

DEHWELANS THANKS

It is with considerable pleasure and at some risk that I compose this document to thank all the people that have helped make Dehwelans 2008 a success. The pleasure is that I have had the honour of working with a fine band of volunteers and the risk is that I may miss someone out for praise by attempting to mention everyone! But I feel I must at least try and apologise in advance if I miss someone. The feedback from visitors has been fantastic, they say they have been overwhelmed by the welcome they have received from Looe and South East Cornwall and will be taking away wonderful memories. They say they have been impressed by how the community has worked together to a common goal.

Firstly, I would like to thank the sponsors who have supported the festival financially. In particular Caradon District Council not just in monetary terms, but by officer support across the authority. Hillcrest House Nursing Home, Pirate FM, Rebecca Caterall of Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership, Deborah Boden of the World Heritage Site, Western Morning News, Barclay House Hotel who sponsored the film festival, Andy Paritt of Purely Cornish and Andy Atkinson of Cornish Orchards who also ran the bar facilities and the TASTE SE Cornwall group, Phil Gibson of Palfey's Bakery for supplying the Pirate Party cake, Dave Holford of Bosuns Locker for providing the prizes for the pirate party and other gifts and arranging the attendance of all the Looe pirates (plus some from St Austell), and Chris Bowden Photography. Thanks for the financial assistance and expertise provided for the trips out from Calstock Parish Council, Liskeard Town Council and Lansallos Parish Council. Our Patron Sir John Trelawny.

The Mayor of Looe Ron Overd and Deputy Mayor David Bryan, the Clerk to Looe Town Council, Anne Frith and the Tourist Information Centre staff including Mark Camp, Edythe, Roger, Judy, Anne and Julia. Councillors Chris Rose, Natasha Tagholm and Wally Scarah with ex Councillors Colin Shore and Frances Kenshole who manned the Guildhall Hall council chamber exhibitions daily. To Councillor Barbara King and her husband Jerry who cooked and served 2 sumptuous buffets at the Mayors Reception and the diaspora Forum, assisted by Marion Cole. Thanks to Councillor Armand Toms who helped steward evening events, deliver road cones and worked tirelessly behind the scenes with the finances for the Festival. To Councillor Dale Measures who was a rock throughout the week, undertaking jobs, from stewarding to litter picking to general dogs body, many thanks for your dedication. Councillor David Welch who not only stewarded events, but also accompanied the visitors on their trip to the Tamar Valley, checked all the itineraries timings and even had to contend with a coach breaking down on the way to Plymouth station! Thanks to Val Cotrell, Sandra Goldsworthy and Lynda Mattric who accompanied visitors to Liskeard, Polperro and Trelawny respectively.

Thanks to Carole Vivian who provided cream teas for 53 people and showed visitors around Trelawne Manor. To The Mayor of Liskeard Ann Purdon, her town crier Frank Beer and other Councillors, George Vaughn Ellis and the Stuart House team plus St Cleer Cllr Derris Watson for assisting with the Liskeard Mining Heritage tour.

A special mention must go to Wally Scarah who was an excellent compere for the Dehwelans gala and for the assistance of the seafront crew, Jason and Anthony.

Many thanks to East Looe Town Trust for the free use of the Guildhall, Seafront and Rose Garden areas, these locations proved to be the hub of the festival. Also to Barbara Birchwood Harper and the Guildhall Museum helpers.

My gratitude to Looe Film Society members particularly David Tolcher who helped produce a youtube advert and Mark Ayrton and other members who were stewards for the film screenings in the Masonic Hall. To Looe Old Cornwall Society particularly John Enever and Peter King who helped in the Guildhall and in the Millpool marquee.

To Robert Newton and Tim Alsop and Looe Harbour Commissioners who assisted with the Fishmarket Tour and their staff who erected the staging on East Looe Seafront.

Reverend Brian McQuillen for a wonderful service of celebration on Sunday and St Martins and St Nicholas Church for the loan of their marquee (which blew away in the gales!), Brian Beddoes and their helpers for erecting the marquee. To Anne Richards who stepped into the breach providing accommodation for performer Heather Dale from Canada and for staging the Come Ye All Ceili at St Martin Church Hall.

Gorseth Kernow administrator Colin Roberts and the Grand Bard Vanessa Beeman for help and assistance in promoting the festival and for contributing to the seafront service.

To all the market traders who battled the elements on the Millpool and the Rose Garden. A special mention to Denis, Julie and Adrian McCarthy.

Thanks to Abi Peat and Matthew Brock who worked tirelessly in the preceding weeks delivering flyers, running errands and helping in the performance marquee. These 2 fifteen year olds were a credit not only to themselves but also to their school and town. Thanks to Looe Community School who helped with promoting the festival and to the school 'tech team' of budding sound engineers and lighting technicians who with James Goss of Western Media and Sound ensured the technical smooth running of the evening performances.

To my good friends Sheila Brock, Caroline Caffrey and Tracy Davis who formed a formidable support team!

Thanks to Lorna Warden for volunteering to sign for one deaf visitor. Your expertise increased the enjoyment of the festival for that visitor.

Thanks to Looe In Bloom who provided a spectacular floral display through out the town, colour coded to Cornish tartan and dressed with Cornish flags. To all the businesses who entered into the spirit by dressing their windows and hanging out flags. Especially to Abbey Bears who won the window dressing competition judged by the Grand Bard Vanessa Beeman.

St John Ambulance including Zelia Crocket, Ann Tompkinson and Peter Carthew who turned out every evening in the performance marquee and on the Sunday. I understand there will be a fundraising event organised in due course as a thank you to all the volunteers.

To Looe Sailing Club for offering their club as a venue for a number of events.

To the board of Keskerdh Kernow the charity responsible for bringing Dehwelans to Looe, including chairman Bert Biscoe who offered wise council throughout the week.

The weather was a challenge all week – but thanks go to the professionalism of Aussie Marquees and their willingness to help out, even turning out at 5.30am on the Friday to secure the marquees at risk of being lost in the gale!

To all the performers, businesses and people of Looe that supported dehwelans by attending events.

And finally my husband Simon for putting up with me for the last 10months of planning this festival.

The way the town pulled together for Dehwelans and the Gorseth demonstrates the spirit of Looe - a strong community with a sense of pride in its Cornish distinctiveness and I thank you.

The success of Dehwelans 2008 will hopefully be a springboard for developing the Cornish homecoming festival in the future, maybe in 2010.....?

But in the meantime, I'm going to sleep for a week!

Edwina Hannaford

Dehwelans Looe 2008 Co-ordinator