

# Chalvey Sports FC

*Club Nickname*

## The Stabmonks



This story dates to the mid- 19th century. The most common version recounts the death of an organ-grinders monkey. The monkey bit the finger of a child who was teasing it & the child's furious father stabbed the monkey to death (hence Stabmonk). The organ-grinder was very upset and therefore the villagers took pity on him and made a collection. This raised enough money to buy a new monkey & have a funeral for the dead animal and hold a wake involving free beer for the whole village.

This proved so successful that the villagers decided to repeat the event the following year (without killing another monkey first of course). A plaster monkey was made which was given a mock funeral & wake, during which a man fell, or was pushed into Chalvey Brook. This then became an annual event and on each occasion the man falling in Chalvey Brook was declared 'The Mayor of Chalvey' for the following year. In 1919, The Stabmonk ceremony formed part of the victory celebrations marking then end of World War I. Almost inevitably, given the alcoholic nature of events, the Stabmonk was cited in a court case. George Holdway, the publican of the 'Cape of Good Hope', was summoned when revellers were found on his premises drinking after closing time.

The story of the Stabmonk was told as part of his defence, as he had called in the funeral procession as they were passing his pub and invited them in for a drink to celebrate the end of the war. Mr Holdway won his case but had to pay the court costs. The ceremony became a less regular event during the last century and more recently the Stabmonk has only appeared on rare occasions & usually for charitable causes.

The legend survives and the term Stabmonk is used to describe any man born and bred in Chalvey, who at some time has either called, or been pushed into Chalvey Brook.

The Chalvey Stabmonk is the clubs crest and is proudly worn on the front of all of our team kit.