

*Chapter 8*Fetes and Flower Shows.

There used to be fetes and flower shows held at Tawstock Court in the Courtledge and on the terraced lawns. Sir Basil and Lady Peto lived at Tawstock Court in those days. He was our member of Parliament from 1922 - 1935.

In 1933 I can recall it was a very drizzly wet day. The school pupils had to do their bit between the showers. A lot of the stalls were set up in the coach house and I remember the older girls and boys dancing the maypole outside the coach house on the brick forecourt when the rain eased a little.

Then in 1934 or 1935 we had to learn folk dancing this we had to perform at the fete on the top terraced lawn. The terraced lawns were a beautiful sight to see looking in through the entrance gates. Both terraces were laid down to lawns with wide paths around them with a wide flower border around and low trimmed box hedges between the borders and the paths. With the terrace walls at the back of the border and the wall pillars having big flower pots with lovely flowers growing in them the whole scenery did look pretty. A flight of steps led up to the 2nd terraced lawn and on the left hand corner of the lawn at the top of the steps was a big tulip tree. It was quite a tree it had a large trunk and at about 10ft high it branched out into two main branches. I suppose it was quite old then because there were two big iron clamping bars holding the two branches together and taking some of the weight for fear that it might split off from the trunk. It had lovely flowers on it something like tulip or magnolia flowers only bigger.

When we finished dancing we were allowed to sit under the tulip tree in the shade and have a lovely cold ice cream or a drink of lemonade. Later we had tea on the lawn inside the portcullis between the two main wings of the manor house. Mr Hill was the main gardener he lived in the village in what later became known as Pink Cottage. He was a wonderful gardener but a very quiet and modest man. His flower and vegetable gardens with their trimmed box hedges and not a weed in sight they really were a sight to behold. But alas time moves on and things change to meet the requirements of the day. The old tulip tree has gone, now there is a tennis court and a car park on the terraces today.