



## News from the History Group

## Research Team .....

Last year the storms damaged the Church Tower in St. Tudy, this is not the first time such damage has been inflicted on the Church by the weather.

Angela Aylward is currently transcribing the Churchwardens Accounts for St. Tudy. She spotted interesting entries for 1716 for goods and payments to repair storm damage to the Church in October of that year, when it took four days to gather up the stones (slates) and glass. At this time Edward Trelawney would have been Rector, and the Churchwarden would have kept records in the form of accounts. In addition to the payments made, they record the income collected by the Churchwarden, and this can relate to money raised for repair of the Church. Things like "Ales", were a lucrative income before the Reformation. The Churchwarden would hold a fund-raising event to collect for the maintenance of the Church from these ales or beer.

By the 1700's beer, in addition to being used for raising money for the Church, was also used as part of the payment of tradesmen and suppliers bills for repairs after this storm.

The accounts show that the Church provided "beer for the Glaziers and Smiths and Carpenters "when done the worke", I notice this was phrased that they were given the beer *after* they had done the work! This may have been because they were repairing the Church Windows and "three days worke about the bells and tower planking". Not a good thing to be doing if under the influence at that height – there was no health and safety in those days. The quarrymen and plumbers were also given beer for bringing a thousand and half of helling and raggs (roofing stones/slates). This slate was bought in from Delabole Quarry written as "daileybole" in the records, which is about five and a half miles away.

The various tradesmen would have been from St. Tudy and the immediate surrounding area. There was payment to Arthur Banbury and his son for flooring the Church and stripping and washing the walls. The Banbury family were in St. Tudy in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, then moved to Bodmin. Arthur later moved to Michaelstow and the "son" mentioned was Lawrence, who married a St. Tudy girl, Joan Smythe in 1711.

I wonder if the current day workmen have uncovered the work done by these tradesmen 300 years ago, and whether they had a beer or two afterwards?

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