

The Fisherman's Friends

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS RECORD BREAKING COLLECTIONS



Singing in Jersey

Photos: Sally Stratton



As I write this I can hear the voices of the Fisherman's Friends drifting over the village and I wonder how much the Charity collection will be tonight!

July has been a month of record on record being broken. It started with the Poldow Sea Cadets and those boys collected a record of £1802.32.

The following week it was the turn of PISCES (Port Isaac Shared Community Exhibition Space) and they couldn't believe it when their collection was counted at £1134.37. The next week it was the turn of the Shipwrecked Manner's Society and yes, they beat the record again with £1416.75.

Then it was the turn of Judith Haynes from Trilights and her team who were collecting for three cancer charities, Cancer Care, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and Ovarian Cancer Action. Did they break the record? Did they ever - £1805.83! Is it ever going to end?

A HUGE thank you to the boys for singing for all the charities.

August 2011

STOP PRESS
JULY 29th
collection tops
£2000!



Singing in the Big Top at the Port Eliot Festival

Fisherman's Friends update



The sound check at Birmingham City Hall

Another roller-coaster year came to an end with a tour that covered Cheltenham, Salisbury, Bristol, Birmingham, Plymouth and London's Union Chapel. Their summer Friday nights raised staggering amounts for charity, they appeared on the Main Stage at Glastonbury, two sell-out nights at the Minack, plus loads of other festivals and gigs and their book was released. February sees the start of another tour and the Minack is booked again for next year (have you got your tickets yet?) Plus the production of their film is due to start in 2012. The big question is, will George Clooney be in the village in the role of John Brown, and more to the point, will he be cleaning our windows?

Clearly St Kew appreciate their resident celebrity - Lefty - more than we do the rest of the boys, as he was chosen to turn on the St Kew Christmas lights!

December 2011



Record breaking crowds on the Platt - Summer 2011



September 2011

You've got the CD and the tee shirt, now you can get the book!

Published on September 1st, Port Isaac's Fisherman's Friends, *Sailing at Eight Bells*, is the story of our ten Cornish seadogs who took the world by storm. To you and me it tells the story of our Fisherman's Friends rise to fame but about their lives here in Port Isaac; some bits you'll already know, some you won't, but you will love it. Enter women in the tales of their lives so far is a record of what living in Port Isaac is all about and some of the changes that have taken place in our village over the years.

Friend and fan, DJ Mark Radcliffe has written the forward to the book. A regular visitor to and lover of his high-on-perfect-cornwall Corn wall song before he had heard of the boys, Mark debuts his Friday night on the Platt - "these sturdy, stout-hearted seadogs clear their throats ... then something wondrous happens. Like a well-lubricated Leviathan emerging from the drunken deep, a tsunami of song sweeps over the seafloor."

If you didn't already know the Fisherman's Friends - and yes, of course I know that all Tio readers do know them - by the time you've finished reading *Sailing at Eight Bells* you will agree with Mark Radcliffe that their story is "modern folklore"; that they are something "very special" and that "the sound they make is as unique as the special place they have in our hearts."

Priced £18.99, this hardback book is now available at book shops everywhere and in all the usual places in Port Isaac, where there is always a chance that one of the Fisherman's Friends will be around to sign your copy. In addition the boys will be promoting the book over the following months at various book fairs and in October at the Wimbleton Literature Festival.

And, as he's said so much so far, let's let Mr Radcliffe have the last word: "I like them enormously as guys, although I have to say that spending any time with them incurs a very expensive refund"

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS HOME FROM THE NORTH!



Stopping off on the way to York: In the studio with Mark Radcliffe after singing live on the BBC's Radio 2's *Lifeboat & Maccos Show*

Visiting the Hoylake Lifeboat crew before performing at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

'PORT ISAAC'S AMBASSADORS IN WIT AND SONG'

Dear Tio
This message comes from the Wild Lands lying well up-country, and far from North from your only real border, Ineorn with England.

We wanted to pass on our thanks to Port Isaac's ambassadors in wit and song - the Fisherman's Friends - for dropping by to bring a little culture to we northern folk on Saturday 25th February 2012. The Wirler Tour seemed to be going well and we hope they got as good a reception the following night in Liverpool!

Whether they did or they didn't, hardly a seat was left unfilled in Burnley and a great night was had by all. It was also good to see 'Kimber's Men' in the flesh and supporting the lads from the audience.

Our conversations with others tell us it is likely save a few more will know headsouth to fill the cottages of our favourite Cornish home-from-home. We may never find a berth again!

Well done guys, it was good to see you, and - although you were polite and complimentary about OUR part of the world - we'd still rather live down there...

March 2012

John & Kath Pennington
Nelson, Lancs

The Fisherman's Friends

Glastonbury 2010



It was a bit hard to take in, the sheer scale of the Glastonbury festival is enormous, and as we approached in our private car (at all right, by the way) the site shimmered in the boiling heat of the morning and hundreds of brightly coloured flags rippled in the breeze. Ahead of us we could see the blue, yellow and red tops of the giant marquee's that held the stages. Once those the acoustical tag, it was as if we were walking into our first ever appearance at a major festival. The Fisherman's Friends, Port Isaac's premier old boys' band, me and me old students, set off ... We couldn't believe it!

We felt a huge weight on our shoulders. Not to fly without representing Port, but our dear county, and as you know we take our role as Cornwall's cultural attaches very seriously. And we had the added responsibility of guarding the village's crown jewels (the evergreen Pete Rowe).

After negotiating a series of security checks that were akin to those at entering North Korea, we were taken to the alcoholic stag at where we met Geoff (our trust man again), who took us to our best dressed dressing room (next door to the Lunden Community Gospel Choir),

and shown the Green Room, full of comfy sofas and drapes and more importantly several fridges full of cold beer!

Several other acts were before us, and people were drifting in and out of the huge briefing bus, some appearing to talk, others coming in out of the fence sun for shade. We waited backstage for one o'clock to come. We had a forty minute setlist songs worked out in the bus on the way up, and couldn't wait to get on with it.

What a wondrously remarkable was that by one o'clock they were warramed full of people who wanted to see and hear us. There must have been over a thousand, and we walked up the steps and up to a rapturous receptional cheering and clapping and Cornish tag waving. We were all overwhelmed at the spirit and sound, and really very touched and honoured by the whole thing.

Now all we had to do was sing!

And sing we did. I think we rattled out one of our best-loved sets of songs, and we had our clanking in the audience from the front to the back, and beyond to the outside, and we were finished with Stop

John B and South Australia the sound coming from the huge rig above (the sound system was immense, and seemed to knock us up, up, up, and around the big top. And it was just our voices!

By the time we left the stage to a huge crescendo of clapping and cheering, we left to a man absolutely elated and are I say, a bit emotional (no, I don't say that, we've met aren't we? We don't do emotion...). So emotional that, can you believe it, we all sneaked off for some well-deserved beers to celebrate a most fabulous experience.

So, we've driven up the way home, and all while this little behind my stop counter (built for me by Tracy) much the newspaper's favourite, and later to the CB over and over and over again - (sorry Sue, Pauline, Shirland, Amanda!) I think that's about as far as the boys when I say a huge thank you to the FFWAGS (Fisherman's Friends, wives and girlfriends) and our friends for their unstinting support and love and to all you people at Port Isaac and Cornwall for coming out week after week to the Flat to hear us. We couldn't do it without you all.

Yeeeee away, head away!

Clive x

just another month in the life of our Fisherman's Friends ...

"One day I'm going to be digging my garden and I'll think to myself, that was a lovely dream..." *Clive*

It's been another month for the boys that started with their first sunrise session on the Flat on May 20th - were there those so many people created on the Flat? We were certainly pleased to see so many local people supporting us, and there were a night or two and it was captured on film by an amateur photographer. The boys were out on the Flat in the year to local organisations and offered to collect and CLC on the first night. Janet Chastant, Anna Phipps and the rest of them were selected to record on August 18th. The following Friday it was the turn of the National Lottery History at Redwood core (video clip) and the boys were on the Flat. The boys were on the Flat on the 18th of August.

At the Royal Cornwall Show I believe sang in the Radio Cornwall light and went down to Cornwall. And it was the platform for everyone they have been. The following week they were up in London and were on the Thursday night 11th was GNTV where they were presented with a Gold Disc for record sales of 100,000 copies. They were on the Flat on the 11th of August. The boys were on the Flat on the 11th of August. The boys were on the Flat on the 11th of August.

The next day they did two gigs in Richard Thompson's Meadow Festival at the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank. Two stunning performances and what was very nice was the several regular visitors to Port Isaac who live in London came along to the shows.

Sunday was an early morning to get down to the platform for the International Sea Shanty Festival. A huge crowd welcomed them, and was this a best? A group of ladies in high top headdress and from their windows at night? The boys got up on the stage and they are enjoying the same business.

Then there was Glastonbury - read the 'new wave' special!

Coming up the boys will be singing on the Flat on July 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st August 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st with their final session of the season on September 3rd.

Outside of Port Isaac they are at Gerny in Bournemouth on July 4th & 5th at Phoenix Theatre. Then on July 20th at the International Festival on July 20th and the Flat East Fozz on July 23rd. The end of the month sees them at the Cambridge Folk Festival on July 27th. And just in time for August they'll be on the Flat for Boardmasters of the Flat and the beautiful Royal Festival in Olney on July 28th and 29th.

As Peter said, "I'd love to see you!"



Singing at the Royal Festival Hall, London - 'The Meadow Festival'



Just another Friday night on the Flat



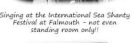
Singing at the International Sea Shanty Festival at Falmouth - not even standing room only!



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Fisherman's Friends - "putting Port Isaac on the map for all the right reasons"

A year on from their first sunrise session on the Flat on May 20th, the boys are back on the Flat on July 21st, the Tuesday Festival on July 22nd and the Port Isaac Festival on July 23rd. They are on the Flat on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of August. They are on the Flat on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of August. They are on the Flat on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of August.

Friday night collections on the Flat in July were for the Port Isaac Music Festival 2011 - £241, the Browns - £241.13, Port Isaac School - £246.92 and POCES - £200. Fisherman's Friends Friday nights are really helping local organisations.

Coming up in August they'll be at Newquay for Boardmasters on the 7th and the Beaches Days Festival in Olney on May 20th on the 21st. They will be singing on the Flat on August 6th, 7th, 20th & 27th, with their final session of the season on September 3rd.

Tickets are now on sale for the Fisherman's Friends Flat London 'headliners' show at the beautiful Union Chapel, London on Saturday December 18th. Book yours on www.gigsandfriends.com

And everywhere else you can get tickets on the internet or by phone.



and Port Isaac



and Fozzbridge



On stage at the Cambridge Folk Festival

August 2010

The boys show off their Gold Disc outside the GNTV studios.

June 2010

