



Jubilee News

Free

Newsletter of the
Mary Tavy Jubilee Group

No.33

August & September 2019



Hedges and Verges

We thought we'd offer a reminder that this is a good time of year to cut hedges, with the nesting season finished and a good length of growing season before winter. It is particularly important to cut hedges that face onto a pavement; the virtual pavement along the A386 can be difficult and dangerous if hedges are not kept trimmed.

In issue 30 of Jubilee News we featured an article by Martin Mowforth about the community composting scheme in Mary Tavy, which is managed voluntarily by the Tavistock Green Umbrella Group. The scheme is specifically for hedge trimmings, so you will be able to dispose of your hedge waste whilst also helping to create compost. You'll find the site in a field passed the church to the north of the power station.

There is a move, though, not to be cutting roadside verges so often. It may have been driven by budget restraints, but nationally there is a recognition that this, along with a little help, brings about beautiful areas for wild flowers and wildlife. DCC has produced guidance in its document 'Life on the Verge in Devon', obtainable at www.devon.gov.uk/environment/wildlife/managing-verges-for-wildlife.

If the community would like to see wild verges perhaps the Jubilee Group could work with the Parish Council to make this happen.

A pale orchid recently photographed amongst grass on a roadside bank in Mary Tavy



Dates for your diary

- Sun 4 Aug
Mary Tavy Country Show
- Sat 31 Aug
Village Walk
- Wed 18 & Thurs 19 Sept
Mary Tavy Power Station
Heritage Open Days
- Fri 13 Sept
Village Walk
- Sat 19 Oct
Stannary Brass Band concert
- Sun 3 Nov
Bonfire Night
- Sat 9 Nov
Tavonians Theatre Company
presents Brontë
- Sat 30 Nov
Mary Tavy Live
The Hummingbirds vocal trio
- Thurs 19 to Sat 21 Dec
Mary Tavy Pantomime

The Burrows

As development nears completion it's nice to see the centre of the village looking tidier than it has for many years. There are families ready to move into some of the homes, although Harrington Homes' website is showing only five homes as sold at present.



MARY TAVY Country Show

Sunday 4th August

from noon
Recreation Ground &
Coronation Hall

- Live sheep shearing / Farm animals
- Spooners & West Dartmoor hounds
- Dog show / Vintage tractors
- Produce & flower show
- Hog roast & beer tent
- Grand Draw 3pm



Another very successful Litter Pick - thanks to the community

In June around 20 volunteers came together to help clear the village of rubbish. Many of the teams found less rubbish than usual, although there was a lot alongside the A386.

Tops from takeaway coffee cups win the prize for the most found, aubergines were an unusual find, and of course there were a few car parts, a lot of bottles, and even a £5 note! One determined mother and daughter worked hard to extricate old bed springs from the verge, which had been there for many years.

The tea and cakes provided by the WI were a great way to end the afternoon. Thank you Barbara and Christine for some great baking.

There'll be another Litter Pick in a few months' time when we'll be hoping for lots of helpers, but it would be nice if we found rubbish.



During the Litter Pick some of us met up with a traveller, a busker from N Devon who lives and travels in his horse-drawn gypsy caravan. They were just taking a short break alongside the A386.



Cattle Grid Cleansing

Devon County Highways will be closing the road through the cattle grid for between one and three days, at some time between 12th August 2019 and 31st March 2020.

This is part of a wide scheme of cattle grid maintenance, involving many parishes.

Information will be posted locally 7 days in advance, and will be available nearer the time at <https://devon.roadworks.org/>

Speeding through the village

Over the years many attempts have been made to curb the speeding through the village. Individuals and groups have worked on various schemes. There have been successes - the zebra crossing, the 30mph speed limit and the virtual pavement have all been a help. But we all know it is not enough.

Recently Chair of the Parish Council, Tony Williams, met with DCC Highways representatives to discuss the problems and look at possible solutions.

We await a report and hope to be able to give more information in the next Jubilee News.



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A warm welcome to the new Parish Clerk

A new Clerk to the Parish Council has been appointed and has started in her role. She is Katherine Anness.

If you need to contact Katherine the preferred method is by email, parishclerk@marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk, or you can write to her at 32 Oak Road, Tavistock, PL19 9EZ, or phone 01822 616047.

Contact details for Councillors can be found on the parish website marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk.

Play! Mary Tavy

Here's an update on our fundraising appeal. We're around £16,000 now! We'd like to offer a big thank you to Mary Tavy Parish Council for their generous contribution of nearly £5,000 to purchase an inclusive roundabout.

We continue to fundraise and hope to have more news on that for the next Jubilee News. If anyone in the village would like to help please contact Jo Bright on wacyjo@gmail.com or Bev Ross on bevross70@gmail.com.



Harnessing the power of Dartmoor: Mary Tavy Hydroelectric Power Station Heritage Open Days Wed 18th & Thurs 19th September, tours at 10am and 1.30pm

Mary Tavy has England's largest hydroelectric power station in daily use, which harnesses the power of Dartmoor's water, to create sustainable, renewable energy.

The hydro-electric turbines were built in the 1930s by enterprising industrialists who recognised that the water resources and old mining sites in the area could be used for electricity production. The site generates enough green energy to power around 5,000 homes each year.

Join South West Water to explore the grounds, ask questions and witness the technology used to create renewable energy. The guided tour, lasting c.2 hours, will include a presentation and talk, and on completion, one of the leatsmen will show visitors some of the unusual items of plant and equipment at the site, used for maintaining the watercourses.

Visitors are welcome to bring picnics. Sensible footwear essential.

Pre-booking required: Go to www.eventbrite.co.uk and in the Looking for box put Mary Tavy Hydro Electric Power Station. Booking closes: 16th September.



Personal Advertisement by Roger Page (The Pool Guy)

My optimism on the performance of the Parish Council was dashed within a few days of the publication of the last Jubilee News. Not only did the Locum Clerk miss those specific agenda items to inform the new councillors of the present situation, but on my adding them to the next agenda, the Locum Clerk added incorrect and irrelevant comments to this agenda (in red) and posted them on the notice board. When it came to the meeting, the Chairman declared (illegally) that they were not to be debated. This left a Council still floundering, but they were all booked onto a Good Councillors course, which stressed the importance of following Standing Orders and procedures to reduce the possibility of fraud, so I was still optimistic.

However, the Council received a request for £4880 for a small roundabout for the replacement

playground in the Recreation Grounds. Great! But, it was not in any budget and the council did not consider any alternatives, did not consider the relevance to the Mary Tavy population and generally did not follow the Good Councilloring guidelines. It was nevertheless approved with only a very brief discussion. The council does have surplus funds but this money had been accumulated to enable the Council to buy extra land for the cemetery as we have now very few plots available. This possibility is now improbable.

I am still hopeful that eventually some members of the council will see that they have a responsibility to the tax paying parishioners to spend their money with good understanding of where it is going and ensuring that it is spent wisely (one of the most important guidelines for councillors).

Have a great summer! Roger

Advertisement feature

Village Walks

Saturday 31st August

A walk as part of Dartmoor Walking Festival

Meet at 2pm at Lane End Car Park for a walk to Tavy Cleave. Skill level moderate, distance 4 miles, dogs not permitted, cost £5 donation to Devon Air Ambulance. Guided by Richard Ware, booking needed for this event, to rware1@icloud.com.

Friday 13th September

A walk to Brentor and back

Meet at 10am just past the cattle grid by the Higher Spring track for a walk via Wortha Mill to Brentor village and back, with the option of going up to the church if anyone feels fit enough! This walk is intended to be particularly suitable for dog walkers, but those without dogs equally welcome. Led by Margaret & Ray Aston.



Please wear appropriate walking shoes and it's a good idea to have a drink with you.

On most walks dogs on leads are welcome but you should check in advance if it's not mentioned.

Dartmoor Walking Festival 24th Aug to 1st Sept

The Dartmoor Walking Festival is organised by Moorland Guides and supported by The Ramblers, National Trust and other walking providers such as the Woodland Trust and SW Lakes Trust. There will be several events each day during the nine-day festival ranging from modest guided strolls and children's rambles to full day walks and ambitious challenges! There really will be something for everyone including 'accessible' events for the less mobile in partnership with the 'Disabled Ramblers' Association.

The Dartmoor National Park are fully supporting the week with Ranger-led walks as well as archaeological visits and events. As a result of feedback from last year's event more evening events, including talks, have been planned.

A printed guide outlining all 47 activities is available through various outlets and details are available on the website at www.dartmoorwalkingfestival.co.uk.



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The tyre planters in the Recreation Ground

It was just over four years ago that the Jubilee Group got permission from the owners of what had been Blackdown Garage to tidy up the frontage and plant flowers in tyres along the frontage. Late in 2016 Harrington Homes was ready to start development, so it was arranged that the tyres and their plants would be moved to the Recreation Ground, to accompany some already there. Since then the tyres have been adopted by individuals who tend them.

At the Country Show there will be a competition for the best tyre planter. Tyre No.7 is looking for a new 'owner'.



Some of the dozens of volunteers who created the original tyre planters and then moved them to their current site.



Odd Jobs? General Maintenance?
House Repairs? Masonry?
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Tor+Tavy WI

Our new programme for the year commenced in May with a Dementia Awareness evening to which we welcomed a very interesting speaker and several guests. Who Dunit?? was our June theme which saw committee members taking the parts of the likely suspects and play reading the clues for members to discover the perpetrator. A light hearted evening!

We will be having a member-led walk from Princetown in July followed by supper at a pub.

Some members have recently attended a Punjabi Cooking day, learning some techniques and recipes and we have a visit to the Ambrosia Factory and Buckfastleigh Racehorse stables coming up soon.

We are pictured here on a visit earlier this year to the Plymouth Incinerator site.

Tor+Tavy WI meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Coronation Hall and potential new members will be made very welcome.

Methodist Chapel & Hall

NEWS:

There will be no future Moorland Outreach events. Sadly Tony Smith who organised these events and arranged speakers is now in Hart Care Nursing Home in Yelverton.

REGULAR EVENTS DURING AUGUST/SEPTEMBER:

Weekly Ecumenical Bible Study and Prayer Group Mondays/Tuesdays 7.30pm at Charlotte Cottage. Aug 5, 12, 19 but NOT 26; Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Contact Janet 810166.

Knit and Natter Thursdays, 12noon -3pm. No meeting in Aug; Sept 5, 12, 19, 26. Contact Wilma 810040.

Jigsaw Swap Mondays, 10am-12noon. Aug 19; Sept 16. Contact Pauline 610079.

Breakfast at Café Church Sundays, 9-30am. Informal discussion and a cappella singing. Aug 11; Sept 8.

Messy Church Thursdays, 4.30-6pm. Ends with free meal. No meeting in Aug; Sept 19.

Devon Sensory Team for those with sight or hearing difficulties. Tuesdays, 10am-12noon. Aug 27; Sept 24.

Brentor Garden Club

There will be no meeting in August

Thursday 19th September, Autumn Colour, a talk by Alan French

Forthcoming meetings: Oct, 'Devon's Coast to Coast Walk', Simon Dell; Nov, 'The Garden at Andrew's Corner', Robin Hill.

● Heather Webster 01822 810004



BEAUTIFUL ART CARDS FEATURING MARY TAVY

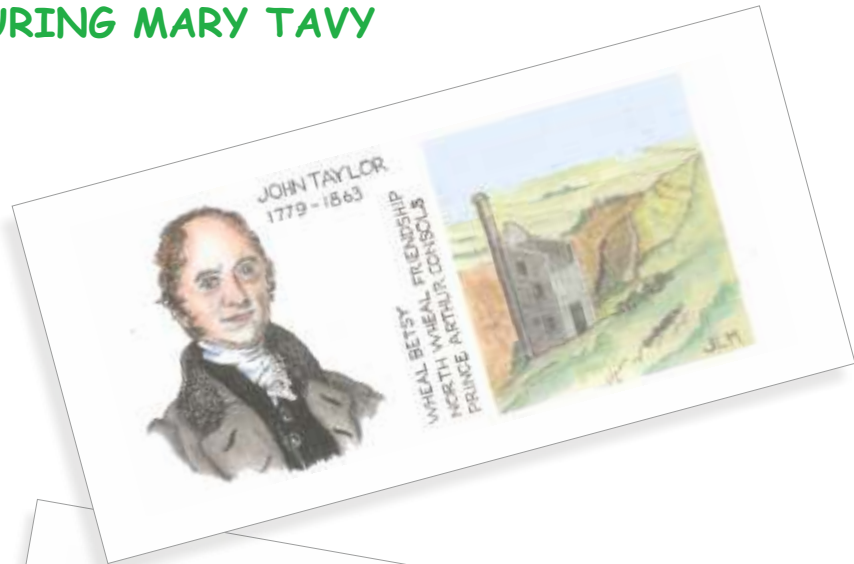
Tavistock artist John Moses produces prints and cards of his paintings, and has produced three lovely greetings cards featuring scenes of Mary Tavy.

As well as the image on the front of the card, each one has a detailed and informative description on the back with history and folklore relating to the image.

All his cards are sold in support of Lupus UK, which supports people with lupus which is an incurable disease of the immune system.

John often has a stall at events in the village, so look out for him and his cards.

He can be contacted at moses_mrs@yahoo.com, 01822 818283.



Annie Pinkham's Men

I had been planning to bring you the stories of Annie Pinkham's Men when space allowed, and as the row of stones appear on one of John Moses' cards this seems like an appropriate time.

All locals will know this row of stones, even if not everyone will know their name or the stories associated with them. Annie Pinkham's Men line the A386 above Wheal Betsy, a row of some 50 stones, and there were evidently more at one time. Are they just an early safety barrier to save carriages crashing down the steep slope? Or is one of the local folk-lore stories relating to Annie Pinkham the truth?

When I was first told stories by a long-term resident of Mary Tavy, it was that Annie Pinkham was a prostitute and the stones her clients. Other stories are similar, that each stone represents one of her lovers. It is also said that she would tell the locals that the men waved or spoke to her when she passed by.

A different story is that when walking home one dark night Annie saw a gang of men following her. Fearing the worst she began to run but every time she looked back they were still there. She awoke the occupants of a nearby house and asked for their help. From that day on the stones were known as 'Annie Pinkham's Men'.

Ali Fife Cook

Information gleaned from a number of sources including the brilliant website www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk



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A Present from Mary Tavy

The Jubilee Group has acquired a souvenir plate with printed wording 'A Present from Mary Tavy'. It has come to us from North Devon, from the daughter of a woman who had lived in Tavistock. We don't know anything else about it, and it is evidently a mass produced item, but it will nevertheless be a welcome addition to our heritage collection.

Cemetery 'vandalism' continues

There have again been reports of items damaged, moved or stolen from the cemetery. Following one report other people replied on the Brentor, Lydford and Mary Tavy facebook page to say similar things had happened to their tributes.

The Parish Council has looked into this but is unable to provide any answers. The contractor, Craig Gardiner, stated that he has not moved the items (although he does remove items such as faded plastic flowers and glass vases, as he is required to do to meet Parish Council policy).

Bridge damaged

Damage to the bridge near the turning to the church happens frequently, but the damage this July, believed to have been caused by a tractor transporting hay, is more serious than most. DCC Highways have put up barriers and are due to repair it, and thankfully they didn't need to close the bridge in the meantime.



Clubs & Local Contacts | mid-M to T

The full list is available on the website

Mary Tavy Parish Clerk | parishclerk@marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk

Mary Tavy Parish Council | meetings: usually 2nd Wed 7pm Reading Room | www.marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk

Mary Tavy Post Office & Stores | Martin and Tracey 810422 marytavypo@gmail.com www.marytavypostoffice.co.uk

Mary Tavy Twinning Association | Richard Thorne 810535

Methodist Chapel & Hall | Pauline 610079 or email janetixxa@gmail.com

Over 55s Pop-In | Every Tues 10.30-2 Coronation Hall | Cheryl 810177 or Christine 810627

Pilates | Every Thurs 9.30-10.30 and 10.30-11.30 Coronation Hall | Sally Cinnamond 07969 157507

Recreation Ground | John Hill 810302 marytavy@hotmail.com | www.mtrg.org.uk | Tennis Court bookings: PO & Stores

Reading Room | Paul Williams 810001 williamstormist@tiscali.co.uk

Short Mat Bowls | Tues 11-1 & Wed 7-9 Coronation Hall | Doreen Rogers 810824

Snooker Club | Reading Room | John Banks 810940 or Ron Quilter 810538 ronquilter@hotmail.com

Table Tennis | Tues & Wed 7pm | Coronation Hall bar area | Alice Hulme 810034

Tavy St.Mary Church | Churchwarden: Sylvia Baish 810541

Tor & Tavy WI | 4th Thurs each month 7.30 Coronation Hall | Lucie 814840, Judi 614198

The Merries | A group for single ladies meeting 2 or 3 times a year | Kath Sydenham 810649

We hope this information is accurate but can't guarantee it is completely up-to-date, and some groups take holiday breaks so please make contact with each group or event before going along. Please inform us of any changes or additions you know about.



Mary Tavy Inn

30th Nov

Christmas Shopping Trip

Blenheim Palace and Swindon Outlet

More dates to be added keep your eyes open!

Every Thursday OAP lunch and Sunday carvery

checkout our new website www.marytavyinn.co.uk

or call for details

01822 810326

Next Mary Tavy Live event

On Saturday 30th November there will be a lively concert with The Hummingbirds, a vocal trio singing songs mostly from the 1940s.

We would like to find a few people to help with stewarding. Please get in touch with Ali, ali@mtjubileegroup.co.uk.



The Hummingbirds concert is in the series of Mary Tavy Live events, but not part of the Villages in Action scheme. We were unable to arrange a ViA event for this autumn, but have the option of booking two events for the spring and early summer.

Watch this space.

Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy Women's Institute

After a very busy couple of months we are having a bit of a break - though not entirely doing nothing.

There is a walk on Robourgh Down followed by a lunch out at Long Ash in early August and Book Club will be meeting later in the month.

September will see us meeting on second Thursday in the Coronation Hall at 2pm to hear Paula Steer of Devon-based Lily Warne Wool.

Happy summer days to all!

- Barbara Weeks
(committee member)



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COMPETITION WIN A £10 VOUCHER

We're pleased to be able to bring you another competition. Entries must be in by 10th Sept The winner will be the first correct (or the nearest to correct) answer drawn out of the hat.

Answers can be a written description, your own photographs, or whatever is the easiest way for you to give your answers.

Entries can be emailed to competition@mtjubileegroup.co.uk or marked 'Jubilee News Competition' and handed in at the PO & Stores. Please make sure we have your name and phone number or email address.



Copydate for the next issue is the 20th of the preceding month, at the very latest, but please remember Jubilee News can fill up fast so the sooner you can get information to us the better.

Jubilee News is a project of The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group. It is produced every two months to bring news of events, activities, heritage and general interest to the residents of the parish. It is able to be free to residents as the printing costs are covered by advertising.

The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group is a Charitable Trust, created in 2012 and based on the Charity Commission model constitution GD2. The Objects of the Trust are -

“The advancement of community development, environmental improvement and heritage, through projects undertaken by and for the residents of the parish of Mary Tavy in the county of Devon.”

Trustees: John Banks, Ali Fife Cook, Michael Fife Cook Jubilee News Editor: Ali Fife Cook

Phone: 08455 193812 (free from a landline) | email: mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk
website: www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk | visit us on facebook

Visit our website to find out more about the Jubilee Group and how you could be involved