



The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group

Newsletter No.15

August / September 2016

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Get fit, have fun, enjoy being outdoors

It's here! the Outdoor Gym equipment has been delivered and installed, and is available for anyone to use, at any time.

The Gym has been purchased by the Jubilee Group, thanks to a Tesco Bags of Help community grant. Thanks too to the Trustees of the Recreation Ground for providing an ideal space to site the Gym.

There will be a number of training sessions using the Gym equipment, starting after the holidays.

In the meantime, just have a go, and enjoy it.



The Outdoor Gym is in the Recreation Ground, just to the side of the Coronation Hall near the changing rooms. The Jubilee Group is hoping in the near future to create a pleasant covered seating area near the equipment, which will help to make the Gym into a social space.

There are five items, which between them allow for a wide range of exercises, suitable for everyone, whatever their ability or level of fitness –



Air Walker: Provides excellent cardiovascular exercise while developing the leg muscles. Allows a full range of movement in the hip joint improving flexibility and strength, without any impact or stress to joints and back. Suitable for all ages and especially for those for whom jogging and power walking are not suitable.



Disabled Arm and Pedal Bike: The disabled arm and pedal bike provides a great way to exercise arms, whilst also providing for those who require it the option to extend the muscles in their legs. This not only improves co-ordination but also helps to promote balance and core stability and muscle strength. The cycling motion helps to increase blood flow in the lower half of the body.



Air Skier: By swinging both legs together from side to side the Air Skier strengthens and develops the lower abdomen, hips and thighs. Improves balance and co-ordination through "core" activation. Excellent warm-up and work-out for skiers and gentle exercise for fitness beginners.



Push Up and Dip Station: Two sets of parallel bars set at different heights allow for push-up and dip exercises and inclined press ups or assisted squat, a strenuous calisthenic exercise to develop strength in arms and shoulders. Can also be used for knee raises.

The Rider: Similar to a rowing machine but in a more upright position, The Rider gives a full-body cardiovascular and toning work-out, pushing with the legs while pulling with the arms against resistance. Works arms, shoulders, back legs, abdomen and legs, with low impact exercise.



The Trustees of the Recreation Ground have recently painted the lines on the tennis court and have made the other court suitable for small-scale 5-a-side football. The basket ball hoops are due to be replaced very soon. If you use these courts the Trustees would appreciate a donation, which can be made through the PO & Stores.

Shakespeare with local connections

The production of Shakespeare in the Garden, which is coming to Mary Tavy in mid August, involves two cast members with a local connection to Mary Tavy.

Andrew Cleaver is the nephew of Peter and Sue Jarvis. Peter is currently Chairman of the Parish Council. Andrew says "I have visited Mary Tavy many times since my aunt and uncle moved here over 25 years ago. It is such a beautiful part of England to visit and I have always found the people welcoming and friendly. I am thrilled we are able to share this show with you."

Marian Elizabeth is the daughter of Hazel and Nick Butland in whose garden the show will take place. Marian says "I am extremely thankful to have the opportunity to visit Mary Tavy on a regular basis and I have had the pleasure to meet many of the local community. I look forward to celebrating Shakespeare's 400th Anniversary with you all."

This is not the first time Andrew and Marian have performed for Devonshire people as they have recorded plays, poems and readings for the local branch of Talking Newspapers, edited by Sue Jarvis.



Shakespeare in the Garden

Wheal Friendship, Bal Lane
Saturday 13th August
2.30pm & 6pm

In this, the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, experience once again some of his finest works. Set in the beautiful garden at Wheal Friendship* in Mary Tavy, come along,



bring a picnic, and sit back and enjoy a selection

of monologues, duologues, songs and sonnets from Shakespeare's works including Comedies, Histories and

Tragedies, presented by the Nimble Jugglers, a London-based theatre company.

Tickets are £7 for adults and £5 for children. Family tickets (2 adults & 2 children) are available priced £20.

For more information please contact Mrs Hazel Butland on 01822 811045. Tickets are available to purchase (cash only) from either Wheal Friendship, Bal Lane, Mary Tavy, PL19 9PD or from Mary Tavy Post Office.

**Please note that in the event of inclement weather, the event will take place in The Methodist Church, Mary Tavy.*

Keep in touch with what's going on

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 new events planned after publication of this Newsletter.

- Contact details on back page

Date for your diary:

MARY TAVY BONFIRE NIGHT
Sun 6 Nov 5pm

Letter sent to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern: If you are the idiot who dumped Japanese knotweed on the Recreation Ground bonfire site, it's grown very nicely you'll no doubt be pleased to hear. Thank you very much! (Info - I'm being sarcastic).

Joanna Albon

Mary Tavy PO & Stores

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Artful Toddlers, supported by the Mary Tavy Jubilee Group and the Recreation Ground, bring you the first

Mary Tavy Play Day



Wednesday 3rd August from 11am to 3pm

In the Kids' Play Area and elsewhere in the Recreation Ground

Part of National Play Day

A day full of fun activities and games for kids

Arts and crafts – Tennis – Badminton – Rounders – Football – Kite flying
– Scavenger hunts – Sand and water – Parachute games – Capture the flag – Giant board games (twister, snakes and ladders, draughts)

All activities are free

Bring a picnic and enjoy lunch with other families

Children must be accompanied by an adult who will remain responsible for them.

Mary Tavy girl, Ellie Veale, is Tavistock Carnival Queen



"When I was chosen for Tavistock Carnival Queen, I was absolutely stunned! I couldn't separate the reality from the make-believe, but as soon as the events started rolling in it was easy to comprehend what an achievement it was! I would definitely do it all over again if I have the chance, it was an excellent experience!" Ellie Veale

Help save Villages in Action

Villages in Action is in trouble and needs our help. If you want to see shows like the fabulous 'Opera Dudes' or the brilliant 'Fossil Lady of Lyme' again READ ON.

VIA has lost all its Arts Council and DCC funding. We are fortunate that West Devon Borough Council still support VIA but for how long? All village venues will now have to contribute a much higher amount for each show. We will have to increase ticket prices and attract greater audience numbers and to that end we intend to increase publicity for each event with a wider spread of posters and flyers in surrounding villages and towns. If you have any other ideas that will boost 'sales' please let us know. But mostly we need you all to come along to these great evenings of entertainment.

We have been allocated an exciting folk/acoustic duo on the 6th October and a superb Devon jazz quartet playing Dave Brubeck on the 19th January. If you enjoy these events and want them to continue, spread the word to all friends and family. The phrase 'use it or lose it' really does apply.

If you would like to help in any way, including offering accommodation to the performers for a night, please get in touch.

• Margaret 810408, Doreen 810824; Brentor VIA: Dom 810425

Home from Home

In order to be able to make appropriate decisions about future planning, the Parish Council recently asked for information about the number of second homes in Mary Tavy. The information provided by WDBC came from the 2011 census.

At that time there were 26 second homes in Mary Tavy, which is 6.7% of all homes in the parish.

All our neighbouring parishes had a higher percentage of second homes, Brentor having 18.3%. The average for West Devon was 8% and the national average 4.3%.

At about the time of the census it was reported that Mary Tavy had a need for 16 affordable homes. Whilst it is understandable that people would want a second or holiday home in this area, it seems a shame that there are families - some with relatives here, some including people who work in the parish - who weren't able to find a suitable home.



**Odd Jobs? General Maintenance?
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Mary Tavy Parish Council

In early June MTPC received enquiries concerning a printed questionnaire that had been delivered to all households titled "Housing Need Survey for the parishes of Mary Tavy, Peter Tavy and Brentor." A statement explaining the position of your Parish Council was posted on our website, our official noticeboard and in the pages of The Blackdown News. For those who missed our response I have been asked to repeat that the document and the company who sent it out have no connection to MTPC. At no time were Councillors or Clerk contacted by Chris Broughton Associates and we have no knowledge of the identity of the developer who commissioned the survey. I must also stress to all parishioners that, as far as we are aware, no additional sites have been identified for housing development and the redundant garage and bus depot sites remain the only areas subject to planning proposals and ongoing negotiations for redevelopment. We also made it clear that parishioners should feel free to respond to the survey or not as they judge to be appropriate. We also advised parishioners to be aware of the need to protect confidential information and to think very carefully before parting with personal details particularly when cash incentives, small or otherwise, are offered. Our investigations into possible housing development also revealed that there has been an increase in second home ownership. Statistics on such matters are difficult to come by but figures from the 2011 census have revealed that in that year there were 26 second homes out of a total of 387 dwellings in Mary Tavy. We can all only speculate as to how much that figure has increased in the last 5 years.

The ongoing closure of Brentor Road has also generated a considerable amount of comment and speculation. This closure has been caused by the partial collapse of the cattle grid which separates the Blackdown part of Mary Tavy from open moorland. Many road users, rather than face a lengthy and inconvenient detour have been making use of the main bypass gate to the side of the road grid but sadly there have been reports of this gate being left open after use. In such circumstance the straying of farm stock into the village and onto other roads is a very real possibility. As there are no signs of the necessary major repairs being carried out in the immediate future we must ask all who use the bypass gate to negotiate it carefully to avoid further damage ~ a new gate post had to be installed this week ~ and to ensure that it is left closed as a matter of good country practice.

When local residents encounter damage to the highway or blocked road drains in the parish we must remind you that the first point of contact to register such problems should be Mrs. Higham, our Parish Clerk. She will know who to contact and this ensures an efficient recording of such problems and hopefully as speedy a response as possible. As much of our drain cleaning service is programmed by the relevant authority to specific times in the year, keeping our Clerk informed of blockages ensures that they are brought to the attention of those undertaking such work. Mrs. Higham cannot be available all day every day but she can promptly deal with problems recorded on her answerphone. She may be contacted on 01822 810786.

Representatives of MTPC were delighted to attend, on 29th June, the 180th anniversary celebration of the founding of Mary Tavy & Brentor Community Primary School. The positive and happy atmosphere routinely generated by pupils and staff was very much on display and helped visitors to appreciate why Ofsted inspectors have rated the school so highly. Successive generations of local families, including my own, received their basic education here. Treasured photographs from family archives, some dating back to the 1890s are emerging showing our ancestors being solemnly paraded as the roll of Mary Tavy Board School. These were the days of Forster's Elementary Education Act of 1870 and its successors when children attended school until they were 10 (11 in 1893 and 12 in 1899) and parents contributed towards the cost by paying 1d per week per child ~ the so-called "school pence."

Elderly school premises on narrow village roads produce obvious road safety problems. MTPC is determined to support the on-going popularity of our Primary School by improving road safety and parking in its vicinity. Our initial approach to DCC has met with what can only be described as a lukewarm to negative response. Therefore, we are restructuring our approach by assessing the views of all parties with an immediate interest. In the next few days we are expecting a formal written response from the Board of Governors which we anticipate will be fully in favour of progressing this important project. The greater the catalogue of support the less easy it will be for our local authority to deny Mary Tavy its proper allocation of safety measures.

Councillor Peter Jarvis
Chairman, Mary Tavy Parish Council

Beating the Bounds

Beating the Bounds is an ancient tradition, dating to a time before there were maps when members of the community would walk the boundaries of the parish to share the knowledge of where the boundaries lay, and to pray for protection for the lands.



The most recent Beating of the Bounds in Mary Tavy was in 2008 but there hasn't been an established tradition here although many parishes hold the event every four years. The Parish Council

is now planning a Beating of the Bounds, possibly to take place in the spring or summer next year.

Beating the Bounds is a very social event, everyone and their dog can take part even if only walking a small part of the 18-mile route, and often whole families join in. Pasties are provided for lunch.

The Parish Council would like to form a Working Group including interested parishioners, and would appreciate having some good walkers in the group.

If you'd like to be a part of that Working Group please get in touch.

• Cllr Roger Page, 810900, pagynn@aol.com

Cataloguing our Heritage

In June we held a Cataloguing Day to continue the process of sorting out and putting into order our large collection of heritage. Some of the collection is digital, but on that day we concentrated on printed photographs. It was a very useful day and we achieved a lot - but could have achieved more had more people been there to help. Having had a great turnout for our Heritage

Days in April it was rather disappointing. If you'd like to get involved and help preserve Mary Tavy heritage please get in touch.

One aspect of our Heritage we'd like to preserve is oral history. Would you like to chat to some of the longer-term residents and record or write-up their memories? Or perhaps you could take photographs?

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

Caravans in the Recreation Ground

If, towards the end of August, you notice a number of motorhomes and caravans in the Recreation Ground, don't be concerned, they are an organised group from the Camping and Caravanning Club taking full advantage of our wonderful facilities in the village including the Coronation Hall, and providing a little income for the Recreation Ground.

Sunday 7th August

Open 12noon Grand Draw 3.00pm

Recreation Ground & Coronation Hall

Entry £1 per car, 50p for walkers, children under 11 free

Mary Tavy Country Fayre

Hog Roast		Beer Tent
Vintage Tractors		Face Painting
Farm Animals		Sheep Shearing
Dog Show		Car Boot Sale

Fun Games for all the Family

Produce & Flower Show
(entry forms from MT PO & Stores)

All proceeds towards the upkeep and enhancement of the Recreation Ground

The Mary Tavy Inn

www.themarytavyinn.co.uk

01822 810326

Forthcoming Events

Sat 12th November
Help for Heroes Dinner

Sat 3rd December
Live Music
Rock n Roll Outlaws

Last Sunday every month
Monthly Quiz

Sunday Carvery
12.30pm to 2.30pm

Takeaway Fish & Chips,
Pizzas available




New girlguiding groups are being started in Mary Tavy. There will be sections for both Rainbows and Brownies.

Rainbows are girls aged five to seven and follow a programme called the Rainbow Jigsaw, through which they can take part in lots of different activities.

Brownies are girls aged seven to ten and follow a programme called the Brownie Adventure. Brownies opens up a world of exciting challenges and the opportunity to try new things.

It'll be starting in September but details of meeting days and venue are to be confirmed. You can register your interest now.

- Kerri Higham, 810786, kerrihigham@icloud.com



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A miner, a drunkard and a charismatic preacher

The story of Billy Bray who worked at Wheal Friendship Mine

William Trewartha Bray, known as Billy, was born in Cornwall in 1794, the son of a miner but brought up by his grandfather who was a pious Methodist. At the age of 17 he moved to Devon to work at Wheal Friendship Mine. He later recounted the story of his life -

"I got in with a bad company of drunkards. I remember one time getting drunk in the town of Tavistock. When going to our home we met a very large horse in the way. It was late in the night and two of us drunk men got up on the horse. We had not rode far before the horse struck his foot against a stone and fell down. It turned right over and it was very near he had killed us both. But the Lord spared us, bad as we was, thanks be to this holy name.

"Another time we were a company of drunkards coming home from

the alehouse all drunk, and we unhung all the gates from the fields as we came by. We was near sent to jail for that.

"While I was working underground in Wheal Friendship mine in Devonshire I heard a scat over my head. I ran out from where I was working and I think forty tons fell down where I came from. I was spared, so did I not ought to praise the Lord?

"I was pert to the captain that I worked under in the mine and got turned away. I went to another part of Devon and got work and went to live at a beer shop.

"I used to dread to go to sleep for fear of waking up in hell; and though I made promises to the Lord to do better, I was soon as bad or worse than ever. After being absent from my native county seven years, I returned a drunkard."



Billy married and eventually had seven children. One day, in 1823, he picked up a copy of John Bunyan's "Visions of Heaven and Hell" that gave him a strong desire to be a better man.

He became an enthusiastic, charismatic but unconventional preacher, sometimes bursting into song or dance. His preaching often referred to his drunken days in Mary Tavy.

The Jubilee Group – a registered charity

The Jubilee Group was formed in July 2012 as a Charitable Trust, following the same rules and principles as other charities, but we weren't able to register with the Charity Commission as our turnover was below £5,000. Now, thanks to the grant for the Outdoor Gym equipment, our turnover well exceeds that and we are in the process of becoming a registered charity. This will make little difference except that it will be easier to apply for some forms of funding.

At the same time we are registering for VAT. This means that when we buy equipment we will be able to recover the VAT, and we will therefore be able to do much more with grant income.

There is a downside to this as it means we will have to add VAT to our rates for advertising in the Newsletter. Many businesses will be able to recover the VAT element but smaller businesses may not. However we had been considering increasing our rates as they've remained the same for the four years since we started, but we won't now increase the advertising rates.

As a registered charity we won't have to charge VAT on most other forms of income, and for the overall effect of both of these changes will be to benefit the community even more.

Methodist Church & Hall

Tuesdays, 10.30am

Open morning

Jigsaw swap, tea/coffee and chat

Wednesdays in term time,

9.15am–11.15am

Artful Toddlers

New groups and courses will be coming soon to the Methodist Hall. They will possibly include an Internet Cafe and a Knit & Natter group, starting in September.

Look out for posters or visit the Jubilee Group website for the latest information.

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



The Methodist Hall provided an excellent venue for a tea party to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday. A team of helpers decorated the Hall, baked cakes, scones and cut sandwiches. The weather was kind which meant that the "overflow" could comfortably sit outside which provided the opportunity for tourist walkers to join us. It was a very happy traditional village event which was much enjoyed. Many thanks to all involved.

Tor & Tavy WI

Mary Tavy Coronation Hall has been our new venue since May and it has turned out to be just what we need with lots of space and a brand new kitchen. It was fitting that our Annual Meeting was the first meeting here. It was well attended and our new committee was elected and are keen to see that the future of our WI will be interesting and varied.

Stewart Dowell from Quikes Cheeses in Newton St Cyres was our June speaker. He interspersed his talk on the history of Quikes with humour and anecdotes; there was a tasting session and many of us bought packs of cheese.

Late July will see us with Simon Dell and his tales of 3 Murders and 1 Suicide on Dartmoor.

Hopefully we shall have decent weather in August as we are walking around Lydford, stopping at The Castle for supper.

Our programme after that will include Caribbean Cookery and a talk on Parkinsons Disease. These evenings will be interspersed with various trips hopefully to include Plymouth Synagogue and Theatre Royal.

We meet on the 4th Thursday each month, 7.30pm, Coronation Hall. Ring or just come along.

- Trish 810115, Lucie 814840, Judi 614198



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Exercising dogs in the Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground is a great place for people to exercise dogs.

However someone has recently been in touch with the Trustees to say that dog poo has been found in the Kids' Play Area. It has always been an area where dogs are not allowed, but either people are taking dogs in there or dogs are running in when the gate has been left open.

New signs have been put up as well as a place to tie a dog's lead, and the Trustees would like to urge everyone to help by closing the gate. A spring can't be put on the gate as children might catch their fingers, so it is just a case of closing and latching the gate.

Dog poo elsewhere in the Recreation Ground is also a problem. Most dog owners are very responsible and indeed there are several local dog owners who pick up after other people's dogs! The Trustees want people to be able to go on exercising dogs in the Recreation Ground so please, if you see anyone not picking up after their dog, point out to them the importance of preserving this facility and keeping it safe and pleasant for everyone.



Brentor Garden Club

We are a friendly group who meet in Brentor Village Hall at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month for talks by visiting speakers on gardening or related subjects. Visitors very welcome. £2.00 on the door.

Thurs 15 Sept - Wild Plants of the West Country
A talk by Paul Rendell

• Sue Stephens 01822 860374



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Mary Tavy, Tavistock

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