

The Gig ... since it began in 1990, the history of the Port Isaac Rowing Club has been recorded in Trio ... here are just a few snippets ... the whole story is told in the PISCES Gig exhibition that you can see on our touchscreen or our website - www.portisaacheritage.co.uk



The ladies A crew included Caroline Cleave, Linda Craven, Sheelagh Driscoll, Claire Eldred, Beverley Harris and her daughter Rebecca Harris, and Shell Pavey

Port Isaac's Scilly Gig success in 25th birthday year

Port Isaac Rowing Club's ladies crew found winning form at the World Pilot categories. A ladies crew also



June 2016



and it certainly was a PUSH!



presenting the cheque to CRY

Corsair capsizes - dramatic rescue of the rowers - and the Gig lives to row another day

Port Isaac Gig, Corsair, capsized in heavy seas on Sunday February 20th. The crew of six girls and their male cox had just finished their training session when they found that they couldn't get back into the harbour because of the heavy swell. As luck would have it, Port Isaac Lifeboat, Copeland Bell, was also returning from a training exercise and the gig members waved frantically to get the attention of crew members Nigel Sherratt and Ian Johnson.

The lifeboat went alongside and discussed with the gig rowers all the options. The rowers decided they would stay at sea until it was safe to come in. The lifeboat came in and collected warm clothing (the girls were just in tee shirts) and life jackets - to prove a godsend as the drama unfolded. It was then decided to transfer two of the anxious ladies to the lifeboat and bring them back to shore. Trevor Beare and Steve Hudspeth, two experienced Gig club members, were taken back out by the lifeboat to replace them.

After some time, the Gig attempted to come into the harbour but, with the big spring tide swell still running, the vessel capsized, throwing all seven gig rowers into the water. Within minutes Nigel and Ian, who had been standing alongside, had them all safely on board the lifeboat and back out into the relatively safer deep water. Nigel deemed it unsafe to attempt entry back into the harbour with nine people on board so Padstow all-weather lifeboat was launched and the cold and shocked girls were transferred to this at sea. Some were suffering minor injuries and so all five were then airlifted by a rescue helicopter from RNAS Culdrose to Treliske Hospital. Thankfully they were all soon safely back home.

In the meantime, the Port Isaac Lifeboat with Nigel and Ian - RNLI crew - and Trevor and Steve - gig rowers - on board made their way back to shore at Port Isaac. Their two RNLI crew had done a fantastic job. Said Phil Tidey, Port Isaac's RNLI Operations Manager, "Nigel and Ian did a wonderful job in extremely difficult conditions, rescuing seven casualties in under four minutes. Our boat performed brilliantly, perfectly demonstrating exactly what an Inshore Lifeboat is designed to do, working close in in shallow waters, among the rocks and surf. Additionally, Port Isaac coastguard rescue team provided invaluable assistance to our lifeboat from the cliff."

You'd think that the story ended there but no. Corsair had been left at sea as, at that time, it was too dangerous to go back out to bring her back in; her fate was to smash on the rocks. Several hours later when the tide was higher, making it possible for the gig to be towed in, long standing ex member of the Rowing Club, Roy Speakman couldn't bear the thought of Corsair being destroyed and so he and Tom Cleave went out to sea on a rescue mission.

Said an onlooker, "Corsair is about 30feet long and was almost totally submerged by the time the two rescuers got to her. They had a really difficult job getting enough speed up to empty enough of the water out in order to tow the Gig successfully back to Port Isaac. It was great to see their determination and skill rewarded as they released Corsair into the care of those waiting on the Platt and it was a delight to see all the beaming faces. Well done boys."

How good it is to have such a happy ending for everyone involved.

March 2011



ANNUAL CHARITY GIG PUSH

Port Isaac Rowing Club raised over £500 at its annual gig push just after Christmas with 22 of its intrepid rowers pushing their gig, Roscarrock, from Port Isaac to Pendoggett and back.

The money will be split between the Club's funds and its designated charities for 2016 - Cornwall Wildlife Trust and St Petroc's Society.

The Club also presented a cheque for £600 to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), its chosen charity for 2015 in memory of much loved Port Isaac rower Dave Wood.

The Club would like to thank all its supporters who have helped throughout the year, including Sharp's Brewery, The Fisherman's Friends, Great Western Railways, Outlaws Port Isaac, Fishlock Wines and, of course, The Port Gaverne Hotel who very generously provides the much enjoyed refreshments after the gig push!

February 2016

PORT ISAAC ROWING CLUB

We are pleased to announce that Freddie Ross has accepted our offer to be President of the club.

On Easter Sunday we had our 2nd. Fun Race, and as always the weather was good for us. Not as many gigs came as were expected, but it was still a very successful day for rowers and spectators alike. About £600 was raised and our thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it an enjoyable day.

On September 5th. the Corsair is going to London to take part in the Great River Race on the Thames. It is a 22 mile race and three Loughton divers will join three Port Isaac rowers to race this long and exciting course. There are a limited number of places on a spectator boat which is organized by Bob Bulgin and any club members wishing to go should get in touch with me (Jan) as soon as possible. The club is looking for a new secretary and anyone wishing to do this important job should contact Mark Provis. *Jan Rowe.*

May 1992

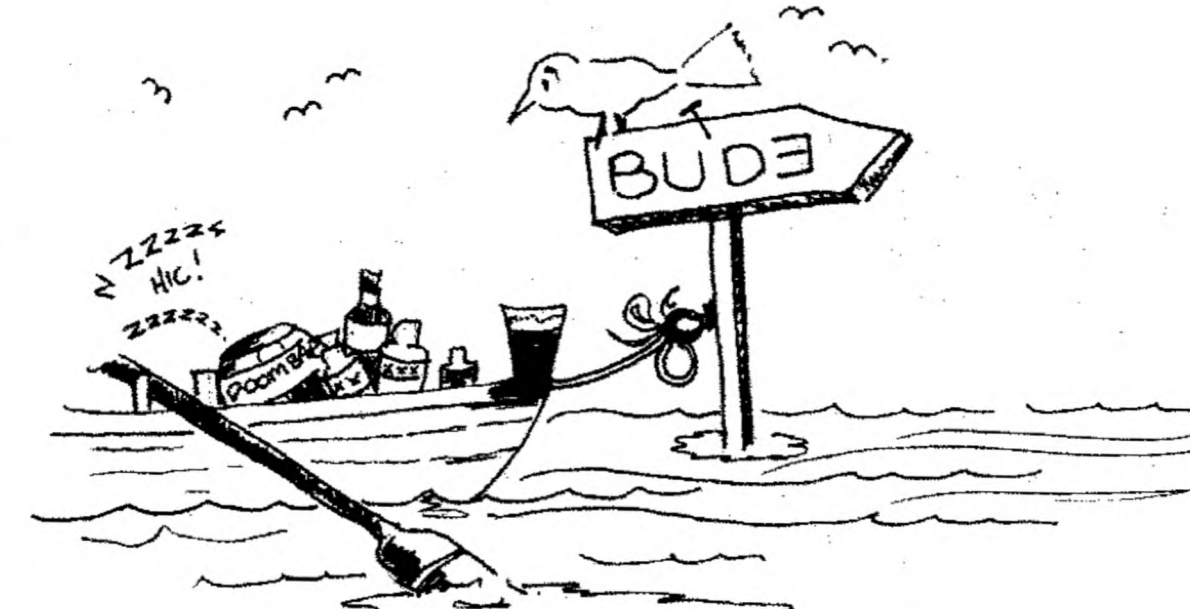
GIG DAY

Port Isaac Rowing Club's gig day was a huge success. Held at Port Gaverne, crews from Torrington, Applington, Clowley, Bude, Newquay, Rock, Barnstaple and Boscastle all entered. Thanks to all of these clubs for being there and contributing towards a great atmosphere.

A lot of work went into making this day such a success so thanks to Carl and Kenny for driving and crewing the safety/umpire boat. Also, thanks to Barry Pegg for providing the extra safety cover. Thanks to Jim May for trailer parking and to Westwinds for providing a parking area. Thanks to Richard Cook for all his help and to Port Gaverne Hotel for their support. Thanks also to Paul Hobbs for providing photography for the day, available at www.hobbsphotography.photoshelter.com



September 2013



Record fund raising month for Gig Club

August, from necessity, needed to be a month of little rowing and heavy fundraising for us. All the hard work and preparation has certainly paid off and we are now in a much more stable financial position than we imagined we would be.

September 2000

GIGGLER - The Gig Club's very own cider!

Have you noticed a lot of the apple trees in the village being shaken wildly and wondered what was going on? Don't be alarmed! Instead of letting this year's bountiful harvest of apples go to waste, the Gig Club decided to put them to good use.

A whole gang of pickers turned up and delivered a truck load of apples to Haywood Cider Farm in St Mabyn to be crushed in the traditional press that has been used on the farm for generations. The pickers were well rewarded for their efforts with flagons of cider from Tom Bray the farmer. Butcher Gary Dutton provided a wonderful



barbecue and the gig rowers provided apple crumble and cream for all who sampled the golden nectar.

The resulting product from these Port Isaac apples will be the Gig Club's very own cider, aptly named GIGGLER ... available before Christmas. A tasting evening is being planned so watch Trio for more details.

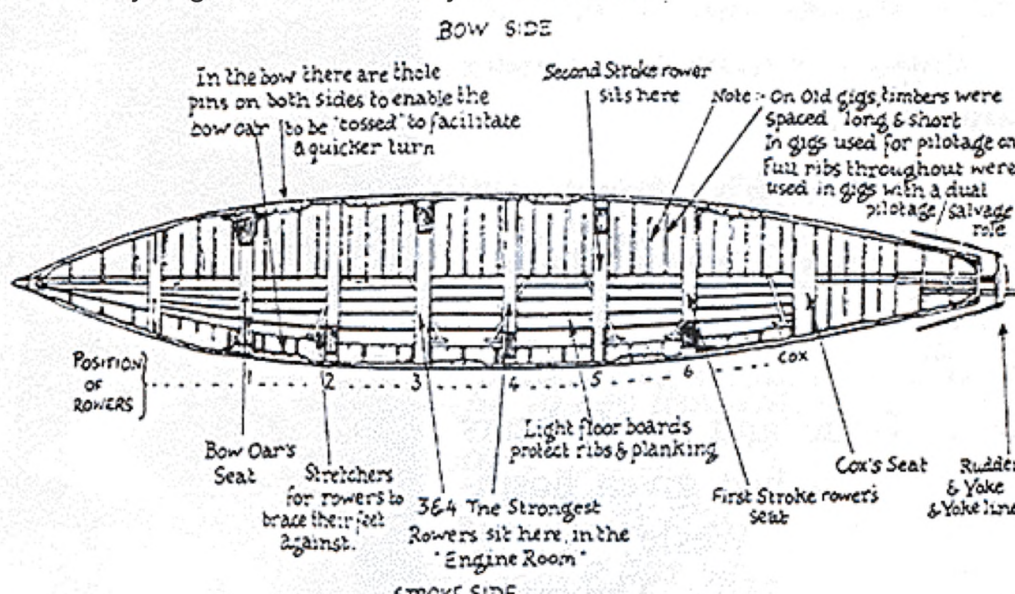
Photos courtesy Wendy Slater

November 2013

2016 sees Port Isaac Rowing Club celebrating its 25th birthday - as part of its celebrations the Club will be telling the story of gigs and the club in Trio

A brief history of Cornish Pilot Gigs

Cornish pilot gigs are a six oared rowing boat, with seating for the coxswain and an extra space for a passenger. Originally built from Cornish narrow leaf elm; Length 32 feet with a beam of 4 feet 10 inches, and painted in their company's own usually bright colours for easy identification.



During the 19th century, Cornwall was a centre of industry, such as mining and

March 2016

GIG DAY 2016



September 2016

PORT ISAAC ROWING CLUB

The Club has been formed to revive gig racing at Port Isaac. The chairman is Trevor Beare, and the officers are Chris Keys, John Brown, and Chrissie Coshall.

A start has been made to raise the £13,000 needed to buy and equip the gig, and provided there is sufficient support for the club, grants are expected to be available - age groups 'under 16' and '16 and over'. Gig racing was active at Port Isaac until about 1900, there having been three gigs up to that time, named 'Jane', 'Tom Sayers', and 'Corsair'. Help is sought from Port Isaac people in two ways:

1. A ballot for the name of the new gig is open to all, whether club members or not. Forms at the Post Office, Port Isaac C. P. School, the Golden Lion, and the Port Gaverne Hotel. Please take part.
2. The club is keen to learn more of the history of the Port Isaac gigs, and will be grateful for any information, however sketchy, and for photographs. Please phone Trevor Beare (850585).

A buffet supper is to be held at Rogues Retreat on Saturday 24th. November, and all are welcome (tickets £5).

October 1990



March 2005

It's Roscarrock!

Her name, chosen by popular vote among the membership, Roscarrock was finally launched from Port Isaac on Wednesday April 20th. Peter Williams, who'd been interviewed by both Radio Cornwall and BBC Spotlight, was there, looking very happy. As were a few dozens others! It was fantastic to see so many local people down on the beach to support us!

After a short blessing from Father Michael, followed by an apt few words from Trevor Beare, crewed by our men's vets with Clare Jon on the helm, she slipped smoothly into the water to a huge cheer from the beach. The Fisherman's Friends, in true style, gave voice to the occasion, and the whole event was filmed for the closing of Spotlight that evening.

May 2005



Roscarrock - ready for launching

News from the Gig Club

Earlier this year the sea seemed to be giving us a hard time but lately we have made the most of the wonderful Indian summer. The only problem now is the evenings are getting dark so early.

There has been a constant stream of eager juniors and if they could row as hard as they laugh we would be winning championships! We are also pleased to welcome some new members who have shown their commitment and enthusiasm to the club by taking part in race events and fundraisers.

Just recently we took Corsair down to Helford Passage for 'The Head of the River Race'. It was all a little short notice - lack of communication meant that we only had the date confirmed to us the day before. It was a case of loading the gig on the trailer and straight off to Helford. One member of the team left work in Windsor and drove straight down to take part.

November 2002