



NEWS RELEASE FROM PORTHCURNO TELEGRAPH MUSEUM

Local composer puts Porthcurno on the map

Date: Monday 30th August
Time: 7-9pm
Location: The Royal Albert Hall
Broadcast details: To be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, and available online for 7 days afterwards on www.bbc.co.uk/proms/2010/whatson/3008.shtml
Publicity:
Contact: Caroline.seats on Tel: 01736 810966 or Caroline.seats@porthcurno.org.uk
Contact the composer: info@fitkin.com

Local composer Graham Fitkin has been so intrigued by the history of the telegraph at Porthcurno, that he has used it as inspiration for his latest piece of music which is to be performed at the Proms in the Royal Albert Hall on 30th August.

The piece was composed following research at Porthcurno Telegraph Museum, and is entitled PK, which is the codename given to the Porthcurno telegraph station, and uses morse code as a starting point. The telegraph used undersea cables to transmit morse code messages around the world, and at the height of its importance, in the late 19th century, Porthcurno, although extremely remote, had the largest and most important cable station in the world. Morse code, with its dots and dashes, was used for transmitting the messages as short and long pulses. Graham has used this code in the form of short and long notes, and the rhythm which stands for the letters P and K, **.--.** **-.-** is used throughout the work. Other specific messages are also integrated into the piece to generate material, such as Morse's first message 'What hath God wrought!'

It is to be performed by the BBC Orchestra with a flexible amateur orchestra, made up of Cornish families giving them the opportunity to go to London to Perform at the Royal Albert Hall. The parts for the BBC orchestra are fully notated, while the amateur orchestra has some parts for the players to learn in advance, and also some parts where they can make up their own music following the conductor's timing.

BBC Radio 3 listeners can hear the newly commissioned piece between 7pm and 9pm on 30th August, or can access it afterwards for 7 days on www.bbc.co.uk/proms.2010/whatson/3008.shtml

Notes for Editors

Porthcurno Telegraph Museum

www.porthcurno.org.uk

01736 810966

Background

Porthcurno has a unique historic provenance: this is where the telegraph cables that linked Britain with its Empire and other nations came ashore. The valley was the hub of international cable communications from 1870-1970 and also training college for the communications industry until 1993. Porthcurno was the largest cable station in the world.

Our collection is unique in its completeness. We have the only working cable station (complete in all details except the actual cable) in the world. We also have all the supporting materials and associated ephemera that are rarely preserved with such collections. Porthcurno also had one of the earliest commercial wireless stations in 1902 so we are able to show the emerging competition between cable and wireless technology.

The ethos of the museum is to have as much as possible to be demonstrated in working order. To keep the collections working we rely on the knowledge and support of a dedicated team of volunteers.

The role of the cable station and the training school at Porthcurno has had a significant impact on the valley and local communities. The museum is now a focus for representing local history as well as communications technology.

History of the PK Trust

The Porthcurno Telegraph Museum is owned and operated by The Cable & Wireless Porthcurno and Collections Trust (The PK Trust) an independent educational charity and heritage trust. The PK Trust was created in 1997 by Cable & Wireless to hold the Company's historic buildings and collections at Porthcurno.

Its main activities are the operation of Porthcurno Telegraph Museum and the management of the Cable & Wireless historic archive. The museum and archive already provide access to an internationally recognised resource and have become a centre for the education of the public in the history of telegraph communications. As well as a successful museum a lot of work is carried out with local schools and community groups.

Porthcurno Telegraph Museum opening times

Hours of opening: 10am-5pm with last admission before 4pm.

Summer opening 2010

Open 28 April to 1 November 2010 every day from 10.00 - 17.00, except Wednesdays between 26 May and 15 September, open until 19.30.

Last admission time 1 hour before closing time.

For further details, including winter school holiday opening times, please call 01736 810966 or email caroline.seats@porthcurno.org.uk.

Group visits

Group visits can be arranged during normal opening hours and at other times by appointment:
Tel: 01736 810966 or email caroline.seats@porthcurno.org.uk.

Facilities

- Plenty of parking for cars and coaches (small charge in main season)
- Guide dogs welcome
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- Ice-cream, snacks, cold drinks and tea/coffee/hot chocolate are available in the museum shop.
- The nearby Cable Station Inn and Beach Cafe also offer food and drinks.

Charges 2010

If you are a UK tax payer and you kindly make a donation of 10% above the entry charge, the government will grant the Charity an extra 28%.

Admission charges 2010

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Adults	£5.50
Family	£13.20
Children	£3.10
Senior Citizen	£4.90
Student	£3.90

FREE Admission:

- Child under 5
- Carer Accompanying Disabled Person
- Teachers and carers accompanying school groups: 1 free per 6 children

Discounts

- 10% discount is available on a pre-booked group of 10 people or more who pay as a group.

How to find us



By car

Porthcurno is situated just three miles away from Land's End, the most south-westerly point of Cornwall.

If you are driving from Penzance, follow the signs to Land's End on the A30. Turn left at the sign for St Buryan, "Wartime Telegraph Museum" (that's us!) and "Minack Theatre". Keep going straight through St Buryan village and after about 2 miles of narrow lanes, take the left turn to Porthcurno.

Non-disabled visitors park at the main car park at the bottom of the hill where there is a charge from Easter to September.

Public transport

Take bus number 1, 1a or 345 from Penzance bus station which is next to the train station. The buses stop at the main Porthcurno car park, 2 minutes walk from the museum which is clearly signposted.

For detailed information on bus times, accessibility and routes to Porthcurno, please contact Traveline on Tel: 0870 608 2 608 or via the website [Traveline South West](http://www.travelinesouthwest.co.uk)

The route from the bus stop to the museum is not currently accessible to wheelchair users.

Sample Images available

Image 1

Image 2

Image 3

Porthcurno Limited is a company registered in England and Wales, no.3323350, registered office Eastern House, Porthcurno, Penzance, Cornwall TR19 6JX and is the trustee of the Cable & Wireless Porthcurno & Collections Trust (PK Trust) registered charity no.1062233. VAT registered no: 699455855.