



# The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group Newsletter No.12

February/March 2016

Free

## The Royal Standard



In April 1643, Sir Nicholas Slanning raised the Royal Standard on the spot where the pub now stands, asking the local peasants if they would take the King's penny and fight at the nearby Battle of Sourton Down.

During the 1840s the present inn was built to quench the thirst of miners working at Wheal Friendship copper mine.

The latest part of this story is that the Royal Standard is currently closed and available for a new owner, either for the remainder of the lease (up to 2023) or freehold.

- Stonessmith Property Specialists, 01392 201262, [info@stonesmith.co.uk](mailto:info@stonesmith.co.uk)

## Precept reduction of 2%

At its January meeting Mary Tavy Parish Council agreed a drop in the precept rate by 2%.

In these times of cuts it is likely most other parish councils will be increasing their precept. However the Council feels it is appropriate to make use of reserves as well as to be careful with expenditure. With effective management it finds it can still provide all the important services for the parish, and

actually increase maintenance, whilst reducing the money it takes from parishioners. This is despite a reduction in the funding received from WDBC and the likelihood the parish will need to take over some services previously provided by WDBC.

The saving per household won't be significant as the largest elements within Council Tax are for services provided by DCC, WDBC and the Police Authority.

But every little helps.

## Mary Tavy PO & Stores

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and General Stores

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*Come and see what your local village shop has to offer.*

**Martin Bradford**  
Director and  
Sub-Postmaster

**01822 810422**



## Japanese knotweed

**Come and help us start the eradication process**

The Jubilee Group is working with Dartmoor National Park Authority and with help from the Parish Council on this project, which we started in October with initial mapping.

On advice from an ecologist with DNPA we are going to undertake a multi-phase eradication process, with pulling or cutting new growth this spring, followed by several phases of spraying



*The picture shows Japanese knotweed as it is likely to look in early spring.*

and more pulling/cutting over a period of possibly three years.

We need to have our first go at the pulling/cutting when the new growth is at the right stage, probably late March. Rather than arrange a specific date we need to assess the growth and we'd like to have a group of people ready, willing and able to get involved.

**Please put your name forward to join this task force so that we can contact you when the time is right.**

We've mapped Japanese knotweed in several areas around the village but if you have seen what you think might be Japanese knotweed please let us know so that we can map it.

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

## A Village Green or not a Village Green?

Very few parishioners have been aware that a small piece of land at the end of Standard Court, alongside the footpath that goes up to Gibbet Hill, was termed a Village Green. For decades the Village Green, despite not being used for any village activities for a very long time, was being maintained by the Parish, paid through the precept at a cost of several hundreds of pounds a year.

The Parish Council, whilst investigating possible options for the future of the green, discovered that not only did it not own the land but it was not, and could not be, registered as a village green, and this was known back in the mid 1960s. The Parish Council felt that the maintenance budget could be

spent more effectively elsewhere in the village, to the benefit of the whole community. The local residents were told that there would be no objection from the Parish Council if they wanted to maintain the area themselves. And that is what they are doing, and doing really well, it is looking very smart. The local residents can take pride in their achievement.

A group of residents in Horndon want to do the opposite, they want an area of grass in the centre of the hamlet to become their village green. They've been using it for barbecues and social gatherings, and they want to erect a noticeboard to keep residents and visitors informed of activities.

Investigations through the Parish Council found that the land does not appear to be owned by anyone. The proposal is that the Parish Council aims to adopt the land - a ten year process to allow time for anyone who believes they own the land to come forward. In the meantime, The Horndon Green Group, consisting of a number of local residents, have agreed to keep the grass cut and maintain the area.

A truly happy outcome for everyone.



*Residents of Horndon enjoying themselves at a social event on their 'Village Green' last summer.*

### KEVIN HILBORN

- ✿ FENCING ✿ LOGS ✿
- ✿ TREEFELLING ✿
- ✿ SHEEPSHEARING ✿

01822 810381  
07971 557208



### "Sensory & Sensibility"

The Sensory Bus is currently off the road, so instead of being parked at Downs Garage, the team will be in the Methodist Hall, 4th Tues in Feb & Mar, 10am-12noon.

On the 4th Wed each month, 10.30-11.30am, there's coffee, chat and a jigsaw swap at the Methodist Hall to coincide with the visit of the Library van.

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

### Brentor Garden Club

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

Thurs 18th February  
A talk by Simon Dell MBE  
"A Journey to Everest"

Thurs 17th March  
A talk by Rupert Baker  
"The Way Trees Work"

- Heather Webster  
01822 810004



### SHORTMAT BOWLS NOW ON A WEDNESDAY EVENING

Short Mat Bowls is very popular in Mary Tavy, and as well as meeting on a Tuesday morning there are also now sessions on Wednesday evenings 7-9pm. It's fun, come and join us, either get in touch or just turn up.

- Doreen Rogers, 810824

### Coronation Hall New Kitchen

Work has been underway to install a new kitchen in the Coronation Hall, thanks to a substantial Lottery grant as well as previous grants from the Parish Council. It will mean that the kitchen can be used for cooking rather than just re-heating and it will be easier and more pleasant to work in.

- coronationhallmarytavy@hotmail.com



### PLANNING APPLICATION DRAWINGS

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## The Jubilee Group has been awarded a substantial grant for Flood Resilience

The Jubilee Group recently came across mention of a grant through Devon Communities Together. The Flood Resilience grant is to provide equipment for dealing with a flood emergency.

After considerable research a grant application for a dozen items was made, including a flood barrier, petrol pump and hoses, other equipment and a trailer to keep everything in, ready for instant use. The Water-Gate barrier is an ingenious device which is easy to deploy and can be used to either hold back or channel flood water.

The grant application was approved and £2,000 of equipment will now be purchased. It will be stored centrally and will be available through the Jubilee Group or the Parish Council, alongside other emergency equipment.

It was recently reported that the main landowners around Gibbet Hill have done maintenance work on leats, and there's been a lot of leat and ditch clearing undertaken by DCC Highways this year. With a huge volume of rain this winter there haven't so far been any widespread



incidences of flooding. It's nice to be able to report on jobs well done. But if there should be any flooding in the future, it can now be dealt with quickly, thanks to the Jubilee Group.

• Jubilee Group (see back page), or MTPC Emergency Officer, marytavy@hotmail.com

### Mary Tavy Commoners Association AGM

Mon 15th Feb, 7.30pm  
Brentor Village Hall  
Secretary, 810276

### Tor & Tavy WI

February will see us line dancing with Janet Broombridge. In March Tom Sobey, a Dartmoor Guide, is giving a talk on the Moor. In April we shall be visited by Mike Stevens to tell us about garden plants and what to do at that time of year.

We also have a visit from Quicks cheeses and a Caribbean cookery evening ahead of us.

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.

- Trish 810115, Lucie 814840, Judi 614198



### A better and brighter future for Bonfire Night

Thanks all those who came to enjoy the evening, thanks to the weather which made that possible, thanks to all the 30+ people who helped on the day, thanks to many local businesses, and thanks to the generous sponsorship of The Pool Guy, SJP Motors, The Mary Tavy Inn, and C J Down Coaches – Bonfire Night last November was a great success.

The Jubilee Group and Trustees of the Recreation Ground have decided to put most of the profits towards new safety and lighting equipment which will ensure Bonfire Night has an even better and brighter future.

*Dear Jubilee Group,*

*We would like to record our sincere thanks for such a wonderful, well organised evening, we thoroughly enjoyed all that was available for us and upon speaking to others, they were as pleased as we were.*

*It is truly appreciated what both the Jubilee Group and The Field are doing to bring Mary Tavy together.*

*Bob and Sheila Hines*

### Blackdown Garage Site

The agent for the site has informed us that the property has been temporarily withdrawn for sale but weren't able to give any further information. They've promised to keep us informed.

### The Mary Tavy Inn

[www.themarytavyinn.co.uk](http://www.themarytavyinn.co.uk)

01822 810326

#### Forthcoming Events

30th January  
Curry & Skittles Night

27th February  
Belfast Busker  
If you need a laugh you must be here !!!

5th March  
Live Music  
Sam & Glenn

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

Jubilee Group Newsletter No.13 will be out at the end of March. Get in touch if you have any stories, want to advertise or want to receive the Newsletter by email.

## Mary Tavy Parish Council

With freezing conditions now affecting our roads our Emergency & Snow Warden (aka Councillor John Hill) has informed us that all the salt / grit bins in the parish have been topped up and are ready for use. Additional bags have also been placed in strategic locations. If you encounter hazardous road conditions, please take the time to spread a light covering of the grit across the affected area. Parishioners who take such positive action must take the greatest care and on no account place themselves or their vehicles in danger from other less careful road users. It surely goes without saying that the contents of these bags and bins should not be used on private drives or car parks.

The most significant development in Council business has been the formal adoption of the proposed budget for the coming financial year 2016-2017. It is of course a legal requirement for a Parish Council to set a budget as it details not only how much money it will require for operational purposes but, in general terms, what it will be spent on. Once the budget is set the Council requests the Tier 2 authority, WDBC, to collect this sum, known as the precept, from the tax payer as part of its overall Council Tax demand. The important point for local tax payers is that MTPC has, by reducing its expenditure where possible and by using its reclaimed VAT, reduced the precept demand by 2%. Parishioners should see this very modest reduction as a clear indicator of the financial prudence embraced by the current Council. We are sure you will all have realised that our very modest precept reduction will not greatly affect the size of your Council Tax bill. Other local agencies are of course being faced with grave financial problems when trying to deliver essential services and have little choice but to ask for higher levels of funding. That being said, we do not believe that parish precepts should automatically be increased to cover possible reductions in non-statutory services provided by other levels of local government. Nor do we subscribe to the concept of collecting tax payers' money and, through somewhat creative accounting, feeding it into the reserves to fund the vague possibility of future projects. Parishioners can be assured that all projects and services created or adopted by this Parish Council will only become policy after thorough investigation and in-depth financial assessment.

While MTPC will continue to press for our fair share of public services we do believe that the inevitable reductions created by budget cuts can be partly addressed by a pragmatic approach on the part of both residents and Parish Council. Put

simply "self-help" must be an important part of our response. One way in which we can all ease the pressure on the police is to take positive steps regarding security of our property and possessions. Valuable items left on open display with open windows and unlocked doors all serve to encourage opportunist theft. We have been reminded by the police that a favourite target for thieves is an unlocked garage, garden shed or workshop. Such places often contain expensive equipment which can disappear in the proverbial blink of an eye. Please stay safe and secure and report all suspicious activity to the police.

The problem of speeding traffic on the A386 and indeed on our local roads is well known as are the regular speed checks carried out by the police and the local Community Speed Watch team. We were delighted to hear of School Speed Watch in action (see page opposite) with pupils from our primary school taking their own positive steps to deter unthinking motorists. Once again this is "self-help" in action. Councillors hope that none of those pulled over for exceeding the speed limit were Mary Tavy residents as having to face local children would have been acutely embarrassing.

Our Emergency Warden has also reminded the Council that we need to update our Contingency Plan for self-help in case of extreme emergency. The requirement for such a plan, which applies to all communities, is set out in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. While this sounds rather dramatic, parishioners should not be alarmed by such planning as the vast majority of emergencies will be promptly dealt with by the emergency services, the appropriate local authority or a major utility company. The main aims of this plan are to enable the parish to respond in a co-ordinated and robust manner, to enhance community resilience and to provide a valuable blue-print for the emergency services when they arrive on the scene. The basic foundation for this planning is knowing who has specific skills, who has appropriate equipment and where it is stored and who can offer reserve facilities. I have been asked to draw your attention to the special form which can be downloaded from our website which, once completed, will give us the information we need to comply with this legal requirement. If you have provided information before, please check if there are changes to what you can offer or indeed what you would need in a major emergency. While it is unlikely that we will ever be faced with such a level of difficulty we would all do well to remember the famous quotation "Hope for the best, plan for the worst and prepare to be surprised."

Councillor Peter Jarvis



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Supports the Mary  
Tavy Jubilee Group

### Junior Speed Watch

Drivers through Mary Tavy might, at any time be caught on a mobile speed device if they are breaking the speed limit. One day in December motorists risked being caught for speeding

not just by the Police, but by children! Class 4 of Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary School took part in a Speed Watch exercise along with our local Police Community Support Officer, Dave Chapple. Seven motorists

were caught travelling 35mph or higher and were pulled over to be interviewed by the children and given hand made flyers. This exercise may be repeated in the Spring Term. So motorists, be aware, be very aware!



### Villages in Action

Villages in Action has been using the arts to enrich and support the social vitality of rural communities, offering top quality, professional yet affordable arts experiences.

• [www.villagesinaction.co.uk](http://www.villagesinaction.co.uk)

### The Fossil Lady of Lyme

**Wed 3rd February, 7.30pm, Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy**

Tickets: Margaret 810408, Doreen 810824, PO & Stores

Mary Anning discovered the first complete fossil of a prehistoric reptile in Great Britain when she was just twelve and throughout her life she continued to make spectacular discoveries. In this entertaining one-woman play, Alison Neil - who has delighted ViA audiences over the years with her acclaimed one-woman shows - tells Mary's story in this amusing and moving theatrical treat.



### Balagan Café Band

**Fri 12th February, 7.30pm  
Brentor Village Hall**

Tickets: 810425

The Balagan Café Band is an eclectic chamber group marrying gypsy jazz, medieval music, Balkan folk music and the band's atmospheric originals. With keen musicianship, this is music for the ears, heart and feet!



### Mervyn Stutter

**Fri 11th March, 7.30pm  
Nicholls Hall, Lydford**

Tickets: 820345

Founder member of The Flying Pickets, the hilarious Mervyn Stutter knows how to tell stories and sing songs, poke fun at himself and at the Baby Boomer generation. He makes people laugh and reflect on their lives.



### Jim Causley

**Sat 12th March, 7.30pm  
Peter Tavy Village Hall**

Tickets: 810552

Jim Causley is a renowned Devon-based folk singer and musician with a range of solo shows which might include West Country material or an evening of his own unique songs and traditional material.



## Peter Tavy Guild of Spinners Weavers and Dyers

Two friends, both nationally known weavers, were asked in 1990 by Peter Tavy to "do something textile" for the village. With funding from the Gulbenkin Foundation and then the Lottery Awards, and with a number of successful workshops and exhibitions and a growing group of textile enthusiasts, the Peter Tavy Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers was formed.

The Guild flourished, and met monthly in Peter Tavy,

developing techniques, exhibiting at fairs and craft shows and even being featured on television!

As membership grew the hall became too small, and now the Guild meets in the Coronation Hall in Mary Tavy.



*The Coronation Hall transformed for the Guild's exhibition last October.*

Meetings are on the first Saturday each month. There is a programme of workshops and speakers which extends skills and techniques and an exhibition is held every other year.

It's a friendly and open group and welcomes anyone interested in these crafts, from novices who cannot tell warp from weft to those who exhibit and teach nationally. Who couldn't have fun in such a group! Anyone interested can contact the membership secretary -

- Dee Corlett,  
deecorlett@gmail.com

## Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy Women's Institute

This WI was started just after WW2 in 1949 - post war austerity was still on so it would have been very much jam and Jerusalem!

Our meetings have always been in the afternoon, 2pm on the 2nd Thursday each month (except August) in the Coronation Hall. We start with a speaker, followed by tea, cake and chat and then discuss any business - who would like to take part in the County Quiz, where shall we go for our outing, who has plants for our Spring Sale, etc. But

we can be serious when the occasion demands, discussing national resolutions and voting for the one we think most important.

The Women's Institute is a great way of making friends and, if you want to, learning new skills.

We have no members from Peter Tavy at the moment and any would get a very warm welcome, as would all other new members or visitors!

- Barbara Weeks, 810697,  
barbarafweeks@googlemail.com

## Brilliant Christmas Trees

The Jubilee Group was one of 14 village organisations and businesses which took part in the 2nd Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church. All the trees looked brilliant, with much thought having been put into the decorations. The Jubilee Group's tree, All Around the Village, displayed photographs, of fetes, fairs, and pantos from our Heritage Collection.

The event realised £560 for St. Mary's ~ an excellent result. The original framed painting by Mrs. Joy Williams, who kindly donated it for the event, was raffled, and was won by Mr. Peter Tinson of Peter Tavy. The £20 note was won by Mr. and Mrs. Hutchins of Mary Tavy.

**Clubs & Local Contacts** This issue is again too full to be able to include the list of Clubs and Contacts. If you want information you could look at Issue No.10 on the Jubilee Group website or give us a call.

## First Steps

The Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary School is running a First Steps Playgroup for young children and their parents and it is proving very popular. It is on the first Friday of each month between 1.15pm and 3.00pm. Contact the school for more information or just turn up.

- 810384, admin@  
marytavyandbrentor.devon.sch.uk



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## A Message from our Dartmoor Park Ranger

Early 2016 brings opportunities to look at some of the outstanding issues on Public Rights of

Way that have been left from last year. I am taking the opportunity to dig out a few drains, renew a few signposts and generally address some of the tidying up of gates and stiles that is needed. A great opportunity to work off the seasonal excess with a spade and iron bar.

There are already things coming up in the next few months that have been confirmed including a talk at the Museum of Dartmoor Life in April and a day's volunteering opportunity for

local Ramblers Groups in March. This year's Safety on Dartmoor Day date has changed, and will now be held at Lydford Sports field on Saturday 28th May. The date has been changed partly to avoid clashing with other local shows and partly to hopefully encourage some attendance and involvement with local schools.

Other activities that are on the horizon are a co-ordinated tackling of Japanese knotweed in and around Mary Tavy with the Jubilee Group, and the renewing of some of the gate latches running along the A386.

Ten Tors training will start in earnest over the next few weeks

once again, so our message about ground nesting birds and the restricted areas associated will be once again going out loud and clear to the groups. Part of the weekend patrolling will be based around making sure that these areas are being left alone, especially as we get closer to Spring.

So, as always, please do not hesitate to give me a ring if you have any issues regarding the Rights of Way, or indeed if you have any other enquiries regarding the things I or the wider DNPA get involved with.

See you about.

- Rob Taylor, 07711 104542  
rtaylor@dartmoor.gov.uk

## Missing History of the Reading Room and Snooker Club

The Reading Room was built in 1910 with land donated by Henry James and the building work undertaken by Mr C Doidge of Tavistock. The two rooms were set up as a centre of relaxation, education and recreation, including a billiard table and library including a full set of encyclopaedias and other books, with newspapers delivered daily.

The Jubilee Heritage Group History is trying to help the Trustees of the Reading Rooms to find information which is missing from its archives.

For some decades it would have been the centre of activities in the village before the Coronation Hall was built. It even functioned as a collection point for spagnum moss used as field dressings during WWI. However in the 1950s the building had become somewhat derelict but thanks to local fundraising it was fully restored. So if you know of any images or information regarding the restoration, we would like to be able to copy



or scan it and can return the originals to you.

Also the Trustees are keen to locate minutes of meetings for the Reading Rooms or Snooker Club prior to 3rd October 1978. Those present at that date were: R Pratt (Chairman), S Gibson, A Fullbrook, D Warne, D Parker, R Digby, and S Arnold. So if any relations or former members of



the club have any copies of minutes or any other information regarding the Reading Rooms it would be great if copies could be obtained.

A legacy for the up-keep of the Rooms was left by a local resident and is administered by nominated trustees. Today the Rooms are in use by the Snooker Club, and for meetings of the Commoners and Parish Council.

- History: Jubilee Group (details on back page), or Bookings & Snooker: Ron Quilter, 810538, ronquilter@hotmail.com

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## What a mess!

In mid-November a large pile of cardboard boxes was dumped in the lay-by on the A386 south of Mary Tavy. It was reported by a parishioner to Cllr Michael Fife Cook. Michael found some of the boxes were labelled and an investigation started. The boxes were traced to Britannia Lanes of Devon, a removal company, but they vehemently denied that it was anything to do with them.

Michael then reported the fly-tipping to the Environmental Health Department at West Devon Borough Council.

With further evidence from an eye-witness, and many phone calls and emails later, Britannia Lanes of Devon did eventually admit it had been their drivers, during a house move which, because the road was too narrow for their pantechnicon, meant they used the lay-by as part of a shuttle arrangement. They did agree to remove the rubbish within a couple of days. However by this time it was already sodden and it was being blown all over the road.

In the meantime WDBC had come out and cleared all the rubbish. On being thanked and



given the name of the culprit (so that they might send a bill) their response was "Community in action! Bravo."

Britannia Lanes of Devon was asked if they'd like to make a donation to the Jubilee Group in recompense. We are still waiting.



Mary Tavy Twinning Association

### Quiz Night



**Friday 5th February 2016, Coronation Hall, 7.30 pm**

£5 per person (£3 for children) to include a ploughman's supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses, Maximum 6 players per table

Advance tickets available from Doreen 810824, Howard 810519 or  
Martin & Tracey at the Post Office & Stores

## Do you know any older person who is feeling socially isolated?

Time for Life is a free service covering the whole of Devon for anyone 65 or over who has become socially isolated and wants to join groups and activities or make new friends but finds it hard to start.

The Co-ordinator for the West Devon area, Ali Fife Cook, lives in Mary Tavy and she has recently been joined by a new Community Enabler, Jane Honey, who also lives in Mary Tavy. They are part of a team of five working in this area.

• Tfl 0845 304 7267, [www.timeforlife.org.uk](http://www.timeforlife.org.uk) or Ali 810897, [ali@timeforlife.org.uk](mailto:ali@timeforlife.org.uk)



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[www.sjpmotorservices.co.uk](http://www.sjpmotorservices.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 **0845 5193 812** (free from a landline) email [mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk](mailto:mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk)  
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