

The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group

Newsletter No.13

April/May 2016

Free

Follow us on Twitter

The Jubilee Group is now on Twitter. Be amongst the first to find out what's going on between Newsletters by following us -

@marytavyjubilee

There will be an Outdoor Gym in Mary Tavy

Thanks to an £8,000 grant awarded to the Jubilee Group from the Tesco Bagsofhelp scheme.

The huge grant will provide a number of items of robust equipment which will be sited in the Recreation Ground and will be available for anyone to use, at any time. Some of the equipment is specifically designed for those in a wheelchair or with other disabilities.

Outdoor gyms have become very popular abroad and are being

seen more in the UK now, as people realise the benefits of keeping fit, and being able to do it at a time and a pace to suit themselves.

All the money raised has come from the 5p paid by customers in Tesco for one-use carrier bags.

We hope to have a number of sessions with a trainer to help everyone to get the most from all the different pieces of equipment.

> We'll keep you informed in future issues or you can get

the latest news from our website or Twitter.



Village Spring Clean

Saturday 30 April from 10am

We're going to have a session doing various much-needed jobs around the village.

We need to do some tidying at the Blackdown Garage site, pruning and weeding in the tyre planters plus sweeping up the leaves. We also need to do some touchup painting in the Kids' Play Area in the Recreation Ground.

And we possibly need to do a bit of work around the trees we planted in the Recreation Ground.

Please come along if you can, dressed appropriately for any of those tasks and with any tools you think would be helpful. Come at any time, and bring sandwiches if you're happy to work through into the afternoon.

We'll meet at the Garage site and we can either start there or spread out to do the other things, according to what everyone would most like to do.

• If you want to get in touch, Jubilee Group contact details are on the back page.



Yelverton Television Services t/a

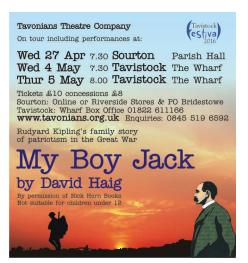
Yeltv.co.uk

Email: enquiries@yeltv.co.uk Phone: 07725 553804

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Meagan Rily Rampwork Beads Follectable, wearable and unique.

Beautiful hand made glass beads, created in the flame. I also provide tuition, 1 or 2 hour sessions. Visitors welcome.



Joy Porteous meaganlily@btinternet.com 15 Great Fellingfield Mary Tavy 01822 810404



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Summer Sead Hunt

Hi. I am Joy Porteous and I am a glass artist, making beads by hand. I've been working with hot glass for 10 years and sell my beads internationally under the studio name of Meagan Lily Lampwork.

I live and work in Mary Tavy and have lived in this area for over 40 years.

Between April and September I'll be running a bead hunt. At the beginning of each month, starting on April 1st I'll place a





different focal bead somewhere within the village. It will be an outdoor location and I will try not to make it too hard. I will photograph the bead in situ and post the image on the notice board in the village shop. This will be the only clue to its location.

If you recognise the location and find the bead it is yours to keep and enjoy. The first bead will be in the location shown in the picture on the left from the 1st of April. There is no entry fee to join the hunt, it is free to all. Happy bead hunting!

Clubs & Local Contacts

Artful Toddlers | Every Wed during term 9.15-11.15am | Methodist Hall | Kerri 810786 kerrihigham@icloud.com **Brentor Garden Club** | Monthly on a Thurs 7.30 | Brentor Village Hall | Sue Stephens 860374

Charity Quiz Night | Last Sun each month | Mary Tavy Inn | Garry & Kim 810326

Colts Football Club | Sept-May Sat 10-11.30am | Recreation Ground | Tim or Helen McShane 810284

Coronation Hall | Bookings: Jo Albon 810356 coronationhallmarytavy@hotmail.com

Dartmoor Gliding Society | Chris 07873483001 info@dartmoorgliding.co.uk

DNPA Ranger | Rob Taylor 01626 832093 rtaylor@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

Elephant's Nest Cricket Club | Thurs even & Sun aft during season | Elephant's Nest Inn | Ben Neale 810225

Homer Maid Open Day | Sat, monthly or so | Homer Barn | 810848

Mary Tavy & Brentor School | 810384 admin@marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk

Mary Tavy Drama Group | Michelle Buncle 810112

Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI | 2nd Thurs each month 2pm | Coronation Hall | Barbara Weeks 810697

Mary Tavy Commoners' Association | Julie Tucker | julie@bearwoodfarm.co.uk

Mary Tavy Jubilee Group | 0845 5193 812 (free from a landline) mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk

Mary Tavy Parish Clerk | Kerri Higham 810786 parishclerk@marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk

Mary Tavy Parish Council | meetings: 2nd Tues 7.15pm Reading Room | www.marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk

Mary Tavy Post Office & Stores | Martin and Tracey 810422 Mary Tavy Twinning Association | Richard Thorne 810535

Methodist Chapel & Hall | Tony Smith 820575 or Brenda Dingle b3dingle@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, £5 | Coronation Hall | Sally Cinnamond 07969 157507

Recreation Ground | George Hill 810302 | Tennis Court bookings: PO & Stores

Reading Room | Ron Quilter 810538 ronquilter@hotmail. com
Short Mat Bowls | Tues 11-1 & Wed 7-9 | Coronation Hall | Doreen Rogers 810824
Snooker Club | Reading Room | John Banks 810090 or Ron Quilter 810538 ronquilter@hotmail. com

Tavy St.Mary Church | Churchwarden: Sylvia Baish 810541
Tavy Youth Group | Saturday once a month | Moorland Retreat (Chicks), Brentor

Tor & Tavy WI | 4th Thurs each month 7.30 | Brentor Village Hall | Trish 810115, Lucie 814840, Judi 614198

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

Villages in Action | Margaret Aston 810408

West Devon Social Group | programme of events | Cathy Haglington 810120 info@devonsocialgroup.com

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

Jubilee Heritage Days

Sat 16 & Sun 17 April, 10am-4pm, Reading Room

Come along to see some of our great Heritage Collection - we have hundreds of items, some original photographs, some digital images, plus documents and artefacts.

We'll have a scanner there and hope that many people will bring photographs — of people or places, old or new — that we could scan to add to the collection. That way you'll know that your original images won't leave your possession so can't be lost or damaged.

We hope that some longer-term residents will be able to put names to some of the people pictured in photographs or provide facts about the past.

Most of the images in our collection can be printed or provided as a digital copy for a small cost.

If you'd like to become a part of the team helping to collect and collate the Jubilee Heritage Collection you can get in touch either at the event or

via phone or email. We'd like to get together a team who could do some scanning or sorting of images, who could aim to gather information about specific places or subjects, or who could make audio recordings of memories from some of the longer-term residents.

Refreshments will be available, so do pop in to see us.

• Jubilee Group, 08455 193812, heritage@mtjubileegroup.co.uk



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Japanese knotweed

Task Force Working Day Sunday 10th April 10am

We had planned to deal with the new spring growth of Japanese knotweed in late March, but with the wet weather in the early part of the year this has been delayed and it is now planned for 10th April.

We have a few people who've 'signed up' for the Task Force

but we'd like a few more, please, so if you can help on that day please get in touch, or just turn up outside the Coronation Hall.

Bring gloves and any cutting tools.

- Identification and mapping: Martin Evans, 810959, martinandpatricia@outlook.com
- Joining the task force:
 Ali or Michael, Jubilee Group
 (contact details on the back page)

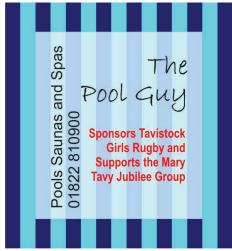
Dartmoor Tinworking Conference

6-11 May Tavistock

An international conference with a full programme of lectures and excursions over six days.

 Dartmoor Tinworking Research Group, booking@dtrg.org.uk organiser: greeves.tinconference @dtrg.org.uk www.dtrg.org.uk







Mary Tavy Parish Council

The routine work of contributing to planning applications has continued unabated with our Planning Committee dealing with 7 cases in one afternoon. Virtually all applications are accorded a site visit and are discussed at a public meeting. A recent application was a proposal to erect the first Airband mast on a farm in the parish. Airband is the company that has been appointed to provide superfast broadband internet access for Dartmoor using radio signals rather than cables. This system requires the erection of a number of 12m high "telegraph" poles to which the transmitting and receiving antennae are fitted. Domestic properties will require "line of sight" to one of these poles for service access. We can expect a number of similar applications to come before us in the immediate future as Airband expect to be operational by the end of 2016. Councillors and Clerk recently met with Mr. Stephen Belli, Head of Planning at the DNPA. The meeting was positive and a range of planning issues and topics related to Mary Tavy were discussed.

The recent persistent and heavy rain caused some localised flooding, much of it due to blocked drains, culverts and pipes. The voluntary Emergency Warden, Cllr John Hill, was kept very busy and he and the lengthsman carried out various emergency works in the parish. Despite such efforts the sheer volume of water running off already saturated ground tended to overwhelm traditional drains but there is also clear evidence that problems were caused by inadequate maintenance of drains and ditches on private land. MTPC is doing all it can to obtain additional funding to pay for work to be carried out by the local lengthsman. However, parishioners must be realistic and accept that, no matter how much preventative work is undertaken or emergency clearance carried out, some properties will remain at risk. If you can identify unaddressed drainage problems, please contact Cllr John Hill or the Parish Clerk so that appropriate measures can be put into place. We must also ask all residents to properly maintain drains and gullies on their property not only for their own benefit but for their neighbours' as well.

Progress remains very slow with regard to our proposed road safety improvements in the vicinity of our Primary School which includes better warning signs and parking provision. Our most significant achievement has been to secure the full support of our MP, Mr. Geoffrey Cox. He has taken up our case with DCC and has suggested a detailed safety assessment be carried out with the full involvement of the local community. We await the results of his intervention with great interest. Much as we have the firm ongoing support of our

MP we have no clear indication of support from either our County Councillor (Okehampton Rural District) or the West Devon Borough Councillor for the Mary Tavy Ward. We are clearly approaching the point where parents, grandparents and other interested parties should ask their elected representatives to explain their views on our road safety proposals. If funding from County is difficult an alternative source is likely to be the Town & Parish Fund administered by WDBC. Such a grant requires 2 or more Parish Councils to make a joint application and I am pleased to report that both Lydford and Peter Tavy are prepared to co-sign an application in regard to this work. Brentor PC seems strangely reluctant to be involved and, as our Primary School carries their name as well as our own, Councillors find this reluctance very difficult to understand.

The previous Council's proposed purchase of land from SW Water for a cemetery extension has been, since May 2015, the subject of a number of in-depth investigations. This work is now complete and it was always our intention to report our findings at a public meeting. Unfortunately, SW Water unexpectedly required a decision in mid-February. As we had, by that stage, all the necessary information Councillors concluded that, owing to the high cost of the project and the technical limitations of the land in question, it was unwise to proceed further. A full report on this difficult and emotive issue will be given at the Annual Parish meeting.

On rare occasions Councillors receive letters of complaint which cause us great concern particularly when the writer seeks to distort known facts to suit a sense of personal grievance. Recently one disaffected parishioner made adverse comment on the "columns" I write for each edition of this newsletter. I must make it clear that the submissions I write for both the Jubilee Newsletter and The Blackdown News are undertaken on behalf of MTPC with the full agreement and support of my fellow Councillors. In essence they are the official "voice" of the Council and seek to bring to your attention the issues we deal with on your behalf. The decision to use existing publications not only allows us to comply with "Best Practice" and "the Transparency Code" but is a far cheaper option than producing our own newsletter. The Council pays a fee to the Jubilee Group equivalent to purchasing advertising space but in return gains entry into a quality publication which is delivered free of charge to almost all households in Mary Tavy. We are also grateful to the publishers of the PCC magazine The Blackdown News for the allowance of free copy space every month.

Councillor Peter Jarvis

Tor & Tavy WI

We meet on the 4th Thursday each month, 7.30pm, Brentor Village Hall. Ring if you would like to join us, or just come along.

In April we'll be visited by Mike Stevens to tell us about garden plants and what we should be doing at this time of year. We also have a visit from Quicks cheeses and a Caribbean cookery evening ahead of us.

• Trish 810115, Lucie 814840, Judi 614198

Mary Tavy PO & Stores

Newsagents, off licence and General Stores

Support Your Village Shop. Much more than just a Post Office and Newsagents. Come and check out our ever increasing range of locally sourced products.

- Honey mead wine and a range of red, white and blush from Cornish Moorland Wines.
- Biscuits and cake bars from Foxcombe Bakehouse.
- Chilli sauce and chilli chocolate from Dartmoor Chilli Farm.
- Drinks from Luscombe.
- Honey and Honeycomb from Dartmoor.
- Chutneys, pickles and preserves from Hogsbottom.
- Local bread, milk and cream.

Martin Bradford Director and Sub-Postmaster

01822 810422



Stormy Weather

In early February the extremely heavy rains caused local flooding and damage, including washing away of surfaces on bridleways, and some water penetration into properties in Horndon. The Parish Council Emergency Officer and the Lengthsman, as well as

others, helped to clear some of the flood water.

In early March Bullers Hill was blocked for a couple of days when a huge tree was uprooted in heavy winds and brought another tree down with it, and several other trees came down in gardens around the village.

Flood equipment ready for use

The Jubilee Group has now purchased the flood equipment, made possible by a grant from Devon Communities Together. The decision was taken to go for expanding hydro sacks instead of a barrier, offering greater versatility particularly on rough ground and there are many other items including spades, safety equipment and a powerful pump.

The equipment is held in the centre of the village and can be used by anyone.





• In case of a flooding emergency contact either the Jubilee Group, the Parish Clerk or the Parish Council Emergency Officer.

Methodist Church & Hall

Coffee Morning Sat 9 April, 10.30am.

Open morning for jigsaw swap, tea/coffee and chat now on Tuesdays, 10.30am.

Sunday service 10.30am

• Tony Smith, 820575 or Brenda Dingle, b3dingle@gmail.com



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Mary Tavy Spring Fayre welcomes the Vikings

Spring Bank Holiday Monday 30th May

This year, in addition to the Car Boot, Dog Show, Hog Roast, Vegetarian food, Beer Tent, myriad stalls, etc we are welcoming an invasion of Vikings. Look out for posters and advertisements nearer the time.

If you would like to have a stall, please contact Jo Albon on 01822 810356, joanna@albon-art.eclipse.co.uk

Artful Toddlers



Artful Toddlers is a new group which aims to bring together parents and carers of young children at a once weekly meeting. The group is aimed at pre-school aged children, from 0-5 years old.

Each week the children can participate in arts and craft activities as well as cookery, music and an opportunity to interact with those they are likely to be with when they attend full time school. A healthy snack is provided for the children as well as tea and coffee for parents.

Sessions are every Wednesday in term time, 9.15am-11.15am, at the Methodist Chapel Hall.

• Kerri Higham, 01822 810786, kerrihigham@icloud.com.

The Mary Tavy Inn

www.themarytavyinn.co.uk 01822 810326 Forthcoming Events

27th -30th May
9th Annual Beer Festival
together with our
1st Sausage & Mash
Festival

28th May Live Music with Silverlight

Last Sunday every month Monthly Quiz

> Sunday Carvery 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Takeaway Fish & Chips, Pizzas available

Do you value out trees?

If you like trees and know a bit about them you might like to consider volunteering as a Tree Warden for the parish.

The Parish Council would like someone to take on this role to give advice whenever there is a planning application for tree work in the conservation area, and more generally to be aware of the health of trees in the parish. It wouldn't be a time-consuming role.

• Parish Clerk, 810786, parishclerk@marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk

Can you help one of these organisations?

The Coronation Hall is looking for additional committee members. In particular, they would like to find a new Booking Clerk and would also like to hear from anyone interested in being involved in any capacity.

The Trustees of the Recreation Ground are looking for one or more Trustees and need a Secretary and Treasurer. Would you like to be a part of the group looking after our open space, the gym equipment, tennis courts and Kids' Play Area?

• For either contact: Jo Albon, 810356, joanna@albon-art.eclipse.co.uk

New websites

Mary Tavy & Brentor School has a new website and it's at a new address: www.marytavyandbrentorpri.co.uk

The Coronation Hall will soon have its own website with booking details and a calendar. Full details will be in the next issue.

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 19 April, 7pm, Coronation Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to meet with Councillors and ask questions, as well as to hear reports about what has been and will be happening in the parish.

There will be opportunities for informal discussions as well as the formal business, including presentation of accounts and an outline of the budget for the current year. There will also be a presentation and open discussion on possible alternative energy projects.

Refreshments will be provided by the WI.



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Spring Sale
Sat 14 May 2pm

Coronation Hall







Although not as significant in our industrial history as other mines in the parish, Wheal Betsy is important to us all in many ways - it is a local landmark and a visual reminder of our mining heritage, it's used as the Jubilee Group logo, the logo for the PO &

Stores and on the header of the

Parish Council website.

It is the last standing engine house on Dartmoor, and we are fortunate still to have it; in the mid 1950s the Army had permission to demolish it, but in stepped a group of campaigners and Wheal Betsy was saved. It was handed to the National Trust in the 1960s.

The National Trust and the Jubilee Group

Last year the National Trust purchased a large part of the moorland around Wheal Betsy from South West Water. The Jubilee Group has been in touch with them to ask if there are any plans to increase parking and viewing access and provide information boards. The National Trust has said they would like to work with the Jubilee Group on this and the process will be started once they've completed some initial studies.

Would you like a Wheal Betsy mug and tea towel?

Our local landmark has been beautifully depicted by Dartmoor artist Helen White. Helen has kindly donated a mug and a tea towel for the Jubilee Group Heritage Collection. She will also make a donation to the Jubilee Group for any sales through our website:

www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk



See the back page for ideas about other unique Mary Tavy gifts.

neal Bets Now & Then



The Leaning Tower of Dartmoor

Myth has it that the devil - after he lost a game of cards - flew in a rage over the moor and bumped into the chimney at Wheal Betsy, causing the distinctive bend.



Orientated north-south along the Cholwell valley, the lead lode exploited at Wheal Betsy



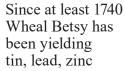
contains galena, sphalerite, siderite and some rarer minerals.

Galena from Wheal Betsy www.minecaptain.plus.com



Recently the Jubilee Group was contacted about a snuff box, made of silver from Wheal Betsy, which a gentleman had recently acquired. It was reported in the 1950s that three Wheal Betsy snuff boxes were made in the early 1820s. We know of four references to the snuff boxes including Plymouth Museum, Canada and New Zealand, so it might be that there were more than three, or they have moved about a bit.

The gentleman will be visiting us to show us his snuff box and allow us to photograph it for the Jubilee Group Heritage collection.



and silver. From around 1816 it was mined along with Wheal Friendship under the management of the then 19 year old John Taylor.

During the height of production in 1821-1830 sales from Wheal Betsy were recorded as 52,302 ounces of silver, 4,000 tons of pig lead, 1,195 tons of lead ore and 77 tons of litharge (lead oxide) which produced a net income of £102,661.

In 1862 Prince Arthur, a son of Queen Victoria, was shown around the Mary Tavy mines by Captain Kent. The Prince presented a gold pencil case to Captain Kent, and refreshments were provided at The Royal Standard.

The following year Wheal Betsy mine was under new ownership and it was re-named Prince Arthur Consols. Over the following few years a lot of new equipment was installed. The engine house was constructed in 1868 to house a 50" Cornish beam steam engine which pumped water from the mine.



The Tavistock Penny, a token used to pay miners when coin of the realm was in short supply, and exchanged for goods in shops and pubs.

In 1869 the mine was sold again and it reverted to its original name of Wheal Betsy. The lode was worked on a reduced scale until 1877 when Wheal Betsy mine was finally closed.



A sublime time-lapse video of Wheal Betsy can be seen on You Tube, search for david james wheal betsy



Art and Photo Competition

SEE YOUR ART IN PRINT ON POSTCARDS OR MUGS

The Jubilee Group is planning to create and sell mugs and postcards, and possibly other items (suggestions welcome), with the designs done by Mary Tavy residents. There's no age limit and we hope the designs will range from a child's naive painting to a truly artistic photograph, with every other option between.

The items will help fund-raising for projects within the village, and the winners will of course all be given a presentation copy of the finished items.

We expect to go with three designs for a mug and the same number or more for postcards.

The subject matter must relate to the area and ideally it will include the words Mary Tavy, and could include a signature of the artist (or both those things can go on the back of postcards).

Mug: Image needs to be 3 times as wide as it is high. It's usual to have the most important part of the image to the left or right of the design, not the centre.

Postcards: Size 148 x 105 mm.

Please get your designs to us by the end of May if possible.

• Jubilee Group, 08455 193812, art@mtjubileegroup.co.uk

Brentor Garden Club

The Club meets on the third Thursday, at Brentor Village Hall, 7.30pm. Visitors very welcome. £2.00 on the door.

Thurs 21 Apr **Growing Edibles in Small Places** A talk by Sue Fisher

Thurs 19 May **Australian Gardens and Bush Walks** A talk by Jonathon Hutchinson

• Sue Stephens 01822 860374

Changes to Bus Service 46/46A/46B

Plymouth Citybus have made a number of changes which took effect just after Easter. The changes are due to a reduction in "commercial provision" between Plymouth and Tavistock with a knock-on effect on journeys to the north.

- Buses now leave Tavistock Bus Station at 30 minutes past the hour instead of 25. The 1440 from Okehampton Fore Street will leave at 1420.
- The 0930 and 1330 from Tavistock Bus Station and 1040 and 1420 from Okehampton Fore Street will operate direct from Mary Tavy to Lydford, and will not serve Brentor.
- There will no longer be a through service to or from Plymouth at 0725, 1140, 1420 and 1640 from Okehampton Fore Street and 0830, 1330, 1530 and 1740 from Tavistock Bus Station. Other through journeys remain, and alternative connections are available on Stagecoach 1/X1 between Tavistock and Plymouth.
- www.plymouthbus.co.uk



The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group is a Charitable Trust. 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."

There is no formal membership of the Jubilee Group - if you live in Mary Tavy you are a member.

The Jubilee Group receives no funding through the Parish precept and is supported mostly by donations from local people and by grants which are sought for specific projects.

Trustees: Ali Fife Cook, Michael Fife Cook, Peter Jarvis Newsletter Editor: Ali Fife Cook

Would you like to get involved? / Would you like to advertise? / Have you got ideas for projects? Phone: 08455 193812 (free from a landline) email: mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk

Twitter: @marytavyjubilee Website: www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk