaac Brownies and Rainbows
As usual Muriel Spry and Paula Scott served the mulled wine made by Nicki B
February 2008