

On learning of the occurrence Sir Henry Wrey sent food, clothing and money to the affected families. It is conjectured that the fire was either due to a defect chimney of one of the houses or a spark having alighted upon the thatch roof.

June 10th 1897.

The committee appointed to arrange for the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations met at Holywell School Room on Thursday to receive reports and contracts for carrying out the fete, which will be held in the grounds of Tawstock Court on the 22nd of June. It was decided to have a cold luncheon of roast and boiled beef, boiled ham with bread, also ale, ginger beer and tea. It was also decided to give a tea to the children attending the two schools.

About 30 ladies had been invited to assist. Mr Waldron's band from Barnstaple, has been engaged for the occasion. The sports committee have provided an excellent programme of outdoor amusements, such as tug-of-war, joint married couples race, obstacle and other races, for which there are about 30 substantial prizes offered. The events will be confined to parishioners. The bonfire committee has arranged to erect about 800 faggots of wood and poles in a field adjoining Ridge Lane. The fire will be lighted (simultaneously with others' throughout England) at 10 o'clock.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee - 22-06-1897

June 24th 1897

The celebration was held in the grounds of Tawstock Court. A service was attended at the church at 2 pm, at the conclusion of the service Mr Waldron's String Band, from Barnstaple (which had taken up a position outside the church) played a march, after which the children were presented with Jubilee medals and flags by the rector (Rev A B Wrey). Jubilee mugs were also given to the children during the day. Tea was provided on the lawn for the children, after which the older parishioners sat down in a large marquee, to a substantial luncheon, consisting of beef, ham, mutton, ale, mineral waters, tea, etc. A pleasing feature was the presence of Sir Henry Wrey and his family at the repast. During the afternoon various sports were indulged in. The mile race was won by J W Andrew, the 200 yds flat race by W Andrew, the high jump by Fisher, and the hurdles by Mc Leod.

Musical drills were performed by the school children during the afternoon to the accompaniment of a harmonium. The children were regaled with nuts and sweets at various times of the day. Dancing was in with great vigour during the afternoon and evening.