

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

As we will be celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee next month, it has reminded me of the wonderful information in the St. Tudy WI scrapbook published in 1951, about St. Tudy's Royal connections with the Onslow family from Hengar Manor in the 1800's, although connections with Royalty go way back to 1620 when Prince Charles was rumoured to stay at Hengar when the Billings were the owners.

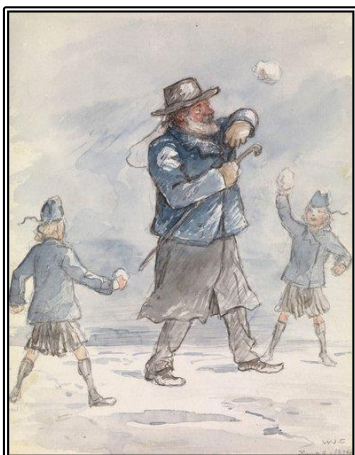
In the 1860's Reverend William Lake Onslow became Rector of Sandringham and Chaplain in Ordinary to His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and seems to have been a close family friend to the Royal family. There is a lovely painting by Colville 1874, showing the two Princes, Prince Albert and Prince George V (later King George V), throwing snowballs at Reverend Onslow. It was kept in Queen Alexandra's Scrapbook. The young Prince George always declared most positively that he wanted to be a sailor, it was suggested this was due to his early associations with Reverend Onslow.

One of the letters transcribed into the WI Scrapbook is written in January 1861 and from HRH Alfred, Prince of Wales, requesting a photograph of Reverend Onslow for the Queen's collection, signed informally as "Alfred". In 1863 there is a very personal letter to Reverend Onslow from Princess Louis of Hesse, about a christening saying "you know there is nobody in the service I esteem so much as I do you, my old friend! Believe me, dear Onslow, very sincerely and truly yours, Louis H". There are many letters from the Royal family, and from the young Princes, which all show great affection for Reverend Onslow, inviting him to weddings, dinners and musical evenings, all of these must have been treasured by Reverend Onslow as he kept them until he died in 1879. He is buried at Sandringham.

St. Tudy will be playing it's part in the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, in lighting a "Jubilee Beacon" on the Thursday the 2nd of June together, with the rest of United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and British Overseas Territories and each of the capital cities of Commonwealth countries. This has long been a tradition within the UK of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations, and thanks to research, we have found what we think would have been the original site of where beacons were lit in past centuries for St. Tudy. We spotted a field called "Beacon Park" on the 1841 Tithe Map, and as beacons were historically lit on hills and high places, this location fits the criteria perfectly. There will be a beacon lit very close to this spot on the Thursday the 2nd of June, so that it can be seen from the Village Hall, where there will be live streaming of the Platinum Jubilee Beacon being lit, from Buckingham Palace.

Come along and be part of history in the making in St. Tudy!

future King



Reverend Onslow being pelted by snowballs by the George V and his brother, Albert.