

## Entertainment at the 1908 Fête



These two cards and the one on the previous page are by the same publisher. They contain common features, for example the music stands, so it's a reasonable assumption that all were taken at the same event. Both show the well dressed and attentive audience watching a performance of Richard III as traditionally portrayed as a hunchback. The musicians (below, left) are having a well earned rest and enjoying the entertainment.



## The 1926 Fête

A few old fête pictures have '1926 Fete' written on the backs so by comparing features in in these with others they can also be identified as being from the same year. Several post-cards from Keith Alner's collection have notes on the back stating 'Uploders Fete at Mr Adrian Lesser's Farms, Matravers'. Rather than being the site of the fête it was the gathering and starting point for the procession which started at Matravers and finished at Loders Court. The arrangements were very similar for the Loders Peace Celebrations which took place in July 1919.

### *Extracts from the Western Gazette, August 1926*

#### *FETE AT LODERS COURT - FLOWER SHOW AND SPORTS - A RECORD ENTRY.*

*The annual Loders flower show and fête took place on Thursday, and was held in the picturesque grounds of Loders Court, kindly loaned for the occasion by Lieut. Colonel E.P. Le Breton. The entries constituted a record, numbering no fewer than 185, upon which all concerned are to be congratulated. The arrangements were most satisfactory, the various events composing the long and well varied programme being got through with dispatch.*

*The Tea Committee comprised Mesdames Tolley, W. Hansford, Williams, J. Hansford, Samways, Randall, Knight, Greening, Travers, H. Hansford, the Misses Lockwood and Mrs Edwin Randall (members of Loders Women's Institute), and Mr Edward Greening.*

*The band of the 224th Battery R.F.A., under Bandmaster Shepard, played selections throughout the afternoon and provided music for the dancing on the green with which the day's proceedings terminated.*

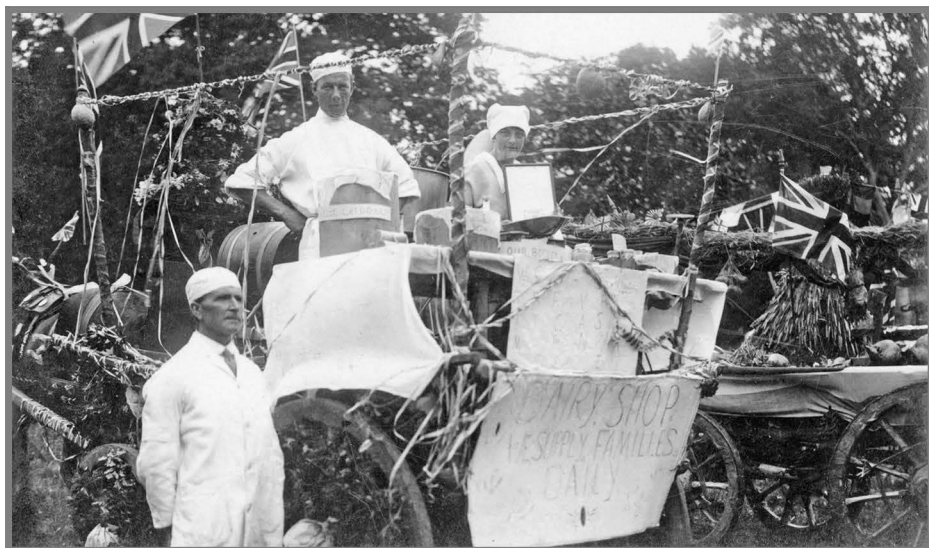
*Mr. F. Bartlett of the Crown, Loders (sic), supplied a refreshment tent. The large marquee in which the exhibits were displayed presented a charming spectacle when the show was formally opened in the course of a brief speech by Mrs. Le Breton, who warmly congratulated both the Committee and the painstaking exhibitors.*



Matravers — the starting point of the fête parade.

The placard in the picture refers to the Church bells. In 1927 the Loders Church bells were refurbished so it is very likely that the funds raised by the

1926 fête went towards the work on the bells. The placard reads 'A Day of Delight at Loders - A Great Rally for the Church Bells - A Splendid Procession'



On the cart probably from Matravers Farm, are Tom Hyde and Gwen (?). The man standing is Sidney Brown who lived at Locks Hill and was dairyman at Matravers Farm. He was the father of Harold who became Clerk to Loders Parish Council, a position he held for many years. Harold was the author of the book 'The Loders Book, A Village in a Dorset Valley'.



An Upton Manor Farm wagon with two magnificent horses decorated and led by Alec Peach and Jim Hawker. Both these men worked at Upton Manor Farm, a large employer in those days. This card was purchased from a Blandford dealer who 'claimed' it was a Loders card and he would take it back if not. My mother confirmed that indeed it was by saying "That's Uncle Alec and Uncle Jim!" (Alec Peach and Jim Hawker)



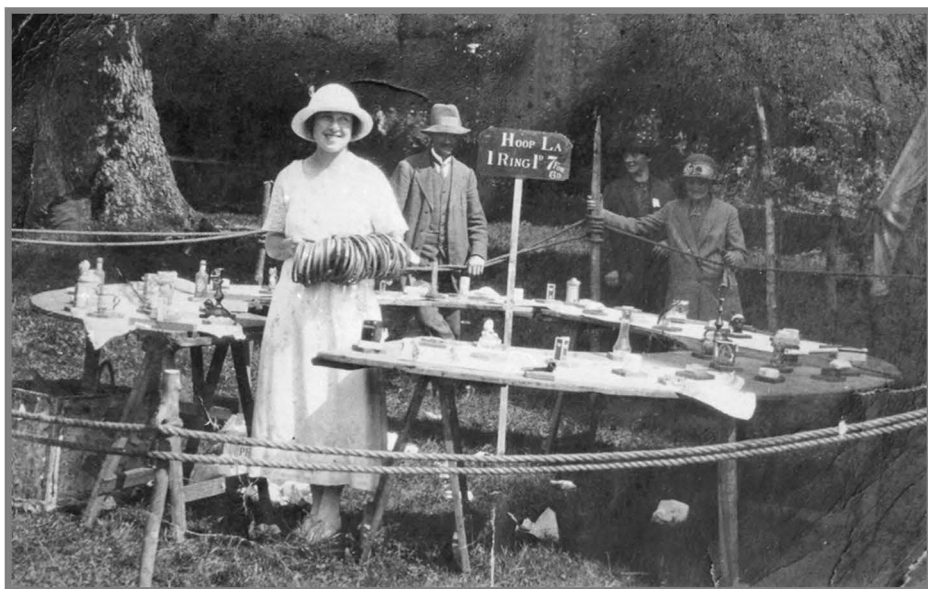
The same decorated wagon as on the previous page, near the Forge in Uploders with Alec Peach on horseback and Jim Hawker walking by the side of the wagon.



The procession by Knowle Farm, Uploders. The wagon was on-loan from a firm of Brewers in Bridport, most likely Palmers. The horse rider in a soldiers uniform is Bob Farnham. Behind the girl with the outstretched arms is Nellie Hansford (Crabb) dressed as a bell; see also page 134.



The ladies from the Loders Women's Institute who ran the 1926 tea tent. (Standing) Sarah Ann Travers, Mrs Pitcher, Mrs Crabb, Mrs May Samways, Beatie Clark and Ethel Howe. (Seated) Mrs W Brown, Miss Lockwood, Mrs Fanny Greening, Mrs Sarah Hansford, Mrs Doris Randall and Mrs Knight.



Doris Randall (Harris) with the Hoop-la Stall. The sign reads 'One ball a penny, 7 for 6d' That's 7 balls for 2.5p in our decimal currency.



The entertainers (left to right) are:- Louise Hudson, Clara Ward, Bertha Symes (Young), Ruby Richards, Vera Knight (Tiltman), Ivy Coles, May Hudson, Lily Samways, Louise Paul, Dora Paul (Hyde), Linda Brown, Ivy Hansford, Doris Prior, Alice Rogers, Amy Symes (Metcalfe), Doris Ward, Vera Legg and an unknown little girl hiding her face in her hands!



In fancy dress, (above) Ivy Read (Howard) and Violet Hyde (Phillips) as harlequins, or pierrots.

(Right) Nellie Hansford (Crabb) dressed as a bell, part of the "Rally for the Church Bells" as mentioned on page 130. All three girls are also in the picture of the fête procession near Knowle Farm on page 132.



Mrs Sarah Hansford with Don Brown standing proudly beside his prize winning steam roller.



## The First World War - Airships

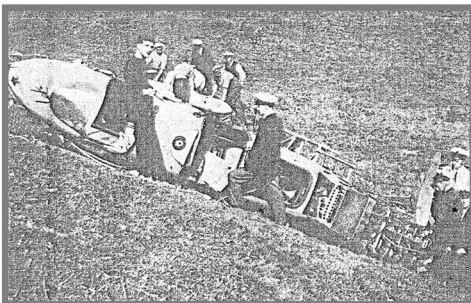
During WW1 the Toller Admiralty Airship Sub-Station on Powerstock Common was one of three in the South West. Dirigibles from these undertook anti-submarine patrols over the Channel and escorted British shipping.



(Above) An airship over The Trossachs (Butterwell) Uplanders, heading towards the base at Powerstock. The picture was taken from the garden of Rose Cottage, just east of the Chapel, during or just after the 1914-18 War.

In the summer of 1917 a new airship flew from the main station at Mullion in Cornwall destined for Powerstock. It turned towards the coast near West Bay and according to a report in the Dorset County Magazine:-

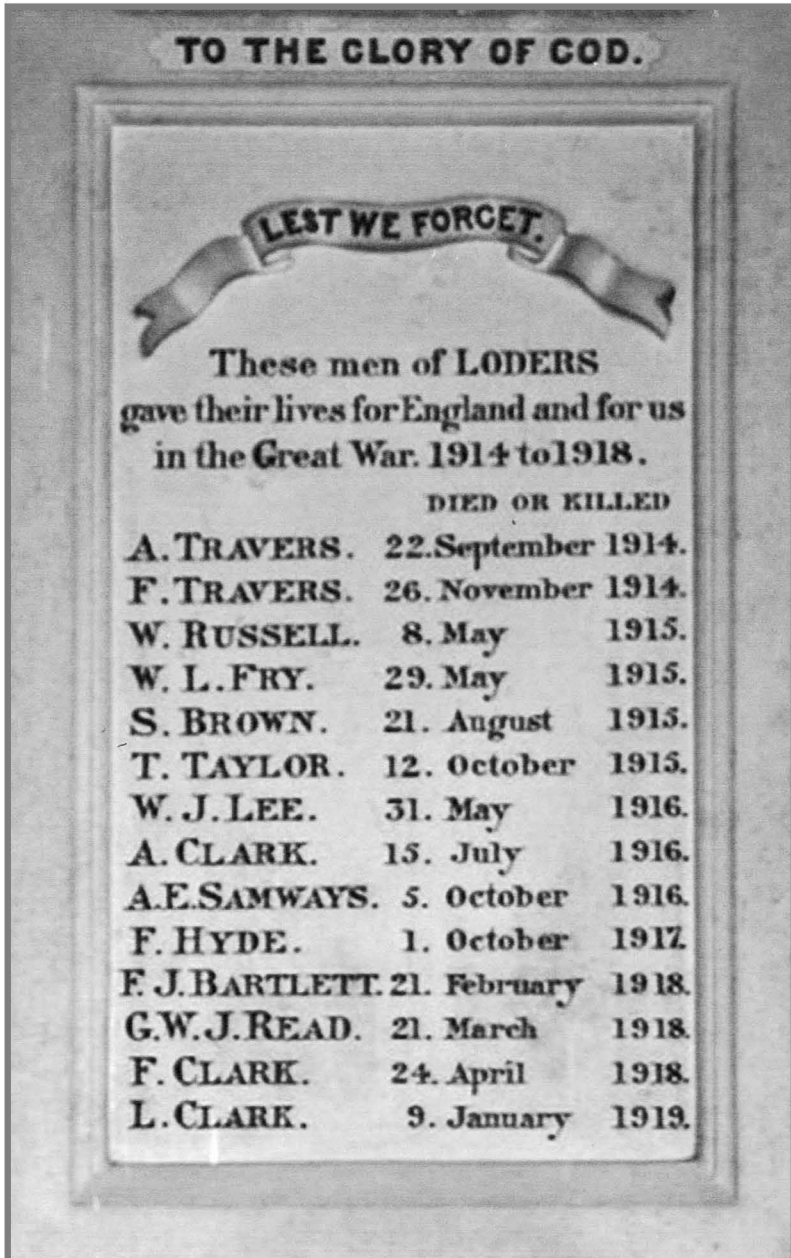
*'Zero' passed low over a building painted with 'Bridport Laundry' on its roof when tall trees ripped off the starboard elevator. The crew released two bombs which did not explode, presumably in an endeavour to regain height, but its guy ropes caught in overhead telegraph cables causing it to veer to the left. It crashed into a hillside at Loders, narrowly missing a Sunday School party in a nearby field. All the airship fabric was ripped into fragments. A young girl, Emily Barnes from Loders Mill, brought goat's milk and cheese to the crashed airmen.'*



The airship crashed on Boarsbarrow Hill. There were no casualties. The only part of the airship to survive was its gondola (left). The pilot, John Owner, is foreground (left). There was no report of the crash in the local or national papers at the time, presumably because of wartime censorship.

## The First World War

Many young men from Loders joined their peers to bravely fight for King and Country during the 1914-18 War. Sadly many perished. Those from Loders who gave their lives are recorded on the Roll of Honour in Loders Church.



Memorial to the fallen of the First World War



1941, the Loders Home Guard under the command of Col Sir Edward Le Breton. From the left, back row, Privates Ward, Legg, Paul, Tom Bourne, Percy Read, Saunders, Nobbs, Glyde, Darby and Darby. Centre row, Privates Frank Osborne, Gurd, Reg Dennett, George Hyde, Fred Taylor, Walker, Ted Collier, George Crabb, Maurice Tucker, Harry Crabb. Front row: - Cpl Jack Chester, Sgt Henry Tucker, Sgt A Budden, Capt G Wellstead, Col Sir Edward Le Breton, Sgt Albert Wells, Cpl Wrixon and Cpl Shelton. Sitting cross-legged is Wilf Crabb, the Boy Scout and messenger for the troop.

When they became old enough some of the younger members of the Home Guard were called up to serve their Country. George Crabb was one. Other boys from the village also saw action and survived. Three, sadly, did not. Their names are on the Roll of Honour in Loders Church they are:

**Tom Samuel Norman** Born in 1919 he attended Loders School from September 1924 to January 1931. He was a Private in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Tom died on 1 March 1940, age 20 in Yeovil Hospital. He is buried in Loders Cemetery.

**George W C Holmes.** Born in 1920 he attended Loders School from June 1925 to July 1934 He was an Aircraftsman 1st Class in the RAF. He died in a road accident in April 1940 aged 19. He was returning to his base at RAF Warmwell after a brief visit to his parents. He left Uploders on his pedal cycle at about 9.30pm and was in collision with a motorbike on the A35 near Long Bredy Hut. George and the motorcyclist were killed, the pillion passenger survived. George is buried in Loders Cemetery.

**Frederick David Symes.** Born at Uploders on 5 November 1917 he attended Loders School from 4 July 1921 to 31 July 1929 and then Bridport Grammar School. He joined the Royal Navy on 7th October 1940 and became a Signaller in the Royal Navy Patrol Service. David joined HMS Hebe on 31 August 1941 and was killed on active service on 22 November 1943 aged 26. His name is recorded on the Lowestoft Naval Memorial. There is a memorial to him in Loders Cemetery.

## The Roadmen c1913



This is thought to be on the A35 Bridport to Dorchester near Travellers Rest. The men are loading stone from the heap at the roadside into the putt for filling potholes. The stone probably came from the quarry at the top of Stoney Head, off Knowl Lane. There were numerous quarries in the area usually with a nearby limekiln. From the left the men are George Read, George Marsh (the foreman, with the hat who is my great-grandfather), Mark Fooks and Eddie Fooks.



The gang, with the steam roller compacting stone aggregate into the unsurfaced road. Fresh stone can be seen under the front wheel of the roller. The men are, from the left, Unknown, Unknown, George Read, Eddie Fooks, George Marsh, Mark Fooks and the unknown roller driver.