



It was 1982, and Robin Penna read a copy of the Crantock Village newsletter and was impressed. So impressed that he put the idea of a Port Isaac newsletter to the Village Hall committee. Our own newsletter, he told them, would tell everyone what was going on and provide an answer to the perennial question

“What do you do here in the winter?”

The Village Hall committee liked the idea, but as is often the case, they had no money to fund such a venture. But Robin was keen and had the bit between his teeth, so much so that he paid for the first issue himself (this was later refunded to him by Cornwall Community Council). Some 38 years later, that same village newsletter is still going strong.

Initially called “News”, a competition was held to name this brand new publication and Mrs Gwen Billing thought up the winning title of *Trio* as it would include information from Port Isaac, Port Gaverne and Trelights. Kathie Carney was editor for a while. However, it wasn't too long before the Village Hall Committee felt they didn't have time to be involved so Robin picked up the reins, publishing it himself with Fred in charge of raising revenue from advertising and sales.

And that's how things stayed right up until 1999 when they were succeeded by the current editors and publishers, Sam & Dee Littlechild. They had been persuaded that they were the right people to take on *Trio* but it was a very apprehensive Dee that put together their first issue in May 1999. Dee's experience was very traditional - hand cutting galley proofs and manually doing a layout (the original cut and paste!) before sending it to the printer. But surely it couldn't be that difficult to do on the computer ... and she had four whole weeks to learn!

Since the September 2007 issue of *Trio*, number 278, Sam & Dee have printed *Trio* in a converted bit of their garage. It is sent to the printing machine from Dee's computer and, lo and behold, a collated, folded and stapled, colour copy of *Trio* comes out the other end.

“There can be no better record of modern village social history than *Trio*. It paints a vivid picture of village life over the past 38 years ... So many people say that Port Isaac has changed beyond recognition, that it is not the village that it was. Read any *Trio* and you will see that this is not the case. Whilst the people may change, the concerns and causes and good heart of our village remain the same.” *Dee Littlechild*



taken from THE REAL VOICES OF PORT ISAAC