

somewhere in the village someone will strike up ...



Mrs Brimacombe's Girl's Choir on the stage of the Rivoli Cinema, Port Isaac, in the early to mid 1950s



St Peter's Church Choir 1951



The Carn Awn Singers in 2006

Port Isaac is a village of song; long before they were famous, people flocked to the village in the summer to watch the *Fisherman's Friends* sing on the Platt. Before them there were the award-winning *Port Isaac Singers* who came to fame via *Opportunity Knocks* in the 1970s. When they disbanded some of the ladies joined the *Carn Awn Singers* and Janet Townsend formed the *Port Isaac Chorale*, a mixed choir, still singing today. More recently *Gulls* got together and now regularly sing to raise money for good causes.

"... the seagulls are crying, wheeling, the flowery cliffs take the evening sun, the silvery slates of the old town turn pale gold. Above the lap of the harbour water, the wail of the gulls and thunder of the sea beyond the headlands, comes the final hymn from the Methodist Chapel ..."

John Betjeman



The Port Isaac Singers

were formed in 1970 with just twelve singers. Under the baton of founder and conductor, Janet Townsend, the choir grew rapidly in size and reputation. They achieved outstanding competition successes both in Cornwall and further afield: Bath, Cardiff, Blackpool and Cheltenham where they twice won the Champion Trophy for Ladies' Choirs at the Music Festival. They also represented Cornwall in the Interceltic Festival in Brittany in 1985 and made appearances on national TV including *Opportunity Knocks* and *Songs of Praise*



Port Isaac Choral Society

were photographed in 1933 in Port Gaverne with the local Music Festival award. Some sixty-three years later, in 1996, the

Port Isaac Chorale

were pictured outside the same building with the very same award that they had just won!



Port Isaac Gulls singing on the Platt, Summer 2019



As we entered the new millennium, Janet Townsend and the late George Steer realised that something had to be done to save the old Port Isaac carols, before they were lost and gone forever. And so began the annual Port Isaac Carols Concert.

Love Came Down at Christmas

"This piece of music was given to us by the late Mrs Bertha Blake. It was composed

by Mrs Christine Hoskin who used to live at the Old Vicarage - out under Castle Rock .

We, Joan Murray, Velma Knight, Shirley Gladwin and Barbara Richards, used to sing it at Christmas concerts and were always very pleased and proud to perform it, the music being part of Port Isaac's history. It will not be heard in any other part of the country.

It's a proper Port Isaac tune."

Joan Murray & Barbara Richards



A Port Isaac Christmas



keeping the old Port Isaac carols and music alive

This community CD was made to keep alive, for future generations, the Port Isaac carols and music, along with some new songs, that are traditionally sung in the village at Christmas.

taken from THE REAL VOICES OF PORT ISAAC