

CAROLS OF PADSTOW

Carol service at Truro Cathedral

Monday 18th December 7pm



*Rouse, rouse from your slumbers, prepare a glad voice.
And join with those numbers that now do rejoice'.*

Truro Old Cornwall Society, which is a member of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies, in partnership with Truro Cathedral, will offer a service featuring the Carols of Padstow. It will take place on Monday 18th December, at 7pm. This will be the latest in a series of such services featuring the carols traditionally sung in different Cornish communities. One and all are invited to attend this free event. It will be of interest to anybody who is interested in Cornish heritage and culture, or in the religious life of communities, or wants to celebrate the great festival of the Nativity.

As with so many other Cornish communities the practice of singing locally composed or adapted carols with distinctively Cornish four-part harmonies is thriving in Padstow. The 50-strong Padstow community choir, led by Mike England and Jenny Crowe, regularly sings the village's collection of carols around the streets at Christmas.

Mike England said:

The Cornish carol tradition of four-part harmonies has been sung in Padstow for generations. Soprano, alto, tenor and bass, soar out over the streets and harbour on a cold clear winter's night. Each carol is announced and then pitched before we 'strike sound'.

The words and music of the Carols of Padstow were gathered together in the 1960s and bring us the book, *Strike Sound* (Publ: Federation of OCS £6) www.kernowkoth.org), that we use today. Some singers use the words, but others have them etched into memory.

Dr Kate Neale, who is an expert on Cornish carols and carolling said:

Carols are often adapted or rearranged between areas, often leading to varying versions of the same carol. Some of the four-part anonymous compositions date from the late 18th century. They have touched the hearts of Cornish men and women the world over ever since.

The service is financially supported by The Cornwall Council FEAST Programme (supported by Arts Council England), Truro City Council, the Truro Community Property Trust and the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies.

Nev Meek, President of the Federation of Old Cornwall Societies said:

It is quickly becoming a wonderful tradition to welcome people, both Old Cornwall Society members from all 41 Societies, and to many others, to a joyous and creative service, to experience in the wonderful setting of Truro Cathedral this very Cornish way of celebrating Christmas.

The Service is free. However, Truro Cathedral has limited seating so a quick call or mail in advance to say you're coming would be very helpful.

ENDS



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NOTE: *FEAST is a programme to make great art happen across Cornwall.*

FEAST harnesses the talents and energy of Cornwall's artists and communities, generating new opportunities for everyone to enjoy the arts. The focus is on bringing people together to share experiences as audiences or participants, and on animating local celebrations and cultural life.

Investment for FEAST comes from Arts Council England and Cornwall Council. The programme is managed by Creative Kernow.



Truro
Cathedral



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