



News from the St. Tudy History Research Team ...

Group

I recently discovered an old newspaper article from 1936 for sale on e-bay which attracted my attention as it had a brilliant photo of a six year old girl called Molly on her mount "Little Joe", who was attending St. Tudy Races! Now, I just had to find out who this little girl was and where the races were held in St. Tudy. Molly was born and lived with her parents on a farm in St. Germans. She married in 1955 and moved to Saltash where she died in 2011. I would have loved to have met her as she looks a real character, but am now in contact with relatives who have now passed the information to Molly's sister and husband who had never seen the picture. So, once again, we have been successful in sharing information with Molly's family about a snippet in time for Molly and St. Tudy that they were unaware of. She also competed the previous year when she was five.

The races seem to have been very popular and were held at Tregarrick from the 1920's to the 1940's. They were held in mid June up until 1935, when they changed to August. In 1936 the event changed to "the St. Tudy Races and Carnival", and it looks like the Carnival started as a separate event in 1938 from what I can find in the newspapers – someone may be able to give me more information on this? The event seems to have been very popular as people came from miles around, as far as St. Mellion, Tavistock, Budock, St. Austell etc., to compete regularly. There were also sports events including motor cycle racing on Norton and Enfield machines. It obviously took a lot of organising as there were many local people as organisers and judges like Drs Cole and Bailey, Reverend Schuster and Sir Roger Onslow. I can recognise a lot of local names as stewards and competitors, so it really was a popular village affair with a large number of people attending. There was also a local dance held in St. Tudy in the evening.

I also noticed events in addition to the donkey races and various tug of wars etc. Some were Wheelbarrow Races with Horses and Musical Posts on Horseback. An event which motor cycles and horses competed in separately was Pebble Picking on Horseback. The one that seems to still be popular, in Mumbai of all places, is Musical Chairs on Horseback – we may be missing a trick here, it looks good old fashioned fun.

You never know where you can find historical information from, and the most important thing is to share it when you do find it, that way everyone benefits.

Thank you Molly and e-bay!

PAM FREE