

The Parish Nurse

Back in the 1930s money had to be raised to support the Village Nursing Association which enabled Port Isaac to have a Parish Nurse.

One of the popular fundraising events was the concert that took place in the Church Rooms at the end of July or the beginning of August when there were visitors about. Any visitor who had entertaining talents was often roped in to take part and, together with local talent, a programme of high entertainment was produced.

My memory of some of the evenings was that twenty or more artists took part and they included:

The Port Isaac Male Quartet
Jack Collins, Tom Collins, Tom Prout
and Harold Spry

Jack Collins - Cornish songs

Nancy Bunt - soprano

Lionel Castle - ventriloquist with Joey

Lionel & Maggie Castle - marionettes

Ian James - boy soprano

Walter Haynes - impressionist (he emigrated to Australia and became an announcer on the radio)

Norman Castle - monologues

Port Isaac Choral Society - conductor Ron James,
accompanist Muriel Couch

About £40 was raised at these concerts each year and the 1939 concert was the last Visitor's Concert as such. During the war other concerts took place to raise money for the various war efforts.

David Castle

Silas Williams Port Isaac's Town Crier

Si, as he was known, was the last lamplighter in Port Isaac as well as being the Town Crier.

He lived in Margaret's Lane, next door to his cousin, Emma Andrews. In his early years he delivered fish between Port Isaac and St Minver.

Very little light got into his cottage due to the overgrowth in the lane outside, so the cottage was always dark inside. Si used to sit in the corner of the downstairs room.

He used to 'cry' all around the village and the charge for his services varied according to the number of cries and whether the information was commercial or for charity. He had his service cut short at the outset of World War Two when the ringing of bells was not allowed.



"Si was down on the Town Platt and the men said 'Si, if you can ring the bell without using your hands, we'll give you thruppence. So he tied the bell round the back of him and kicked the bell with both feet and so rang the bell and so he had his thruppence.'" Yvonne Cleave

taken from *THE REAL VOICES OF PORT ISAAC*