

# Saving Grace



*Saving Grace* was filmed in and around Port Isaac and went on to be premiered at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival. The premier at Wadebridge Cinema was a 'proper Port Isaac night'!

Starring Brenda Blethyn and Martin Clunes Prim and proper housewife Grace Trevethyn finds herself widowed, in dire financial straits when she inherits massive debts that her late husband had been accruing for years, and faced with losing her house. She decides to use her talent for gardening and hatches a plan to grow marijuana which can be sold at an astronomical price, thus solving her financial crisis. Grace and her gardener's efforts to hide their illegal enterprise from the quaint and curious townsfolk and market their product compose the remainder of the film.

Martin Clunes character as the village doctor went on to be the infamous TV *Doc Martin*.



## Port Isaac - the film star!

Another film crew has come and gone, this time from Germany and filming a German TV drama 'Vatter Flucht' (Father's Hideaway). They were a charming, friendly lot going out of their way to cause the minimum disruption to the village. Locals were again called on as extras resulting in an article in the Western Morning News about the 'Port Isaac Luvvies'.

The National Post mentioned Port Isaac in its Arts & Life supplement on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Talking of 'Saving Grace' it states, '*Saving Grace* sets this story in one of those villages that been a staple of British comedies since time immemorial. Villages in which PG Wodehouse novels would be considered realistic, where everyone knows one another, is nice, is an eccentric, plays a role and winks at those kinds of sin that are harmless and fun'.

'Do such places exist?' it continues. 'Port Isaac, the village in Cornwall that provides the setting for *Saving Grace* seems like the kind of place you might never want to leave, so friendly are the citizens and charming the aspect'.



Left: local extras in the infamous Platt scene  
Above: the Spar shop transformed into the village store - see David Philp on the right  
Right: Janet Chadband in the background

Photos courtesy Malcolm Lee

