



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

As we are planning a May Fayre in the Village Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, I thought I would explain what led up to the idea of holding this event.

We were discussing documents that told us a "May Fayre" was first held in St. Tudy in 1702. It was noted that "Proceedings upon the petition to the King of Anthony Nicholl of Penvose, in the parish of St. Udy, co. Cornwall, esq., and Edward Trelawny, Rector of the parish, shewing that the parish is large and the poor very numerous, which is become a great charge to the inhabitants and likely to be greater by the great decay of their trade. Two fairs would be a great encouragement, and the profits would contribute to the maintenance of the poor". This permission was granted in January 1702 by the King, William III, who died in the March of that year.

There is also a clause in a lease dated 1799 that states "reserving to Saml. Kekewich (lord of the manor) liberty to pitch or erect booths, stalls or standings in or upon any part of St. Tudy Churchtown during the time of any fayres that may be held there". Two fayres a year had been granted for May and September.

It seems the fayre may have wained in the early 1800's, as we have a newspaper report in 1836 that "St. Tudy fayre was also provided with cattle and sheep. The damand however limited, but a very small portion of the stock changed hands". We think that the stock would have been held in a pen by Sparehill. When Bodmin Cattle Market opened in 1900, the fayres in St. Tudy ceased altogether – so we decided not only to re-instate a 200 year old event, but to make it bigger and better, but with traditional crafts like thatching, wickerwork and woodworking!

We will also be having Morris Dancing which would have been performed in parishes like St. Tudy from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century and a "dress a pole" competition which everyone can take part in, so come along and join in making this event a tradition in St. Tudy once more!

