

Could you help with delivery of the Newsletter?

We are looking for one or two additional helpers to be part of the team which delivers Newsletters every two months to the 400+ homes in Mary Tavy. We are particularly looking for help in the area around Station Road and Fellingfield.

If you might be able to help please get in touch —

Ali, 08455 193812, mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk

The Jubilee Group dedicates this issue of the Newsletter to the memory of John Higman who was a great supporter of the community. Our best wishes go to his widow Stella and to all those whose lives he touched.

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 18 April, 7pm-9pm, Coronation Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to meet with Councillors and the Clerk, to ask questions about what has been and will be happening in the parish, and to make comments or raise concerns.

This year the APM will be an informal drop-in session, so pop along any time during the evening.

Refreshments provided by the MY & PT WI.

Mary Tavy Village Fayre Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 12noon to 4pm

Dog Show, Food, Beer Tent, Arts, Crafts, Plants, Car Boot, and more ...

PRIZE DRAW

All proceeds to Mary Tavy Coronation Hall

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

Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI

Our next meeting is on 13th April when Julia Fox from Totnes Museum will be describing the intricateness of Edwardian ladies dress. Visitors welcome.

Our regular meetings are on the 2nd Thursday each month, 2pm, in the Coronation Hall.

Barbara Weeks 810697



Spring Sale Sat 13 May 2pm Coronation Hall Plants, Cakes, Books, Refreshments

Community Gardening?

The planting in tyres which the Jubilee Group put in place on the Blackdown Garage site whilst it was awaiting development, were moved some months ago into the Recreation Ground. All the plants are growing well, but if anyone should feel the urge to do some weeding, pruning or planting, please feel free to do so. The community will be grateful.

Methodist Chapel & Hall

Saturday 1st April
10am-12noon
April Fools Day
Spring Coffee Morning

Regular activities:

Sensory Team

4th Tues of month, 10am-1pm

Community Cafe

Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm & Thursdays, 10am-12noon Refreshment, Opportunity, Education. Wifi available.

Artful Toddlers

Wednesdays in term time, 9.15am-11.15am

• Kerri Higham, 810786, kerrihigham@icloud.com

Knit & Natter

Thursdays, 1pm-3pm

- Wilma Miners, 810040
- Tony Smith, 820575



Mary Tavy Parish Council

I am pleased to report that the strength of MTPC has been increased to 6 Councillors with the co-option of Mr. Graham Ross. Graham and his wife Beverley are relatively new to our parish having moved from North Hampshire about 18 months ago. During that time they have actively supported a number of local groups and have taken every opportunity to acquaint themselves with many aspects of our community. We of course still have 3 vacancies to fill and if you think you could make a contribution to the first tier of local government please contact our Clerk, Mrs. Kerri Higham, on 01822 810786 for further details of the co-option process.

Equally pleasing is to be able to report that MTPC has secured two grants totalling £3358 from the Town & Parish Fund (TAP) administered by WDBC. The decision to make these awards was made by the Southern Parishes Link Committee in formal session on the 16th March 2017. These grants will be used to fund two important projects undertaken by MTPC. These are the purchase and installation of a heart defibrillator for public use and the purchase and construction of a lighting mast and its associated equipment to provide a night landing site for the use of the Devon Air Ambulance. The next stage in commissioning the night landing site project is to secure a Grant of Planning Permission from the DNPA. We have been assured that, as the proposed site is within the Mary Tavy Victory Memorial Recreation Ground and is totally to operate in the wider public interest, our application should be straightforward. However, we are realistic and are keeping our fingers firmly crossed! The defibrillator should be the subject of a formal purchase order within the next few days and at the same time we will be seeking quotations for its installation. Full details of these two projects will be posted on our website as soon as possible.

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary have reported a discouraging 10% rise in the overall crime figures for the West Devon area. However, despite this rise we must all remember that we still have the good fortune to live in a low crime area. We can all act to

preserve this situation and to ease pressure on our police service by taking positive steps regarding the security of our property and possessions. Valuable items left on open display with open widows and unlocked doors all serve to encourage opportunist theft. Indeed, it has been reported to us that very recently thieves obtained entry to a local property through an unlocked back door and made off with a number of items. Fortunately the individuals concerned have been apprehended and are waiting to appear in court. We have again 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. The golden rule is of course "lock it or lose it." Please stay safe and secure and report all suspicious activity to the police.

I have been asked to remind all parishioners that, as we are now well into the lambing season, dogs must be kept on a lead when exercised on public footpaths and open moorland. The incidents of sheep being attacked and worried by dogs seem to be ever increasing and we must ask everyone to use great caution when crossing land where animals are grazing.

Finally, a reminder that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th April 2017 in the Coronation Hall between 7 and 9 pm. This year we are altering the format to a "Drop in Session" where all relevant information relating to our work in the last 12 months will be on display and Councillors and Clerk will be present to answer any questions and listen to any comments you may wish to make. Officer Chapple, our Police Community Support Officer and Rob Taylor, DNPA Park Ranger, have also agreed to attend. Light refreshments will be available courtesy of Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI so please make every effort to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

Councillor Peter Jarvis Chairman, Mary Tavy Parish Council



Spring in Mary Tavy: Bluebells beside Cholwell Brook at Homer, with local resident Tenzing.

The Mary Tavy Inn

www.themarytavyinn.co.uk 01822 810326 Forthcoming Events

29th April Help 4 Heroes Dinner 26th to 29th May Sausage and Beer Festival



Sat 27th May
Live Music
Little Red Wagon
More dates to be added
keep your eyes open!

Quiz, last Sunday every month, 8.30pm Sunday Carvery, 12.30–2.30pm OAP's Lunch every Thursday

The Coronation Hall, then and now

The many newcomers to the village, and some of the old, might like to know more about the Hall's history and how it is run.

After the celebrations for the Coronation in 1953, £32 was left over from the sale of refreshments, so it was decided to use that money as a start for fundraising to build a much needed village hall. After 8 years, and a lot of hard work, the Hall was completed, the ground for the building being leased from the Recreation Ground Trust for a peppercorn rent. The Hall itself owns all the car park area and most of the drive.

A committee was formed under the jurisdiction of the Charity Commission and became a registered charity. They required that the committee be composed of representatives from all the village organisations and some elected members, which for the most part it still is today.

A lot of unsung work goes on to keep the Hall going for the benefit of all, but the day-to-day running costs are very high and, due to its age, repairs and replacements are constantly needed. A long "Wish List" was started and a lovely new kitchen was achieved last year along with extensive electrical work. Two volunteers gave up their own time to recycle cupboards from the old kitchen to create a kitchenette in the bar room. Still to come are new heaters, upgraded toilets and eventually a new roof, as the present one is past its sell by date! A never ending list.

In spite of all this, the Hall has always kept its hiring charges competitive. The Hall is very well used and the Committee is always in need of volunteers, especially for the Pantomime and the Village Fayre on the Spring Bank Holiday Monday.

Thanks to George Hill for info on the early history.

Jill Lamerton

Dientor & Mo

www.marytavycoronationhall.com



Mr R.H. Green (Chairman), unveiling the Commemoration Stone of the Hall on 21st January 1961

Compassionate Neighbours

We are pleased to report that good progress has been made by the Committee in preparations to "go live" with our scheme, which will aim to support those individuals in our communities who are suffering from a long term condition, living with a life-limiting illness, or who may be approaching the end of life.

We expect to be in a position to start taking referrals by the end of April. We are now officially working in partnership with St Luke's Hospice. We believe this will be beneficial to both organisations, as well as to the individuals we aim to support in the future.

We are delighted to be able to announce that Sir Ranulph Fiennes has graciously agreed to become our Patron.

We are now actively seeking more volunteers. If you are considering volunteering for us, we would be delighted to hear from you. For further information regarding the scheme, please visit: www.bmcneighbours.org, or email:

 Mark Alderson, bmcneighbours@gmail.com, www.bmcneighbours.org



Progress on the Blackdown garage site

Everyone who lives in or drives through Mary Tavy will have seen that the site has been cleared recently. We've been in touch with the developers, Future Construction Group, and they have told us that building work is likely to start within the next couple of months.

At the moment they are finalising some of the details of landscaping and highways alterations, but they are not making any change from the previously approved plans for the site.



Odd Jobs? General Maintenance?
House Repairs? Masonry?
Painting & Decorating? Landscaping?
Renovations? Building Work? Ground-works?

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Clubs & Local Contacts

Artful Toddlers | Every Wed during term 9.15-11.15am | Methodist Hall | Kerri 810786 kerrihigham@icloud.com Brentor & Mary Tavy Scount Group | Wednesdays | Brentor Village Hall | Simon & Tracy, 07771 562395 Brentor & Moor Compassionate Neighbours | 860799 | bmcneighbours@gmail.com | www.bmcneighbours.org Brentor Garden Club | Monthly on a Thurs 7.30 | Brentor Village Hall | Heather Webster 810004 Charity Quiz Night | Last Sun each month | Mary Tavy Inn | Garry & Kim 810326 Community Cafe | Tues 1-3pm & Thurs 10am-noon | Methodist Hall | Tony Smith 820575 Coronation Hall | Bookings: Jo Albon 810356 www.marytavycoronationhall.com **Dartmoor Gliding Society** | Chris 07873483001 info@dartmoorgliding.co.uk Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society | Karla McKechnie | 07873 587561 **DNPA Ranger** | Rob Taylor 01626 832093 rtaylor@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk Elephant's Nest Cricket Club | Thur ev & Sun aft during season | Ben Neale 07725 419417 benjineale@gmail.com Girl Guides | Rainbows Mon 4.30pm, Brownies Mon 5pm | Kerri Higham 810786, kerrihigham@icloud.com Homer Maid Open Day | Sat, monthly or so | Homer Barn | 810848

Knit & Natter | Thurs 1-3pm | Methodist Hall | Tony Smith 820575

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 | 08455 193812 (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 | marytavypo@gmail.com Mary Tavy Twinning Association | Richard Thorne 810535 Methodist Chapel & Hall | Tony Smith 820575 Outdoor Gym Informal Sessions | Suns 3pm & Weds 6.30pm | Recreation Ground | Jubilee Group 08455 193812 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 | info@mtrg.org.uk | www.mtrg.org.uk | 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 | Sat once a month | Moorland Retreat (Chicks) | Sally Pancheri sally@sallysholidaycotages.co.uk **Tor & Tavy WI** | 4th Thurs each month 7.30 | Coronation Hall | Lucie 814840, Judi 614198 **The Merries** | A group for single ladies meeting 2 or 3 times a year | Kath Sydenham 810649 West Devon Social Group | Programme of events | Cathy Haglington 810120 info@devonsocialgroup.com

Tavistock School Reunion May 2017 Gallery 26, The Bedford Hotel, Tavistock PL19 8DD Saturday 13th May from 7pm

Open to all pupils who attended the school before 2007 and their partners Admission £2 / Membership: £7 (single), £10 (couple)

For more information please contact
Barrie Knapp, 01822 610158, tavyschoolreunion@btinternet.com
facebook: Tavistock School Reunion Association

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.

 Trish 810115, Lucie 814840, Judi 614198

YogaWellness | Mon 10-11.30am | Coronation Hall | Rosie Stephens 859217 yogawellnessdartmoor@gmail.com



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A Co-ordinator is needed for the Jubilee Walk - can you help?

Jubilee Walk, the permissive footpath from the Recreation Ground to Buller's Hill via

JUBILEE WALK

the Mary Tavy Inn, is run by a Working Group, a small group of volunteers who maintain and support the Walk. The co-ordinator of the group, John Thacker, moved away from Mary Tavy many months ago but has remained co-ordinator, in the absence of anyone taking over the role. The group now needs a new person to take over.

The Working Group is a properly constituted voluntary group, with a constitution and bank account and can raise funds for maintenance and improvement work. However, there is an absolute minimum of administrative tasks as its main focus is practical action. The role of the coordinator is not onerous but it needs to be done by someone living in the village with an interest in maintaining and improving the footpath. The main role is simply to co-ordinate and organise the odd working days / times for grass cutting, strimming, hedge cutting, and maintenance from the Spring to the Autumn.

It would be good if the person is willing to take the lead on improvement projects by getting the group together once in a while to discuss what could be improved and how to do it, but it must be emphasised that this is not a talking shop or a committee. If you would like to take on the role or if you would like just to register with the group to be a helper please email for details.

John Thacker, johnthacker@mac.com





This is an excerpt from a letter recently received from Roger Werner, the Director of Villages in Action:

"I am very sorry to tell you that the current season of Villages in Action performances will be the last in the present format.

We have been struggling financially; within the last five years we have lost in the region of 80% of our funding. Despite the valiant efforts of the volunteers, staff and Board of Trustees, we have been unsuccessful in our recent attempts to secure further long term substantial funding. We are pleased that we could run a spring programme but this has significantly eaten into our financial reserves and the Board have therefore decided to cease the rural touring scheme as it is structured at present while ViA is still solvent and can meet its commitments and costs.

The Board is very sad to have to do this and I know that you too will be upset to see the end of the current rural touring scheme. The Board will be spending the next few months considering how the ViA legacy can continue and if there is some way we can sustain this service to villages, albeit in a different format, whilst seeking other potential funding.

I am so very grateful to everyone who has supported Villages in Action."

Brentor Garden Club

Thurs 20 April
Behind the Scenes at Chelsea
A talk by Rupert Baker

Thurs 18 May Patagonia, Land of Violas and Volcanos

A talk by Chris Groves

Meetings in Brentor Village Hall at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month. Visitors very welcome. £2.00 on the door.

• Heather Webster 810004

Following an article in the previous Newsletter with memories of Mary Tavy during World War II, Annabel Roberts thought we would be interested in a story from her family. "My mother's family farmed at Wringworthy (her father's side farmed here for several generations, her mother's side were at the Rectory in MT as her great grandfather was priest, and then moved to Tavy Dale); my grandfather sold the farm in the 1960s and moved to Gratna by Harford Bridge with my great aunt and I would come and stay with them for holidays." Annabel was recently able to buy the historic Wringworthy Farm and she and her family are now living there.

Otto Hess / Peter Giles and the Pioneer Corps

For a time during the war Mary Tavy was home to a number of brave soldiers with very special stories. Amongst them was a man called Otto Hess.



He was born in in Germany, a Jew who fled Germany in 1939 to escape persecution by the Nazis. He came to England with his family but whilst they travelled on to the US, Otto chose to stay in Britain. When war broke out, as an 'enemy alien' he was not allowed to join the fighting forces, but instead enlisted in the Pioneer Corps (a noncombatant unit of the British Army carrying out general tasks). Otto's company was sent to Mary Tavy, to work in Hoares quarry at Wilminstone.

A description of his time here was written by Anne Bender, the widow of Edgar Bender, a fellow member of the Pioneer Corps also based here, who wrote her husband's story in 2006: "After some weeks they received an invitation to a local dance."

The ladies who had organised the dance must have been astonished when these rather odd soldiers came. They looked and spoke differently to what was expected. However, local people soon became very friendly. Some even allowed the soldiers the use of their bathrooms and that was much appreciated as they had to wash in the River Tavy until then. The men worked hard but also had a good time. Edgar and his friend Otto Hess became particularly friendly with a farming family called Giles. Edgar and Otto bought a Norton motorbike for £3.10s so that they



Otto with Norrie Giles, my uncle, and Rosemary Giles, my mother, at Tavv Dale.

could go to the cinema; somehow they obtained petrol for that! They also borrowed ponies for the occasional ride across the moors".

In 1942 Winston Churchill decided to make greater use of the refugees from occupied Europe by forming a Commando Unit. Otto Hess volunteered to join the Special Operations Executive. He left Mary Tavy for training in North Wales. At this point he was forced to take a new identity and name and chose Peter (after Peter Tavy) and Giles; he named Dorothy Giles (my grandmother) as next of kin.

My uncle Norrie Giles, a young boy at the time, writes: "The one who was very special was Otto Hess, who was about 28. I remember, just before he went on his last operation he came to visit while on leave. He went into Tavistock and brought us all presents as, I think, he had a premonition of death. I inherited his riding boots, his watch and his jacket. He was a lovely man".

A contemporary called Paul Streeten described Peter as "gentle, quiet and good looking, an idealist who volunteered for particularly dangerous work behind enemy lines in Yugoslavia".

Quite what happened to Peter Giles is unclear. Records confirm he was dropped by parachute in Yugoslavia in September 1944. For some reason he was unable to fulfil his mission and made contact with the Partisans, who agreed to escort him to their HQ in Croatia, from where he would be evacuated to Italy. But he never arrived at the HQ. It's thought that either the Partisans did not believe his story and killed him, or Peter and his escort were ambushed by the Germans and shot.

His death was a great loss and caused much sadness. No doubt Mary Tavy held a special place in his heart. It seems fitting that we remember his great bravery and cruel death here.



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A Tribute to the late Reverend John Charles Higman

Richard Fielder and Sylvia Baish, on behalf of the congregations of both Parishes.

On Candlemas Day, 2nd February 2017, John Higman, Rector of Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy, passed away suddenly at his home. John lived at Mary Tavy all his life, and was a self-supporting (non-stipendiary) Priest, giving freely of his time and talents for the Parishes of both St. Mary's and St. Peter's.

John was born on the 23rd December 1962, the only child of Elsie and George Higman of Mary Tavy. He attended Mary Tavy Primary School and Tavistock College. John went on to achieve a First Class Honours Degree in Combined Studies (Chemistry and Economics) at Plymouth Polytechnic. He was awarded a prize as the outstanding student of the Final Year of his Degree Course, and later became a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

In 1987 John joined DCC Trading Standards Service,

and was based at Okehampton - first as a Technical Officer covering a wide range of duties, then specialising as an Animal Health Officer.

A moment of great joy came on the 23rd May, 1998, when John and Stella were married at Mary Tavy Parish Church.

During the devastating outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in 2001, John was part of the Farming Standards Team in Exeter. He became Team Leader for Agriculture and later Lead Officer for Animal Health for Devon and Somerset Trading Standards. He also specialised in matters concerning petroleum.

As a devout Christian John began to explore his vocation to the Ordained Ministry, and commenced the process of discernment, part of which was to start a Degree in Theology at Exeter University in 2002. He was awarded the St. Luke's prize as the best First Year Student

on the Course. In 2003 John was accepted for Training to Ordained Ministry on the South West Ministry Training Course, whilst continuing his full-time employment, and in 2006 John was ordained as Deacon at Exeter Cathedral, In 2007 he was Ordained as Priest in a ceremony at Plympton St. Maurice Church. During a period of intense study John achieved his Degree of Theology (Ministry) at Exeter University, and also studied for and passed professional examinations for the Diploma in Consumer Affairs in Trading Standards.

After Ordination John shared the work in both Parishes with the former Archdeacon of Plymouth, (Ven. Tony Wilds). Upon the Archdeacon's retirement John provided the majority of services with some assistance from Whitchurch.

In 2012, he was inducted as Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Mary Tavy and Peter Tavy, becoming Rector in 2015. John always felt it a privilege to be a Priest and Rector in 'The Tavys'. His passing has left our two villages much the poorer. He will be missed beyond words by all whose lives he has touched.









Two steps closer to preserving lives in Mary Tavy



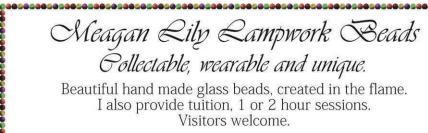
Negotiations for a Night Landing Site for the Air Ambulance, which it is planned will be on the Recreation Ground, are progressing well. Some of the funding required has been secured and planning permission

will now be sought.

The Parish Council has also secured funding for a defibrillator, which will be located centrally in the village.

Get involved

There are lots of ways to get involved with the Jubilee Group - you could be part of an organising group for an event or just help out on the day; you could take responsibility for specific projects; you could help create the Newsletter or join the band of deliverers. Just get in touch.





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

Summer Bead Hunt

I am a glass artist specialising in making glass beads by hand. I live and work in Mary Tavy and have lived in Mary Tavy and Brentor for over 40 years. I have been working with hot glass for 10 years and sell my beads internationally under the studio name of Meagan Lily Lampwork. My contact details are on the advertisement above.

During the summer months from April until September I am going to run a bead hunt again. So don't forget to look for my posters around the village for your clue to where that month's bead will be. If you recognise the location and find the bead it is yours to keep and enjoy. There is no entry fee to join the hunt, it is free to all. Happy hunting! Joy Porteous

Great achievements

We are coming to the end of a very hectic term at Mary Tavy & Brentor School, and once again we have been very busy. Our Cross Country Club runners took part in several events in the area and I am always so impressed at how determined the children are to complete their run and how well they support each other. We are also sending teams to other sporting events such as a swimming gala, handball festival and football and tag rugby tournaments.

Our youngest children go out every week into the local area and Ms Law works hard to encourage them to look and learn about the environment and local community such as the Post Office & Stores whose staff have been brilliant with our young children.

We are getting closer to our £1,500 target to enable the school to fund a Guide Dog for the Blind puppy. We held a Pancake Breakfast and raised £129.50 and later the same day members of our Singing Club performed with the Tamar Valley Male Voice Choir at Coronation Hall. The children sang beautifully, led by Mrs Carowicz who always inspires the children with their singing. The evening raised the fantastic total of £521. 60. Together with the £389.43 already raised, our total now stands at an incredible £1040.33! Thank you to everyone who has supported our appeal in any way and to Mr Pearce, our Chair of Governors, who worked so hard to organise the event with Mrs Carowicz and the Choir.

Thank you to everyone who voted for our school in the Tesco Bags for Life scheme. We are delighted that we were awarded a grant for £8,000 and we look forward to the waterless toilet being installed at our field which will enable us to use the field to its full potential.

Have a wonderful Easter,

Nicky Pratten Headteacher

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.

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

Phone: 08455 193812 (free from a landline) email: mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk website: www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk