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PRESS RELEASE **EXMOUTH MEN'S 'FULL SHANTY' TREATMENT FOR BEER ICON**

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Ahead of their support for a unique project to feed a million of the world's poorest people, the Exmouth Shanty Men visited a Cornish brewery to see for themselves how a prize-winning ale is brewed, and to hail it in song.

"The Full Shanty", the third CD album to be recorded by the crew who hail from Exmouth in Devon, is to have all its production costs paid by Truro-based Skinners Brewery.

It is hoped 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, who teach farmers in Zimbabwe better irrigation methods, crop storage and how to get better yields. Their work will bring sustainable agriculture to thousands of starving families.

The album features a live recording of the Exmouth Shanty Men's performance at the town's Blackmore Theatre as part of the Exmouth Festival, last year, together with a studio-recorded track specially written and dedicated to Betty Stogs, the brewery's figurehead.

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

"We fell in love with Betty the moment we first set eyes on her and we are delighted to give here the exposure she deserves on 'The Full Shanty'," said 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, which runs from June 17 to 19. 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 singers 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 all around the world.

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