

**F is for FUN! What did villagers do in their spare time?
How did they spend their 'high days and holidays'?**

The highlight of the year was probably **May Day**. This was the day of the Parade!
The village had at least two Bands: the **Temperance Band** and the **Quaker Band of Hope**.

*"Us children loved the **May Parade**. We collected wild white moon daisies and decorated the carts. Younger children sat in the cart and the older ones followed as it went from the **Methodist Chapel**, up **Queens Street**, along **High Street** and turned round the 'triangle' at the **Barton Road turning**, back along **High Street** and up **Castle Street**, doubling back at the **Cotton lane turning**, then down to the **bottom of Queens**, round the 'triangle' at the bottom and **finishing at the Chapel**.*

*Then the **feasting** began! Buns and treats down in the Sunday School room under the Chapel. We had a wonderful time that day. And there was more. **Swing boats** would be out in the field behind the **Social Club** up Combe Hill Road (by the tennis courts) and it was general merrymaking for everyone!!*

Preparing for the May Day Parade, 1910.



Decorated carts for the May Day Parade



The Band of Hope (formed in 1856 and lasted till WWII) was for younger boys and girls. It was associated with the Quakers, but anyone could join the various activities for younger people.

The organization asked members to sign the pledge to forswear alcohol. Perhaps as quarrying declined and living standards after the war rose, other alternative entertainments were available so interest dwindled.

Empire Day was another opportunity for celebration. Usually, this just involved saluting the flag in the school-yard and singing some patriotic songs, but it was another 'event' to look forward and another break in the school routine.