

# MARAZION Memories

This is Newsletter 6!! Our project is drawing to a close and all involved would like to thank everyone who has supported us in any way. There is still time to contribute - contact John on

**07967272808**



Ludgvan School 1946

**The Perranuthnoe Big Picture Book!!** Mary Tudor has been encouraging the Perranuthnoe villagers to submit photographs of the village and she has scanned, edited and printed them to form a pictorial record of the changes in the village over the last century. It has been beautifully bound by Mike Tudor and in the New Year will be presented to the village and be kept in the Church for visitors and locals to enjoy – and reminisce!!



Christmas Sleigh in 2003

## The Greenwood Penny Christmas Tree Fund

has been giving presents to the children of Marazion since 1946. In this, its 60<sup>th</sup> year, we tell the story of the fund and this unique celebration as described to us by Anne Laity, Chair of the Fund and Mary - Brigid Greenwood Penny .



Father Christmas in 1996-Who is he?

In 1937 Dr. Sydney Greenwood Penny, the Marazion GP, dressed as Father Christmas and rode a sleigh through the streets of Penzance giving out sweets on Christmas Eve. His sons Comet and Hilary were dressed as Reindeers. The following year the Sleigh ran through Marazion. In 1946, when Comet had returned from war service the Sleigh ride was revived in Marazion and has continued every year since then- whatever the weather! The original route was from Trevenner Farm to the Town Square but today it starts at 4p.m from the Long Barn and slowly tours the town with Santa accompanied by costumed attendants. The original Sleigh was replaced by a lighter aluminium version in the 1970's. It has been pulled by an assortment of means- men, a pony, for many years a Shire Horse and even a vintage car! The procession ends with carol singing around the Christmas Tree in the Square where Father Christmas has a present for every child under the age of 8 living in Marazion and St. Michael's Mount Parishes. Lord St.Levan has donated the tree and a small organising committee raises funds throughout the year to pay for the presents. They hold a plant sale each May and have collecting boxes throughout the Town. The committee has also given donations to other community organisations, thus spreading its beneficence across every age group. In 1961, following the death of Dr. Comet Greenwood Penny, the family name became part of the organisation's title in recognition of how the celebration originated. Santa will visit the Town for the 60<sup>th</sup> consecutive time this Christmas Eve!



## Marazion Cancer Research

This is the Cancer Research Campaign Committee in 1971 proudly displaying the **Nuffield Trophy** awarded to groups in recognition of their fund raising efforts. The local committee has won it twice as well as receiving a number of certificates.

We are indebted to Frances Richards for the following:

Fundraising in Marazion by Cancer Research began in 1935 with collecting tins in houses raising £5-12s-4d in one year! A committee was formed in 1959 and various events, including the very successful Spring fair increased the yearly total. An idea of Joyce Seago's, the Treasurer's wife, proved to be a winner! On July 14 1971 the first shop in the country to raise funds for Cancer Research was opened in Marazion Square in premises owned by Mr. T Reynolds and managed by Miss Dora Clarke selling a variety of goods needed by the townsfolk. For a year the 'Cancer Ladies' took over buying goods from George Jelbart's stores at reduced prices and re-selling them along with items generously given by locals. A year later, the 'Cancer Shop' transferred across the road to Mrs Peggy Claytons shop where it remained for nine years. A variety of buildings were then used including Mrs Greenwood-Penny's ancient garage re-named 'The Hole in the Wall', also two vacant shops in Penzance and the Town Hall before finally opening in the Code Institute on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1982. The much prized National Nuffield Trophy has been awarded to the town twice and the latest award was a certificate to mark the milestone of having raised £500,000.



The project was pleased to visit the Goldsithney Golden Age Club and we shared some of the photographs and stories that we have discovered over the last two years. It was a great afternoon and as always we found a few more subjects who should be recorded! (Left)

We also spent the afternoon with the former pupils of Marazion School at the reunion organised by Anne Laity and Howard Curnow. Again it proved to be a source of new subjects and we recorded four during the afternoon.! Our display proved a focal point for much conversation, laughter and reminiscence and there was a wealth of photos of past classes for people to spot their contemporaries!(below)

From each of the four parishes we have interviewed:

Ludgvan : 10
Marazion : 38
Parranuthnoc: 9
St. Hilary: 10

We have also undertaken projects with St. Hilary, Ludgvan and Marazion Schools and Sure Start Chy Carn.

