

The Pierrotters' and beyond



'The Pierrotters' (picture: Lizzie Coombes)

'The Pierrotters' performed for 27 seasons (1983-2010) and are the last professional seaside troupe to have existed.

'The Rotters' (as they were

affectionately known), played hundreds of seaside resorts and festivals throughout the country. In 2005, their founder - Uncle Tacko! (AKA Dr Lidington), was invited to Buckingham Palace in recognition of their contribution to British music (it's amazing how far 12 chords of thrash banjo can take you!)



'The Poppies' - Teignmouth, 2016



The Pier Echoes' - Paignton, 2010



'The Chin-Uppers' - Babbacombe Armed Forces Day, 2015

Roy Hudd toured 'Just A Verse & Chorus' in 1985, and 'The Pierrot Promenaders' had a season on the Isle of Wight in 1986, but no other professional troupes have emerged to maintain the tradition. Dr Lidington continues training youth and community groups in their history and practice, resulting in several trainee performances around the country such as 'The Pier Echoes', 'The Pier-We-Goes', 'The Chin Uppers' & 'The Poppies'.

As part of this 'Seaside Follies' project, 2 new troupes have emerged – a local youth troupe called 'The Jollies' and a new professional troupe called 'The New Follies'. Our hope is that this exhibition might stimulate further memories and inspire a new generation of seaside performers.



The Jollies' - Llandudno, 2018