



## **News from the St. Tudy History Group Research Team ...**

As the Royal Cornwall Show is coming around again, it prompted me to think about how and when it all started. It surprised me that the show was founded as far back as 1793 – 230 years ago, and was called the Cornwall Agricultural Society.

The first event was staged in September 1793 and consisted of a ploughing match near to the Red Lion Inn at Truro, and then the following year it expanded to adding livestock, continued to be held at Truro being a two day event between 1827 to 1857. The show changed its name to the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association in 1858. The venue changed every year exchanging location from East to West Cornwall up until 1960 when the showground at Wadebridge became its "semi-permanent home". The show committee originally had planned to keep it there for three years, but as we know, it is still there today. Initially attracting around 17,000, today the attendance figure is around 120,000 visitors.

In 1923 the show was held at Rosewarne, Camborne on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, where large numbers of people availed themselves of the train excursions to attend – and it was a Wednesday! Livestock entries were a success, and the Shire Horses astonished the experts. There were 101 classes of dogs with 650 entries and took all day to judge. There was also a section on Furs which seem very odd to us today, but part of life in 1923.

A well known judge from Somerset had obviously been visiting the refreshments tent a little too often, as he commented on judging the dairy section, that the Cornish were "making a mistake" by making their cream too solid and making it more like cream cheese, not cream. I wonder if he was asked back again – I don't think so!

The main headlines of the show in 1923 were not the exhibitors or livestock, but the news that there was no band that year, mainly it was said due to the cost of erecting a bandstand. In the August of 1923, the new committee were elected for 1924 when the show would be at Wadebridge. Mr S.T. Button of St. Tudy and Mr. A W Mutton were elected on the committee.

The following year Wadebridge proudly announced in large letters on the headline of their promotional advert that the H.M. Coldstream Guards band would be playing for both days at the show!

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