

Song Writing



NEW LOOK: Tricia and John and two of the Guild Hall windows that inspired their songs, the Civil War and Pilgrim Fathers scenes

Duo opens window on the city's past

MANY artists claim they sweated blood on their latest opus but Tricia Moore literally gave blood for her new CD.

Tricia, half of folk duo Silvington, was doing her bit as a blood donor at Plymouth Guild Hall, when she noticed the stained glass windows depicting great events in the city's history.

Among them she spotted William Cookworthy, the Quaker credited with discovering the formula for making English porcelain, and thought: "We've got a song about him."

Next to William were the Pilgrim Fathers. "We've got a song about them as well," thought Tricia. "There's a song in every window."

So she and musical partner John Connor, stalwarts of the Folk On The Moor club at Lee Mill and well known on the Devon scene, set to work writing songs about the characters and events depicted.

The result is their new album, *A Song In Every Window*, which should be out now (What's Afoot was given access to a rough mix). The windows

have certainly provided rich material for Silvington's third CD. Plymouth is no stranger to war and this is reflected in John and Tricia's songs.

The Black Prince set sail from Plymouth to ravage France. John's song takes the point of view of a humble soldier telling his love he will return from the war.

The Bretons hammered Plymouth (happily the city is now twinned with Brest) but *The Breton Raid*, which has a cracking chorus, tells how they got their comeuppance at Blackpool Sands.

There's another fine chorus on the Civil War song *The Siege of Plymouth*.

You can't ignore the Armada, of course, but Tricia finds a new angle on the old story by suggesting he might have had a little supernatural aid to beat the Spaniards. But an entirely different light is cast on the hero in *The Fyshinge Feaste* which commemorates him bringing fresh water to Plymouth through the construction of a great channel down from the moor.

There is a sad song about Catherine of Aragon