

# ST TUDY'S CHESTNUT TREE



In 1915 Captain Horatius James Cannan DSO, an officer serving in “B” Bty, 78<sup>th</sup> Bde., Royal Field Artillery, collected six conkers from the battlefields of Ypres and brought them home to England. All were planted and grew into trees.

Capt. Cannan died from wounds on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 1916, aged 50, and is buried in the St Sever military cemetery, near Rouen in France. His widow, Julia, gave one of the trees to Rev. Henry Eardley, Rector of St Tudy (1916 –1926) and in 1921 it was planted by Tom Button near to the War Memorial, watched by the children of the village school. At the time of writing we have no idea what connection Capt. Cannan or his wife had with the village, so why the tree was given is a mystery.

The tree became the focal point of the village for decades and numerous fund raising events have taken place underneath its branches. Generations of children have climbed it and used its conkers, and it was a favourite meeting place.

Sadly, at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the tree began to die and in 2005 it was decided to fell it before it became a danger; this took place on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Fortunately several conkers from the original tree had been grown in 2000 by Ben Tizzard, and this one was chosen and planted, by members of the Parish Council, close to the original site, on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

We hope that this tree will thrive and become the focal point of the village, and once again people will say,

**‘Meet you under the Chestnut Tree!’**