



Port claims its place as world leader for sea shanty festivals

Stirring sea shanties drew thousands of visitors to a Cornish port over the weekend in what has become the largest free maritime music event in the world.

Some 29 acts performed during Falmouth's International Sea Shanty Festival including groups from Germany, Norway, Holland and France, as well as Port Isaac's Fishermen's Friends.

John Warren, former RNLI coxswain Alan Barnes and Phil Slater, all members of the shanty group Falmouth Shout, came up with the ori-



ginal idea for the festival, sponsored by Truro-based Skinner's Brewery.

"We are truly delighted, though not wholly surprised, with the amount of enthusiasm shown by the town to the event, especially in these challenging economic times," said Mr Warren.

"We have long believed we had a winning combination of a fantastic free festival that also raises many thousands of pounds for the RNLI."

Now in its ninth year, the festival has raised more than £25,000 for the charity.

Richard Wilcox, Falmouth business improvement dis-

Singers take to the stage for the International Sea Shanty Festival in Falmouth. Left, two 'old salts' give it their all

PICTURES: EMILY WHITFIELD-WICKS

trict manager, added: "We have been delighted to once again host the Sea Shanty Festival which continues to grow every year and has cemented its place as the largest free maritime music event in the world.

"More than 29 acts, including a 40-strong shanty group from Norway and the now world-famous Fisherman's Friends from Port Isaac, have entertained crowds with rousing song and an awesome atmosphere.

"The organisers are delighted to have raised so much money for the RNLI and we are already looking forward to next year."

Cornwall Lib Dems accuse council of incompetence

BY ANDY GREENWOOD
Chief Reporter

Cornwall Council – still smarting over the waste and recycling fiasco earlier this year – has been accused of bungling another new system which has delayed payments to suppliers.

In April, rubbish and recycling piled up on some streets in Cornwall as the early weeks of Cory Environmental's eight-year, £125 million contract were dogged by problems.

Now Liberal Democrats at county hall have condemned the Tory-led authority, claiming the "incompetent" introductions of a new payment system had led to many local suppliers being owed thousands of pounds.

The council has moved to an "enterprise resource planning" system for managing its relationships with suppliers.

However, the Lib-Dems said insufficient preparation for the switch had resulted in many payments being delayed and local firms being left out of pocket.

Numerous problems had been reported to local councillors, the Lib-Dems said, including contractors working on the Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project being paid up to five weeks late and rent payments to a local trust being delayed.

Worst of all, Jeremy Rowe, leader of the Lib-Dem group, said foster carers had been waiting weeks for their payments for looking after some of the most vulnerable and difficult children in Cornwall.

The system was overly bureaucratic, he said, with council departments having to get 60 page supplier application

forms filled out and approved – even for some of the most common and simplest purchases.

"This is yet another example of incompetent planning by the Conservative-led council," Councillor Rowe said. "After the waste fiasco, you would have thought that the council had learned its lesson, but it appears not."

"Local businesses are going through a tough time with the state of the economy. The last thing they need is Cornwall Council being late with their payments."

"The delays to payments to foster carers are particularly

'The last thing local businesses need are late council payments'

Councillor Jeremy Rowe

inexcusable. We should be valuing people who care for vulnerable children, not leaving them out of pocket."

A spokesman for Cornwall Council admitted that there had been problems and apologised to those who had been affected. "We are aware that there have unfortunately been issues with some suppliers not receiving payment on time and would like to apologise to those affected for the inconvenience caused by this delay."

"We have taken action to address these issues and have recruited additional temporary staff to process the backlog of invoices that temporarily built up. There are no longer any 'out of terms' payments outstanding to be paid by our accounts payable team and are confident that the issue is now under control."

Songs and soup will raise funds for charity

Fish chowder and sea shanties will help raise money for maritime charities in two separate events.

On July 7, Cornish Sea Shanty Group Stamp and Go will perform at All Saints Church in Brixham, South Devon, as part of the town's Festival of the Sea. Tickets cost £7.

On the evening tide on July 13, a Clam Chowder Cruise will take place onboard the historic ship Fairmile. Tickets are priced at £10.

Both events have been organised by Fishstock Brixham and tickets can be obtained from the Fishermen's Mission and at the Quayside Hotel.

Western Morning News

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- Services of a tour representative

Lights go off to save cash and cut carbon

Controversial money-saving plans to turn off street lights continue to be rolled out across Devon.

Devon County Council will convert around 800 streetlights to part-night lighting in residential areas in Sidmouth over the next few months.

The on-going programme aims to reduce costs and cut carbon emissions across the county. But campaigners have warned that personal safety could be compromised.

The conversion of lighting from all-night to part-night operations is being carried out over a five-year programme across Devon.

As part of the Sidmouth scheme, street lights in all of the town's residential areas will be switched off from around 12.30am to 5.30am.

It takes the total number of converted residential street lights in Devon to more than 30,000.



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