

Ooooooh Betty, it's The Exmouth Shanty Men!

THE EXMOUTH SHANTY MEN – the town's musical ambassadors – are at it again. Their latest jaunt – to Truro – involved a trip to a Cornish brewery, downing plenty of prize-winning ale, hailing the beer in song, and meeting a remarkable "woman" called Betty Stogs who, unsurprisingly, they all fell in love with...

It was all part of the promotional build-up to the release of the group's third CD, "The Full Shanty". A live recording of the [Exmouth Shanty Men](#) in concert, the CD's production costs are being met by Truro-based Skinners Brewery and all proceeds from the album will go towards feeding a million of the world's poorest people.

It's hoped that CD sales will raise £5,000, growing to £50,000, with match-funding by the European Commission at a ratio of 9:1. The total will be donated to Christian Aid partner organisation, Zimpro, which teaches farmers in Zimbabwe better irrigation methods, crop storage and how to achieve better yields. Its work will bring sustainable agriculture to thousands of starving families.

"The Full Shanty" is a live recording of the Exmouth Shanty Men's performance at the town's Blackmore Theatre, captured during last year's Exmouth Festival. The album also features a studio-recorded track specially written and dedicated to Betty Stogs, the Skinners Brewery figurehead.

"Betty", aka 45-year-old Fred Thomas of Sticker, has himself raised more than £20,000 for various charities since originally signing up to help Skinners celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2007. The Cornish beer icon will also be featured on the Shanty Men's new CD cover.

"We fell in love with Betty the moment we first set eyes on her and are delighted to give her the exposure she deserves on 'The Full Shanty'" says Martin John Nicholls, founder of the shanty crew. "She has appeared on stage with us many times at festivals across the south west and it's always been unforgettable!

"It was wonderful to get together with Betty and our Skinners hosts at the brewery. They showed us how to brew the perfect pint, and we showed them how to drink it!"

Skinners will once again be principal sponsor of this year's Falmouth International Sea Shanty Festival (17–19 June). The Exmouth Shanty Men's new album will be launched at their opening gig at the festival, which will be filmed and released as a DVD later in the year.

The Exmouth Shanty Men have been a huge hit at this increasingly popular festival. They have already helped to raise over £50,000 for various local and national charities by donating their booking fees and proceeds from the sales of their previous two CDs, and their good work and rollicking stage show is making a name for them around the world.

This article appeared in Exmouth People see:

<http://www.exmouthpeople.co.uk/groups/exmouthmusicevents/Ooooooh-Betty-s-Exmouth-Shanty-Men/story-10701973-detail/story.html>