

The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group Newsletter No.14

June/July 2016

Free



Jubilee Heritage Days "What a great weekend"

In April, our Heritage Days attracted something like 150 people, and everyone got thoroughly engrossed in our large and in-depth collection of historical items - from mining to social history, from photographs to handwritten documents.

What was particularly exciting was the information brought to the event by current and previous residents; we now have additional photographs, newspaper cuttings, panto programmes and artefacts, and we've been able to put a lot of names to some of our photographs.

We had a visit from Christina Franks née Warland who now lives in Kingsbridge, the daughter of the Vicar at St.Mary's up to his retirement in 1988. She was delighted to find lots of photographs and indeed people from her past, and to our delight she came with many items which we have scanned and added to our heritage collection, including some unique items. The marbling above is from the cover of the Buller's Sale book of 1891 when many parcels of land and properties in the parish were sold by the Buller family. It proved the most popular item during our Heritage Days. We need to repair the maps then we'll get everything copied and scanned so that the information can more easily be accessed, as the book itself is precious and fragile. Would you like to help with restoration?

We now have a copy of a handwritten (but we don't know who wrote it down) poem by A.L.Rowse to John Betjamin on his 70th birthday in 1976, all about visiting Mary Tavy Church, which starts -

Mary Tavy, Mary Tavy, Glinting in the Autumn sun, We draw up at the Churchyard gate, After a Sunday morning run.

and a later verse -

And what shall we find at Mary Tavy? Apprehensively we search Up the path and in at the porch -To find the parish all in church.



Jubilee Heritage Group

Our current aims are to –

List all the items we hold;

Catalogue the collection and make it available online;

Record memories from long-term residents;

Get lots of volunteers involved with archieving and restoration;

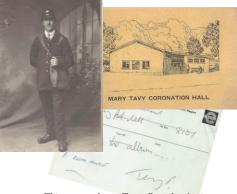
Hold walks, talks and events.

We were amazed to receive a Chinese coin which had been found by Justin Skinner, a metal detectorist, in the Recreation

Ground. These 18thC Chinese coins were, apparently, often used for trading in minerals. Even more surprising was when a second person, Dave Paget-Woods, came with a Chinese coin he'd



found, he believes, in his garden in Horndon.



This memo shows Terry Pratchett's signature, when he worked here with the Electricity Board

Cataloguing Day

Come and help us with listing and cataloguing our collection (if you're able to bring a laptop that would be helpful, but by no means essential).

Saturday 25th June between 10am and 4pm Reading Room

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



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A Message from our Dartmoor Park Ranger

The Annual Ten Tors event passed relatively smoothly this weekend gone, with great weather and excellent visibility. As one team leader put it to me drily over the weekend,

"if they can't find their way around this weekend, they shouldn't be here"! And so it proved, a lower drop-out percentage than previous years, with only three needing brief hospital visits to tend to minor injuries this turned out to be a more memorable event for all the right reasons thankfully. Whilst visiting the various check points and safety control points, there was a definite feeling of enjoyment and achievement as the weekend unfolded, especially on the final leg of the walk, where I spoke to a lot of teams heading towards their final check point. Not only were they positive and looking forward to the pasty awaiting them, but many were able to sit down and enjoy the view for a time remarking "oh – it's nice isn't it"! Yes it is, come back again.

I've just finished a morning with Plymouth Ramblers repairing a couple of paths and putting cross drains into the paths around Peter Tavy Combe. This is the second such task day with them and the numbers doubled to ten participants today. They seemed to go away having enjoyed themselves, and seem pretty convinced they can get more to come along. This is good news, as we are looking to involve more user groups over the coming months, helping us

Odd Jobs? General Maintenance?

House Repairs? Masonry? Painting & Decorating? Landscaping? Renovations? Building Work? Ground-works? "MIKE'SYOUR MAN!"

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maintain the routes they would normally use, trying to garner interest and support in the long term management of Rights of Way generally.

The swaling (controlled burning of the moor) has come and gone for this year. Mary Tavy commons seem to be the only commons locally that have needed to do any this year as part of their longer term agreement. Thankfully, wildfire incidences seem to be very low so far.

Also, the lambing and bird nesting signs were put up a little over a month ago, asking those walking dogs to keep them on a lead when on the commons. This is especially important through areas of longer, thicker vegetation to reduce the risk of disturbance to ground nesting birds, as well as around stock, especially younger lambs which have been turned out with their mothers back onto the common. It's worth noting that the occasional stories of dog attacks on sheep are all too true unfortunately, as is the farmers right to shoot dogs that worry or cause injures to animals, and although this part of the Moor may be less in the public eye when it comes to the reporting of these incidences, the seriousness and manner of which this sometimes happens is as

prevalent here as it is anywhere. In short the signs are there for a reason, please take notice and encourage others to take notice too.



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

Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI - planting in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday



We meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Coronation Hall at 2pm. In addition to our regular meetings with good and varied speakers, we have a flourishing Book Club and a Walking Group for mixed abilities. We raise funds to pay for speakers and extras with our very popular Spring Sale lots of plants, which was a real challenge this year!

For many years we have maintained the garden opposite the War Memorial and have just had a big weed! Using funds raised from providing refreshments at the recent Annual Parish Meeting, a pretty shrub, *Photinia 'Little Red Robin*' was planted in honour of the Queen's 90th Birthday.

• Barbara Weeks 810697



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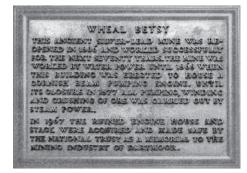
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Mary Tavy's unsung hero

Long-term resident George Hill has provided us with some personal memories, brought to the fore by our article about Wheal Betsy in the previous issue of the Newsletter -

"In 1959 for some reason the army came in and blew up 'Wheal Friendship' Bennetts part of the mine just 500 meters from Mary Tavy School with explosives; they used so much explosives rocks fell all over the village; even a rock 10" across went through a window in a house next to C.J Downs.

The next day the army team was supposed to go and blow up 'Wheal Betsy' but due to a man called David Dent who lived at Cholwell Farm this part of Mary Tavy's heritage didn't get blown up. He went to the army and told them his wife Margret was heavily pregnant and they were not to blow it up. Mary Tavy's unsung hero, he saved the most historic building in Mary Tavy."



This picture is of the plaque afixed to Wheal Betsy when taken over by the National Trust in 1967.



Clean and Tidy

The Jubilee Group undertook its Spring Clean at the end of April, weeding and pruning in the garage site, picking up rubbish around the centre of the village and doing a bit of painting in the Kids' Play Area.

Also the road signs around the village are being cleaned and cleared of vegetation.

The Parish Council has increased its budget for mainentenance and now the gardener, Craig Gardiner, will be strimming around the telephone boxes, clearing leaves and cobwebs from the bus shelter, and straightening signs that don't come under the responsibility of other authorities, as well as looking after parts of the cemetery.

The Parish Council was recently awarded a grant, along with Peter Tavy and Brentor, for the employment of a lengthsman to clear ditches on all the smaller roads within the parish.

If you see something around the parish that needs repair or tidying don't just pass it by if it's litter then pick it up, if it's something that will come under the responsibility of DCC Highways you can report it direct to them or to the Parish Council.

Between us all we can keep our parish clean and tidy.



Brentor's first all day music festival

Saturday 16th July 2pm-11.30pm Brentor Village Hall and Marguee

Local bands performing include The Advocates and Dad Dancing and The Fireblockers from Chagford will be headlining.

There will be a hog-roast and a bar run by The Castle Inn.

Tickets: Adults £6, Children £4 before 14th July. Adults £8, children £6 on the day. Available from Dom 810425, Colin 811079, Lyford Farm Shop, Mary Tavy Post Office & Stores, Tavistock Bookstop.

• www.brenstock.org.uk

Japanese knotweed

We had planned a Task Force day to deal with the new spring growth of Japanese knotweed but the growth was not at the correct stage. The next step is spraying but this has to be undertaken by trained individuals. We'll continue to monitor the situation, and in the meantime please continue to look out for any new patches and report them to us.

• Identification and mapping: Martin Evans, 810959, martinandpatricia@outlook.com

KEVIN HILBORN

FENCING * LOGS *

- TREEFELLING .
- SHEEPSHEARING *

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Mary Tavy Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting, which was held on the 19th April, marked the end of this Council's first year in office. Sadly, attendance was disappointingly low with just over 20 parishioners present. There was a significant departure from previous years as on this occasion all parishioners who attended were presented with printed sheets detailing how the Parish Council had spent the funds derived from local taxation during the previous 12 months. Despite this positive step forward, designed to match current requirements on "operational transparency" and the positive news on the financial actions and decisions which had allowed us to conserve existing funds and to reduce the Parish Precept demand by a modest 2%, the proceedings were marred by a stream of complaints from a small group of ex-Councillors and others on minor issues. Despite being provided with adequate explanations these individuals persisted in clinging to their biased views which, in turn, were based on a refusal to accept established facts. Such a negative approach did nothing for the quality of this public meeting and we can only hope that next year will bring a better tempered meeting attended by a greater cross section of the local community. MTPC will, of course, take all possible steps to ensure a more positive meeting takes place.

As many parishioners will be aware MTPC should have a full complement of 9 elected or coopted Councillors. Our present strength is 5 and a corporate decision was made at an early stage in 2015 not to actively seek any extension to our number during the first 12 months. This decision was simply a reflection of the amount of time being taken up by the completion of work and major projects left outstanding by the previous Council and the appointment and establishment of a replacement Parish Clerk. It had become very apparent under these circumstances that we would be unable to find sufficient time for the proper induction and education of new Councillors. While time, needless to say, seems to be as elusive as ever we believe we have reached an appropriate point where we should invite parishioners to volunteer for co-option onto the Council to fill the first of the 4 vacancies. If you think you have suitable experience and skills that would complement the existing team, please give serious consideration to our request for volunteers. Applicants have to be over the age of 18 and it is essential to have an open mind

and to be prepared to work with an established team. It surely goes without saying that the position of Councillor involves rather more than making yourself available for a monthly meeting! Equally putting your name forward does not mean automatic appointment. Further details are available from our Parish Clerk, Mrs. Kerri Higham 01822 810786.

The 5 existing Councillors have become increasingly saddened and irritated by the loudly expressed opinions of certain parishioners. These individual are very quick to identify what they think we should have done but take great care to offer no practical support themselves or to volunteer for public office. Perhaps it is time for us all to remember John F. Kennedy's famous words in his inaugural address in 1961 "Ask not what your country can do for you ~ ask what you can do for your country." Substitute the word "parish" for "country" and you have arrived at the heart of the matter concerning the future of good parish government in Mary Tavy.

Finally, we come to "The Case of The Vanishing Lawnmower." As reported in the press the Honda lawnmower owned by MTPC has gone missing from its shed in the parish cemetery. What has not been clearly reported is that the shed door remains undamaged, the lock is intact as is the security shackle and chain used to secure the mower to the ground beneath the shed as well as its attendant high security padlock. Clearly someone with access to the necessary keys is involved in the removal of the mower but no-one, including members of the previous Council, can throw any light on the matter. Indeed, it remains unclear as to the exact date when the mower was last accounted for. We of course have had no option but to report the issue of the vanishing lawnmower to the police as an act of theft in order to satisfy the requirements set by our insurance company. It may well be that the police will choose to make enquiries with all those who are / were connected to the safe keeping of parish property and we would wholeheartedly welcome such action. If any parishioner has information as to the whereabouts of our mower, please contact the Parish Clerk without delay. Information will be treated with full confidentiality but will, in turn, be passed to the relevant authorities.

Councillor Peter Jarvis, Chairman Mary Tavy Parish Council



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Brentor Garden Club

16th June Fragrant Plants A talk by Jeremy Wilson 21st July Garden Visit

Meetings on the third Thursday each month, 7.30pm, Brentor Village Hall. Visitors very welcome. £2.00 on the door.

• Sue Stephens 01822 860374

Open Gardens in aid of St. Luke's Hospice Saturday 4th June, 11am to 5pm, Brentor

Two moorland cottage gardens: Terry and Beryl Higgs at The Hawthorns and Sally and Chris Pancheri, in Burn Lane.

Access to part of the old GWR track, and "Sally's Wood", havens for wildllife. Cakes, tea, coffee and plant sales. Admission £5. Dogs on leads. Follow orange arrows from Downs Garage.

Beryl Light, beryl49@me.com

The Elephant's Nest Cricket Club in 2016

By the time of print we hope to have got our season underway with a few games after a very wet spring. We are a club that only play friendlies and our

main aim is to enjoy ourselves on the field whilst remaining competitive. Our fixture list contains 32 fixtures this year, mainly on Thursday evenings

Н

1800



Wednesday	1	June	Whitchurch Wayfarers CC
Wednesday	8	June	Kelly Kasuals
Sunday	12	June	Fortescue Arms CC
Wednesday	15	June	Oddballs CC
Thursday	23	June	The Rock CC
Friday	24	June	Mary Tavy PTA
Sunday	26	June	The Philanthropists CC
Wednesday	29	June	Buckland CC
Saturday	2	July	President's XI

1800 Mount Kelly А Н 1430 The Nest А 1800 Cornwood Н 1800 The Nest Н 1800 The Nest Н 1430 The Nest н 1800 The Nest 1300 The Nest н

The Nest

We could slow traffic and celebrate the village's mining heritage

Village gateways – walls, picket fences, carved stones, planters can be seen at the entrance to many villages. In the 1990s Devon CC was part of a study which proved that gateways helped to slow traffic by showing drivers that they were about to enter a different environment from the open road.

The Jubilee Group has been thinking that it might be good to have gateways for Mary Tavy, especially if we could use redundant mining equipment.

We haven't yet discussed this with DNPA or DCC Highways, but perhaps we could start by seeing if we can find suitable items. Does anyone know of the whereabouts of equipment (perhaps similar to these parts of our heritage just over the river)?



and Sunday afternoons, and our annual tour takes us to Bristol at the end of May.

In December we had our presentation evening for last season, the Batting award went to Pete Wilson who scored 384 runs at an average of 24 and the Bowling award went to David Cherrington who took 10 wickets at an average of 12, also a special mention must go to Richard Stacy who won the Duck trophy for 5 ducks during the year failing to register a single run.

We are always on the lookout for new players/helpers/spectators so please come along to the pub for one of our fixtures or give me a ring.

 Captain: Ben Neale, 07725 419417, benjineale@gmail.com





It is fairly obvious from its name that Gibbet Hill is where criminals were publicly executed. Most often they would have been highwaymen but also possibly murderers or sheep stealers. They were left hanging for long after death with the sight intended to discourage others from committing similar offences.

Tor & Tavy WI - Cheese, Murders and a Ramble

Our monthly meetings are now held in Mary Tavy Coronation Hall, this is so that we will be more accessible and have a larger meeting place with good facilities and parking. It is often misty and icy in the winter months and therefore a trip across the moor to reach Brentor would sometimes put members off coming, so the move makes good sense.

This year started with our annual quiz night for which we were joined by members from Whitchurch St Andrews, Gulworthy, Bere Ferrers and Mary Tavy - we were not expecting so many people and will have to double up on food next year! In February we were entertained by Janet, a local lady from Tavistock, who came to teach us line dancing. On the Sunday morning of the week that we were expecting Tom Sobey, a Dartmoor Guide, to come and talk to us on the National Trust on Dartmoor, I had a phone call from him to tell me he had slipped a disc and was flat on his back. Slight panic, then on a visit to the plant sale at the Pannier Market that morning the Tavistock Bee Society stall was spotted and they were asked if anyone could fill a gap at the last minute. After talking to Greg Smith and telling him of our plight he agreed to come out to Brentor with bee hive, honey, brochures and a most entertaining and lively talk.

In June we'll meet one week earlier than usual because of the EU referendum. We will have Stuart from Quicke's Cheeses visiting us with a talk and hopefully some tasty nibbles. July sees Simon Dell taking us into three murders and a suicide on Dartmoor and, on a lighter note, we are planning a Summer Supper Ramble for August.

Future plans include Mark Hoare giving a talk on Parkinsons and Alison Gribble with Caribbean Cooking. Do come and join us and see what is planned for the future by picking up a brochure.

We meet on the 4th Thursday each month (3rd Thurs in June), 7.30pm, Coronation Hall. Ring if you would like to join us, or just come along.

• Trish 810115, Lucie 814840, Judi 614198

Inspired by Dartmoor

An exhibition by members of the West Dartmoor Art Group National Park Visitor Centre, Princetown until 30th June, open every day 10am to 5pm





Gibbet Hill was considered a good location to deter highwaymen on the Tavistock to Okehampton road. There was also an iron cage, in which prisoners were held before their hanging. 'Iron Cage Gate' was by the cattle grid on Brentor Road.

Gibbet Hill, it is said, is now often used as a place to scatter ashes of those who have been cremated; not because of its old associations but because it is a commanding position with great views over the village and the Moor.

Primary School celebrates its 180th Anniversary

You are all invited to our 180th Anniversary celebrations at our school on Wednesday 29th June, 9.15am–11.15am or 1.15pm–3.00pm. There will be lots of displays and work on show as well as performances throughout the day.

We do hope you are able to join us.

Nicky Pratten, Headteacher

• 810384, www.marytavyandbrentorpri.co.uk



ne Button Box

A Musical performed by all pupils of Mary Tavy & Brentor Primary School

Tuesday 12th July 6pm and Wednesday 13th July 2pm & 6pm Coronation Hall

A note from the Editor

Most parishioners will have seen the recent exchange of letters in the Tavistock Times, initially about the history of Beacon Bonfires and a lack of such an event for the Queen's 90th Birthday. The Jubilee Group had arranged the Silver Jubilee bonfire in 2012 and when the Parish Council opted not to arrange anything special for the Queen's birthday, members of the Jubilee Group did consider what might be done by way of celebration. However there was noone we talked to who had sufficient time or enthusiasm to create an appropriate event.

We would have been very happy to help with a beacon bonfire, a tea party or other celebration for the Queen's birthday – but as a voluntary community group, the Jubilee Group is limited to what individuals are able to achieve. All that is needed for exciting things to happen in the community is for someone to offer to help. So if you want something to happen please put forward your ideas as well as your offers of help.

The other subject raised in one of the letters in the paper is the page which the Parish Council has in the this Newsletter. The Parish Council approached the Jubilee Group as they wanted to achieve a good way of disseminating information to all parishioners. The cost of the page in each issue is the same as any other organisation pays for advertising space. The Jubilee Group has, of course, no editorial control over what is written by the Council.

The Newsletter is supported by advertising and we are greatful to all those who make the Newsletter possible.

Ali Fife Cook

Parish Council AGM

At their Annual General Meeting in May, the Parish Council elected the following officers and representatives:

Chair, Peter Jarvis / Vice-Chair, Michael Fife Cook / Chair of Planning Committee, Michael Fife Cook / Chair of Cemetery Committee, Peter Jarvis / Emergency Officer and Snow Warden, John Roy Hill / Webmaster, John Roy Hill / Southern Parishes Link representatives, George Hill and Roger Page / DNPA representatives, George Hill and Roger Page / Coronation Hall representative, John Roy Hill

The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday each month in the Reading Room. Parishioners' time 7.15pm, meeting 7.30pm.

New school staff

Following a good number of applications, the new Administrator of MT & Brentor Primary School will be Christine Williams. We wish her well in her new job. The School is now looking to appoint two new Teachers.

Sat 18th June 7.30pm, Coronation Hall CHADS presents A Night at the Musicals

Songs from Wicked, Miss Saigon, Mamma Mia, Chicago, Rocky Horror Show and many more

Tickets £5 (£4 concessions) from Post Office & Stores, it is wise to book in advance. Bistro setting so bring wine and nibbles.

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Livestock Protection Officer

Do you know what you should do if you see dogs chasing sheep on the Moor, or you see a pony, cattle or sheep that has been injured? You need to phone –

Livestock Protection Officer, Karla McKechnie, 07873 587561

Karla is on emergency call to follow up all incidents of sheep worrying and dog attacks and to deal with moorland livestock problems generally, so she should be contacted quickly with any relevant information. Karla liases closely with the Commoners, the Police and the recreational users of the Moor.

The work of the Livestock Protection Officer is funded jointly by the Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society and the Dartmoor Commoners' Council.

Please keep Karla's number with you, and help her to help the animals.

Clubs and Contacts

We couldn't fit the list of local Clubs and Contacts in this issue, but you can access it from our website. The website and our Twitter account will also keep you up-to-date with any events

www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk
@marytavyjubilee

Coronation Hall website

The Hall now has its own website. As well as general information and history there is a detailed plan of the hall, a list of forthcoming events, a calendar to show availability, booking rates, plus a booking form.

• www.marytavycoronationhall.com



Methodist Church & Hall

Sat 11 June, 2pm-4pm Cream Tea in celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday

Wed 15 June, 7.30pm Illustrated Talk by Trish Rogers **Cathedrals & Cappuccinos** Retiring collection: Christian Aid

Sun 17 July, 10.30am 180th Anniversary Service for MT & Brentor School

Sat 30 July, 10.30am-12noon **Summer Coffee Morning** Cake stall, bring & buy and raffle

Tuesdays, 10.30am **Open morning** Jigsaw swap, tea/coffee and chat

Wednesdays in term time, 9.15am–11.15am Artful Toddlers

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

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. The Newsletter is funded by advertising.

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



