A 2009 visit from Gareth Malone

You could be forgiven for thinking that the film crew in the village on Friday July 24th were something to do with *Doc Martin* - but you would be wrong. They were here filming the *Fisherman's Friends* for a documentary on music of the sea that the boys are going to be part of.

Presenting the programme will be Gareth Malone who you may have seen on the award winning *The Choir* and *Boys Don't Sing* series. As well as being on TV he also works with the *London Symphony Orchestra* and runs the *LSO St Lukes Community and Youth Choirs*.

What he expected when he came to Port Isaac is anyone's guess but he and the director, sound and camera man quickly became friends to our *Fishermen* and to cement the friendship they all went off on the *Free Spirit* to find out just what our fishermen do ... apart from sing!

The filming culminated with the *Fisherman's Friends* traditional summer Friday night singing. It was a high tide but the boys sang at the bottom of the Platt and the water stopped inches away from them - so who organised that?! And what a perfect backdrop of the sea and boats - ideal for TV but just everyday life here in Port Isaac! As always the singing was brilliant; the collection on the night of £237 was added to Lesley Grills' sponsorship for the Race for Life Cancer Research appeal.

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...and then one Friday night in the summer of 2009, they were 'discovered' by visiting record producer, Rupert Christie. Little did they know how their lives would change ... a chance visit to Port Isaac by radio DJ Johnnie Walker resulted in his manager visiting the boys and before they knew it their future was sealed with a hand-shake over a beer (or two) ... the rollercoaster ride had begun ...

