

# in the beginning ...

Music and singing has always been part of life in Port Isaac; villagers sang in Chapel, they sang in Church, they sang in concerts, they sang in choirs, they sang in the pub - at the drop of a hat they would 'strike up'.

It was the early 90s when the Fisherman's Friends began to sing together as a 'group'. Some of them already sang in the Wadebridge Male Voice Choir, some sang in the Port Isaac Chorale, all of them just sang in the pub ...

But what they all had in common was their lifelong friendship and their love of singing the traditional songs of the sea, handed down from their forefathers ...



... they were asked to sing to help raise money for so many charities but their popularity was far bigger than in Cornwall; they sang in Mystic Seaport in the USA and in France ...



## ‘Suck ´em and Sea’

This has been a great year for us and an extra exciting month just gone. Many of you have been asking when we were going to produce an album of our songs and back in the summer we recorded our first CD, ‘Suck ´Em and Sea’.

We were fortunate enough to have Gerard O’Farrell, who is the manager of the folk duo Show of Hands, to do the recording and the end result was released early in November. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have bought ‘Suck ´Em and Sea’ and hope you enjoy the contents.

Late in August we appeared at the Cornwall Folk Festival in Wadebridge where we share a concert with The Johnson Girls, an American girl shanty group. They remarked on how tiring it was to record an album and said that it had taken them around two years. ‘Oh yes,’ says Lethbridge, ‘it is tiring. It took we all bleddy afternoon!’

Anyway, our astonishing leap to global fame took another turn on November 4<sup>th</sup> when we appeared live on Gloria Hunniford’s Open House on Channel 5 alongside Rick Stein and Sir Ranulph Fiennes (who was late having apparently got lost between the underground and the studios!). Overall it was a great day and thanks to Bradbury for cranking up the applause in the studio audience. Apart from Bill upsetting an entire tray of coffee and sandwiches, getting jammed in the automatic doors and getting lost beneath the stairs, we must have made a reasonable impression as she has invited us back again, maybe around the time of our Albert Hall gig (as we say in showbiz!). Since that we have been featured on Radio Leeds and Radio Cornwall who both gave us good plugs.

None of us have given up the day jobs yet though and we hope to see you all as normal through the season on our regular Friday night slot on the Platt (subject to the kind permission of my nautical equivalent, the Harbourmaster General). We hope next year that if the weather is ever bad (!) we might be able to perform under cover in the Lifeboat House.

Should any of you want to buy a copy of the CD, it is for sale in most of the village shops ... and being played in most of the village shops, over and over and over again. If you’d like one sent in the post, please send a cheque for £11 made out to ‘The Fishermen’s Friends’ to The Post Office, Port Isaac PL29 3RA.

(Ed: We still want to know - As with all boy bands who’s going to leave to have a solo career first - suggestions?)

Trio, December 2000



on the Platt with Ian McNeice