

1895 was the year of two big events in the Parish ... the railway arrived at Port Isaac Road and the Temperance Hall on Trewetha Lane was built. This large stone building is still called the Temperance Hall by some locals today.

The Temperance Society was formed back in 1836 and other temperance organisations soon followed, including the Band of Hope. All members took a pledge of total abstinence and warned people of the evils of drink!

There were two Temperance Societies in Port Isaac. The Methodist Sunday School ran one group, known as the 'Timber Legs'. The other group was known as the 'Cork Legs' and it was this group that built the Hall.

"... the hall was used for badminton in winter; the Port Isaac Players (PIPS) put on plays during the summer; and there were dances or 'sixpenny hops'. Sixpence (2½p) was the entrance fee with music provided by the Brimacombes (Mr on the violin and Mrs on the piano) plus anyone else who could be roped in. The other band that played there was Mrs Singer's Orchestra from Wadebridge. Piano accordians were the in thing, but Mrs Singer had a vocalist, her daughter Anita, and a bass player. The dances never really started until closing time at the Golden Lion when the male element arrived, just in time for the last waltz."

George Steer was no alcohol as it was the Temperance Hall."

Noreen Honey has a very special story. "My aunt used to organise big dances in the Temperance hall and one time this Prince Chula - Prince Chula Chadrabongse of Thailand, who lived in St Mabyn in the 1940s and 1950s - arrived with a big crate of alcohol.

"I'm sorry you can't come in " said my aunt.

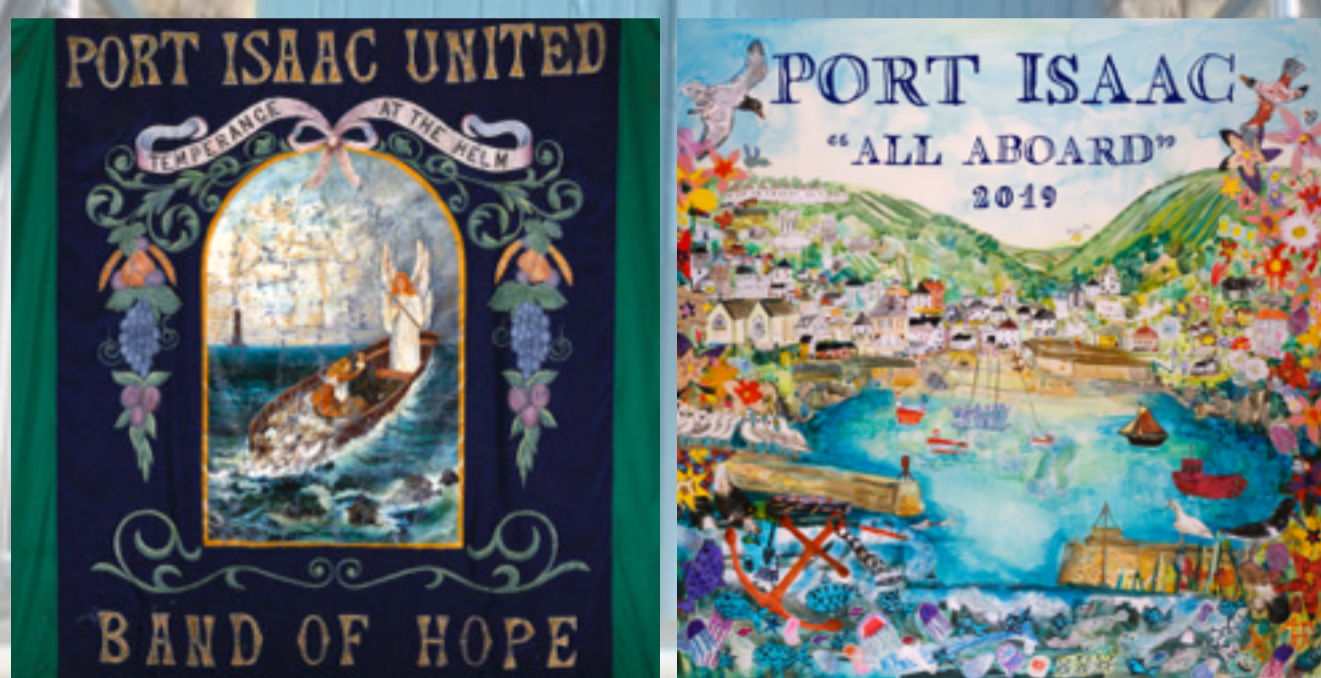
"Do you know who I am ?" he replied.

"I don't care if you are the King of England, you won't be coming in" she firmly said,

and she didn't let him in. He couldn't believe it, but it



Prince Chula



the old and the new



In October 2007, the Village Hall Committee were having a bit of a clearout underneath the stage and came across two very long wooden boxes. What a find! They contained the old 'Cork Legs' Band of Hope banners - pictured above. The very same banners that were paraded in the annual Band of Hope parades and marches, in procession up Fore Street.

"They were in a dreadful state - it looked as if the mice had taken quite a liking to the banners, they looked terrible" recalls Annie Philp. And it was Annie who took on the task of restoring these banners. She enlisted the help of Sue Rescorla, a professional seamstress from St Columb and with the help of about twelve local ladies and eight months later, the restored banners were installed above the stage and overlooking the bar, which today is one of the Hall's biggest fundraisers!

Fast forward to 2019 and to launch the first Port Isaac Shanty Festival, local artist Caroline Cleave involved the whole community in the construction of a new Port Isaac banner. The old Temperance banners were used as inspiration and paraded through the village, reminiscent of days gone by.

This new banner now sits with the old over the stage in the Hall.



May Day celebrations took place in the Temperance Hall (now the Village Hall)

These photographs of the May Pole in the Hall were taken in 1951



So many celebrations, family and community occasions, have taken place over the years. So many memories.