

Holicome Fair

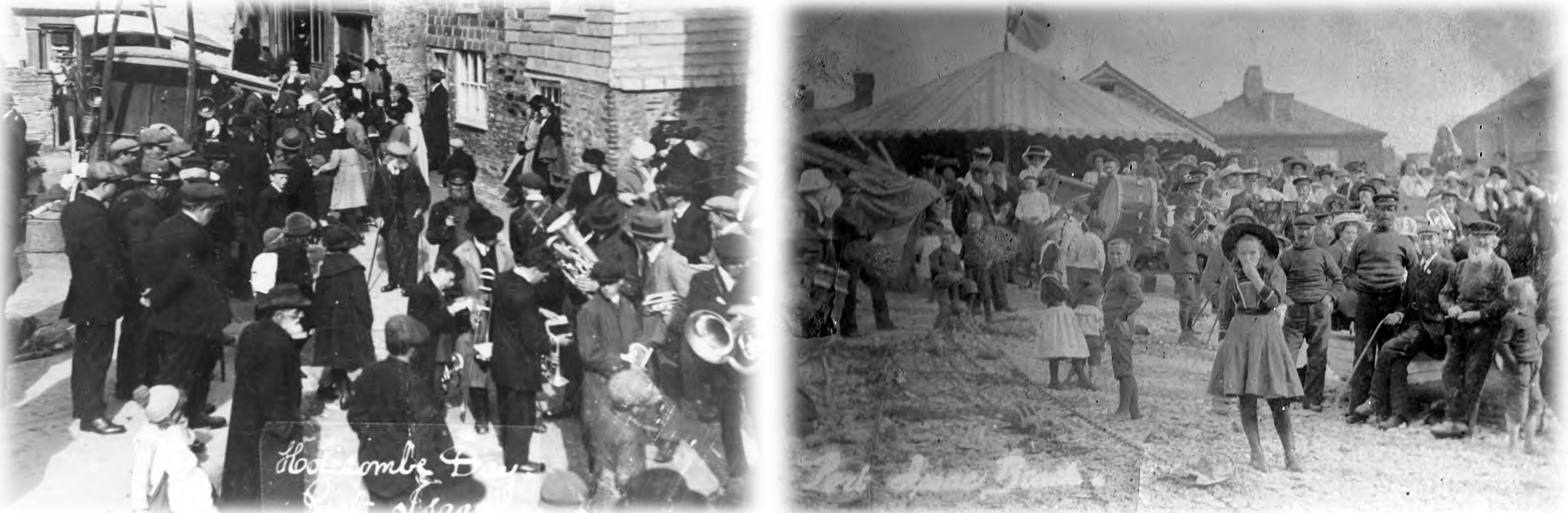
Despite the school logs recording Holicome Fair there seems to be no other documentary evidence of this annual Port Isaac event. Following a plea for information in *Trio*, David Hoskins who now lives in Mylor Bridge got in touch. He told PISCES, "Holicome is a derivation of Holy Come and was always held two weeks before Pentecost which was at Whitsun. I remember when I was eight or nine years old in the early 1930s that Holicome events were held in a field at Trewetha behind my parents bungalow. It was a two-day event that welcomed travelling stalls and tinkers and knife grinders, circus acts like tumblers and jugglers (no animals), fairground rides and, best of all, the travelling sweet shop from Delabole - this was a horse-drawn trailer that opened up to display hundreds (well, it seemed like hundreds when I was a boy) of glass jars of sweets. I also remember the bouts of Cornish wrestling and either Walter or Jack Billing always took part - they were Cornish wrestling champions.

Joan Murray of Port Isaac also has lots of memories of Holicome, in particular Mr Cummins and his mobile sweet shop. He always parked his trailer outside the coal merchant's (now the four garages on Trewetha Lane just down from the Village Hall).

Several local people recall the tinkers coming for the fair and putting up camp on the land that is now the Council car park overlooking Port Gaverne.

The *Cornish Guardian* of May 9 1913 reports: "Among the litany of festivals celebrated as May began, the festival of Holicome at Port Isaac brought mixed emotions for the Edwardian villagers. Much disappointment was manifest, on Thursday last, particularly among the children, when the news arrived that the showmen had a breakdown at Wadebridge with their engine, and were unable to come. On a more positive note, on the Saturday the place was enlivened as Boscastle Brass Band enlivened the place with their selections. A baby show took place in the Ladies' Liberal Room and this was crowded out. Richard Saundry won the pony race; one Bath, of Boscastle, the cycle race; and married ladies won easily in a tug-of-war match with the single ladies."

If you have any information about Holicome, we would love to hear from you.



celebrations on The Platt



The travelling tinkers in what was the Council Car Park, evidenced by the old Headlands Hotel at Port Gaverne in the background