

Free

Jubilee News

Newsletter of the
Mary Tavy Jubilee Group

No.25

April & May 2018



Village Litter Pick

Sunday 15th April, 2.30pm

Meet at the Coronation Hall and return to the Coronation Hall for tea and cakes

The village is in need of a bit of a spring clean, and it would be good to collect accumulated rubbish before it gets too tangled in undergrowth.

We hope to see lots of people, of all ages, as we did last time we did a litter pick – two and a half years ago, when we had 21 volunteers.

We'll form into small groups and go in different directions. Filled bags will be collected, so you won't have to carry anything heavy.

We'll provide rubbish sacks and we have a few grabbers available but please bring one if you have one; strong gloves would be good; If you have a hi-viz jacket please bring it but we will have some you could use.

Cakes provided by Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI. Coronation Hall meeting room and kitchen provided free.

West Devon Borough Council has agreed to collect the waste without any charge.

- Mary Tavy Jubilee Group, mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk, 08455193812



Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI

Spring Sale

**Sat 12th May 2pm Coronation Hall
Plants Cakes Books Refreshments**



What shall we call it?

The developer of the Blackdown Garage site has asked us to ask you, the villagers, to suggest a name for the new development.

They are interested in having a name that reflects the history of site or of Mary Tavy generally. In fact they need two names, one for the development, and one for the road leading into it, which might use the term 'Close'.

There's not much time, suggestions are needed by Friday 6th April. You can leave them at the Post Office & Stores or send them by email to the Jubilee Group, mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk. It might be helpful to have your name and contact details, but you don't have to provide them.

Reading Rooms Upgrade

At the February meeting of the Parish Council a grant of £1,500 was agreed, to help the Reading Rooms with the costs of their planned upgrade to the building and facilities.

Mary Tavy Live!

The Neil Maya Quartet played to an enthusiastic audience of 50 in the Coronation Hall in February. We are pleased to say that Villages In Action has now got Arts Council funding and is working closely with their Cornish equivalent to provide a wide range of performers for us to call on for our next event in the autumn.

Compassionate Neighbours needed

When Brentor & Moor Compassionate Neighbours launched last year, it was to serve local villages in this immediate area. However, due to demand it has now expanded. Because of this, more volunteers are urgently sought. If you have two or three hours a week to spare please give us a call for an informal chat.



- BMCN Co-ordinator, Mark Alderson; 01822 860799; www.bmcneighbours.org

Something fishy

Colin and Corrie Grice are sometimes in despair at the amount of litter around the village, and in particular rubbish in the Burntown Plain layby. Recently when Colin stopped to pick up some rubbish he was surprised to find, in a rubbish bag, four pretty fresh-looking trout!



Colin took the fish to the Trout Farm in Tavistock who were able to confirm from the wrapping that they had indeed come from there, about three days earlier.

If it hadn't been for the fact that Colin & Corrie were about to go away and didn't want to make themselves ill they would have been prepared to try them. But they did

cook them, freeze them, and the dog is now dining out on them.

Whilst this is all rather amusing, what a shame the fisherman felt it appropriate to litter the layby and more of a shame the fish couldn't have been given away

Let's hope we don't find anything as fishy during the Litter Pick on 15th April.

Tor and Tavy WI

A roundup of our season so far

We started our autumn/winter programme with a 'whine'! "Last of the summer whine", a social evening to chat over the summer happenings, was a very enjoyable evening and topics covered included recent visits to an alpaca farm and a glass centre.

The alpaca farm visit was timed to see the baby alpacas who were a delight, and some of our members took the adults for a walk on leads. We were treated to a cream tea and had a great time. The glass centre at Launceston was visited by only a few of our members who had a very interesting time and we will make sure we go again when more of us can attend.

Carrying on from the glass centre visit we welcomed Graham Reed from Bere Alston who treated us to a great evening of glass blowing. Graham used to make glass items for scientific use and in his retirement has carried on glass blowing as a hobby. He gave us a potted history of glass blowing. and many of us bought vases and glass animals and orders were given to Graham in the run up to Christmas. He is certainly a very talented man who gave us a very enjoyable evening.

With Christmas in mind one of our members, Lucie, supplied us with sheets of red and white paper and glue to make snowflakes. They were very effective.

For our annual Christmas meal we descended on The Bedford Hotel and had a very enjoyable evening.

Our WI, along with 5 others, is a member of The Four Rivers Group of WI's; each of us tries to entertain the others and it seems to have become tradition for Tor & Tavy to have an annual quiz in January. One of our members and her husband work on this evening months



in advance and this year our meeting fell on Burns Night so to honour the occasion we wore tartan and we were treated to the addressing of the haggis. We presented everyone with a haggis ball and tot of whisky, and had a most enjoyable quiz and buffet supper. Such hard work for our quiz masters but it made for a very competitive evening and one which, I am sure, will be repeated. Many thanks to John and his very able assistant, Trish.

Short mat bowls is played at The Coronation Hall, our meeting place, and we thought what better way to spend an evening than to learn to play. It certainly was more difficult than at first thought, with the need for a good eye and a gentle hand!!!

We have just finalised our programme for the next 12 months and the topics included will be a talk on Living in China, Truffle making, Walking around Britain with a dog, a Brewery visit and Street Pastors to name just a few. We are visiting St Ives in April and have now started to meet the second Friday in the month for regular coffee mornings.

We meet at The Coronation Hall at 7.30pm on the 4th Thursday of the month. Ring for more info or just turn up on the evening and our ladies will be glad to see you.

● Judi 614198; Trish 615532

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Changes on the Parish Council

Kerri Higham has resigned as Clerk to the Parish Council, having been in the role for 2½ years. She will continue to undertake the role of Burial Clerk and some tasks of the Clerk, at least until a new Clerk has been appointed. The post of Clerk is being advertised and the Parish Council hopes to have a new Clerk in place fairly soon.

The email address for the Clerk remains unaltered, parishclerk@marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk.

In mid-March Graham Ross stood down as a Parish Councillor.

Mary Tavy Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 17th April, 6.30pm, Coronation Hall

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

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

Refreshments provided by the MT&PT WI.



Monday 28th May 12pm - 4pm
MARY TAVY VILLAGE
FAYRE

2018
Dog Show

Car Boot Sale

STANNARY TRAINING BRASS BAND
BBQ - BEER TENT - PLANTS
FOOD - ARTS - CRAFTS - PRIZE DRAW
Info or require a stall contact Jo Albon
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All proceeds to Mary Tavy Coronation Hall Registered Charity No. 300897

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Methodist Chapel & Hall

Wed 4th April 2pm

Rev Mike Loader

his work abroad and visits to holy places, with slides.

Wed 2nd May 2pm

Rene Chambers

originally from New Zealand and still with connections there; lay preacher.

Regular activities:

Jigsaw Swap

3rd Mon of month,
10.30-11.30am, refreshments

Sensory Team

4th Tues of month, 10am-12noon

Knit & Natter, Craft & Chatter

Thurs, 1pm-3pm
Wilma Miners, 810040

Sunday Service

10.30am, followed by coffee

Ecumenical prayer and Bible Study

Mondays, Charlotte Cottage,
7.30pm, 810166

Hall available for bookings, only
£10 per hour

- Ring Pauline 610079 or
email janetixxa@gmail.com

Saved by the salt

When the Parish Council purchased a salt spreader at the beginning of the year some felt it might not get used until next winter. How wrong was that!

Cllr John Hill has done an amazing job of salting many of the roads in Mary Tavy, particularly around the school.

He invited children at the school to come up with a name for the spreader, but it hadn't been announced as we went to print.

Brentor Garden Club

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

Thursday 19th April

Vodka and Vanishing Trees

A talk by Paul Bartlett

Thursday 17th May

Devon Gardens Trust

A talk by Ian Vardell

- Heather Webster 810004

dgt

Will a lot of lorries be thundering through Mary Tavy, up and down the A386 and Station Road?

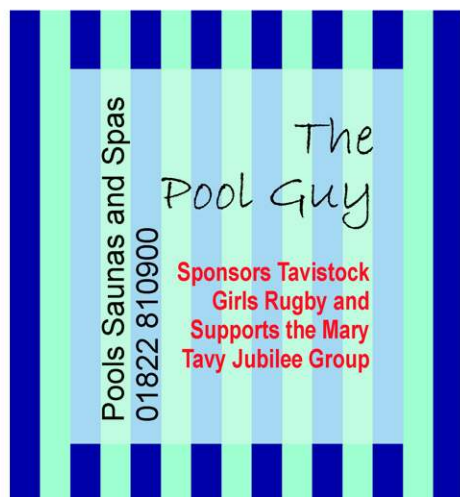
In late February the Jubilee Group learnt about plans for delivery lorries going to and from the Butcher Park Hill development in Tavistock to use the A386 and Station Road as their route. This will include lorries in excess of 7.5 tons, with several dozen journeys every day, for years.

As soon as we received this information we prepared a sheet and sent it out to everyone in Mary Tavy whose email addresses we knew.

Full information is on the West Devon Planning website – search for 174371.

On the website there are several letters from local residents. The objections include the fact that much of the route consists of very narrow roads; it is much used by horse riders and pedestrians, there is no pavement in most places; there are very soft verges in some parts; there are many tight corners including the turning into Station Road; and there are three small bridges.

We know that Devon Highways is not happy about the use of this route, and perhaps their views and the letters of objection will have an effect – we certainly hope so.



Pools Saunas and Spas
01822 810900

The Pool Guy

Sponsors Tavistock Girls Rugby and Supports the Mary Tavy Jubilee Group

Hypnotherapy in West Blackdown

Mary Lovell set up her hypnotherapy consulting room in West Blackdown a year ago and really enjoys working with people in this lovely area, helping them to make the changes they are looking for in their lives.

"There may be many reasons why we do not live our real lives" says Mary, "I did not feel fulfilled in my career. For others it may be.....wishing to reach a higher level in their chosen sport, to pass exams, a need or desire to be healthier and fitter, they may be afraid of something which holds them back or have a life with too much stress and anxiety."

An initial consultation is free, so why not get in touch and chat with Mary about how she might be able to help you. See the advertisement below.



MARY LOVELL
UNWIND YOUR MIND
HYPNOTHERAPY IN DARTMOOR

"One's real life is so often the life that one does not lead"

This is one of my favourite Oscar Wilde quotes. You may also have had this feeling. You have a lovely family, live in a beautiful part of the world and have a lot to be grateful for, and you are grateful.....and yet.....

After three years of training I am now a Neuro-Linguistic Programming Master Practitioner and Hypnotherapist. I have a quiet consulting room in West Blackdown, Brentor and am a member of the Association of Solution Focused Hypnotherapists, the National Board of Modern Psychotherapists. I am fully insured and DBS checked.

If you or anyone you know would like some help please contact me to book a Free Initial Consultation: marymyhypnotherapist@gmail.com, 07514 055512

Reporting on news from the Parish Council

In the previous issue we mentioned that the Parish Council was reviewing how it communicates with parishioners. The review has mainly concerned the page advertisement in Jubilee News.

It was reported in the February meeting that the Parish Council had received a number of communications from parishioners, the vast majority of them saying how much they enjoy Jubilee News, but that they weren't sure the Parish Council page represented good value.

Although denied by the Clerk (who has since resigned) we believe the review was brought about by factors other than the wish to consider whether or not Jubilee News was the most effective means of communication.

A couple of issues ago we reported on comments made by councillor John Hill regarding the mention of two petitions concerning cemetery matters. He denied making the comments about editorial control and asked us to publish an apology. However as I had been at the meeting as a member of the public and heard his comments I was not

able to comply with the request.

Furthermore, at the February Parish Council meeting councillor George Hill referred to there having to be consequences for the Jubilee Group not supporting the Parish Council view on cemetery issues, an opinion which he backed up with similar comments at the March meeting.

Prior to the March meeting, the Jubilee Group wrote to the Parish Council to withdraw the offer of advertising space in future issues.

We will of course continue to pass on news from the Parish Council which we believe will be of interest to people in the parish.

To aid their discussions and decision making, the Parish Council asked to see the accounts of the Jubilee Group – a request we find to be out of order for a decision about taking advertising space in a publication. Whilst that request was inappropriate, the accounts have always been available to any member of the public and for ease they have now been published on the Jubilee Group website.

● Ali Fife Cook, Editor, Jubilee News

Personal Advertisement by Roger Page (The Pool Guy)

This advertisement is by Roger Page in a personal capacity and not acting as a member of the Parish Council.

I'm sure village politics bores you, but when it comes to money that you have paid in Council Tax, a percentage of which is for the Parish Council, I hope you may be interested in where it goes.

Two items in March's Parish Council meeting were fiercely discussed;

Firstly: *That this Council agree the award of the full sum requested by the MTCAGA as a means of ensuring that its legal obligation under S23.1 of the Allotments Act is met.* Cllr Bright.

Secondly: to pay a councillor for one day's pay to mend the Cemetery notice board, without prior agreement from the Council, nor following the procedure to obtain 3 quotes for such work.

The grant request was for £4149 (approximately one third of the parish yearly income, or £10 for each household in Mary Tavy) and the payment was for £220. The Council was split between those that wanted to pay both amounts and those that thought more investigation was required.

It was proven in the meeting, that contrary to the printed motion, no legal obligation exists to pay for improvements to any allotments and that the request went against the Parish Grants Policy. In spite of this, the motion was passed by majority vote even though it cannot be implemented without much more information and background checks, so called 'due diligence'.

In the latter case of payment to councillors; This would set a dangerous precedent that all councillors could ask for payment for their time spent working for the Council, which would be disastrous for the finances of the Parish. Currently parish councillors spend many hours on Parish business and receive no money for such work.

Unfortunately, one group of councillors who were in the majority approved both motions.

Even more unfortunately on further investigation the motion to pay a Grant to the MTCAGA, who are trying to set up allotments for 15 parishioners, was proposed by the Secretary of the MTCAGA. As this motion cannot be carried out in its present form due to lack of 'due diligence' information from the MTCAGA, a finance meeting was organized in order to consider this information, but it was not made available in time so another meeting needs now to be organized.

As one who really wants to have allotments in Mary Tavy, it is unfortunate that those councillors are now hindering the process, which will allow the allotments to be created. Their actions (or lack of them) will probably delay the introduction of allotments for another year.

In addition, those councillors, wishing to spend the £4149 and the £220 discussed above, voted not to spend money (30p per issue per household) on explaining the workings of the Parish Council in the free Jubilee News. Thus I am here again discussing the proceedings of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council had requested accounts of the Jubilee Group trust in order to consider whether or not to continue their advertisement. The accounts are available to any member of the public and are also on the web. However, a majority of the Parish Council voted nevertheless to send a complaint to the Monitoring Officer at WDBC and request further investigation with the Charities Commission.

In the last month Kerri Higham, our Parish Clerk, has tendered her resignation due to family commitments. I would like to thank Kerri for all the hard work she has dedicated to the Parish Council in the 2½ years she has been in position. I wish her well in her new position as Chair of the Allotment Association.

Whilst this is a rather full report, I would in the future be happy to include parishioners' letters on topics raised. I would like them to be brief and positive please. Please send to pagynn@aol.com.

Roger Page



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“THANK YOU”

Thank you to the 206 residents who signed my petition last autumn to MTPC asking them to change some cemetery rules to more flexible and kind. After 10 stressful months they have accepted the last words I submitted for my husband Ray's gravestone, so it will soon be in place.

The trouble was that four of the six councillors (later five of seven councillors) wouldn't agree to any change, and two kept trying for a change. I was deeply sad at being denied inscribing a fitting tribute for a kind, brave man who endured so much. The cemetery chairman made me reduce the words and wouldn't allow the most significant ones. I just couldn't accept this, there was nothing wrong with the wording.

My son and I asked them repeatedly to explain why they wouldn't accept the wording, but never got any explanation. It was obvious that one councillor had made it personal against me, I don't know why. He was determined I wasn't going to get what I was asking for.

At the 20 Feb council meeting they were 'put on the spot' by the two other councillors and firmly asked to 'state the reason' once and for all, for their continuous rejection. They did not give a reason, because of course they didn't have a valid one – so they conceded.

All through this, there's been just one councillor whose consistent efforts achieved this satisfactory end to our despondency, we are certain it wouldn't have happened without him. So, thank you Mr Fife Cook, we truly appreciate your fairminded concern in this matter which shames those who lacked this. Sincere thanks again to all who supported us. A dark cloud has been lifted.

I'd like to make a comment:-

As was reported in the last issue, Miss Lupo's mainly online petition of 300 signatures with comments, was dismissed at the Oct meeting because it was 'offensive, containing much unprintable language, extreme bad comments', etc. This was not the case. We could only find one undesirable comment, the rest were, quite simply, home truths. So – the council chairman and cemetery chairman were dismissing views of 300 people, lying about the petition contents being rubbish, in order to continue their stance of 'no change in the rules'. My son and I were there, and saw a display of undesirable characters, and in our view, these two are unfit councillors.

Pearl & Simon Duke

16/3/18

School Report

Despite the snow, it has been a busy term. Cross country has dominated the sporting calendar and many of the juniors have taken on the Tavy 13 challenge. They have been running in our school field in wind and rain, as well as several local races. It is great to see the perseverance and resilience the children bring to each race.

At the Tavistock Schools Swimming Gala, Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary won the small schools cup, joint first with Milton Abbot. This is an amazing achievement for a team which had several younger swimmers from Class 2 as well as Class 3.

Our year six team took part in the Youth Speaks Competition. They

spoke articulately and eloquently on the subject of whether Social Media is a good thing for young people. The team were able to confidently explain the pros and cons of using the internet as well as working well as a team in their individual roles of Chairperson, Speaker and Proposer of Thanks.



Just before half term, the whole school had an Arts Week with the theme of Chinese New Year. The children created collages in mixed age house teams; wrote poetry and plays; made puppets and music. They also had lessons from

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Forthcoming Events

14th April

Help 4 Heroes

25th – 28th May

**Annual Beer,
Sausage &
Mash Festival**



26th May

Live Music TBC

21st July

Pub closed for family wedding

24th Nov

**Annual Christmas
Shopping Trip**

Cardiff & Bristol Cribbs Causway

**Quiz, last Sunday
every month, 8.30pm**

**Sunday Carvery,
12.30–2.30pm**

O'APs' Lunch every Thursday



professional artist, Xaio Bai Li, who taught them how to paint beautiful Chinese flowers and birds. The week concluded with workshops on Chinese music and dance, complete with authentic lion and dragon puppets, by musician Andy Warne. Work from the week is now on display in the school hall.

We are looking forward to some warmer weather next term to enjoy more outside learning in our school field – once the snow melts!

Mrs Barbara Earnshaw
Headteacher

In the previous issue we featured snippets from our heritage collection about Mary Tavy in the 1850s. Throughout that decade the Master at Mary Tavy National School was John Merrifield, a remarkable character who is featured in a new book written by Virginia Noonan, an Australian descendent of John Merrifield's brother Samuel.

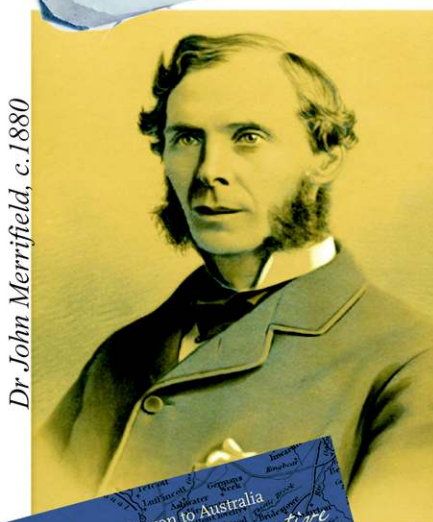
A 19th Century Narrative

The fascinating story of one family with connections to Mary Tavy

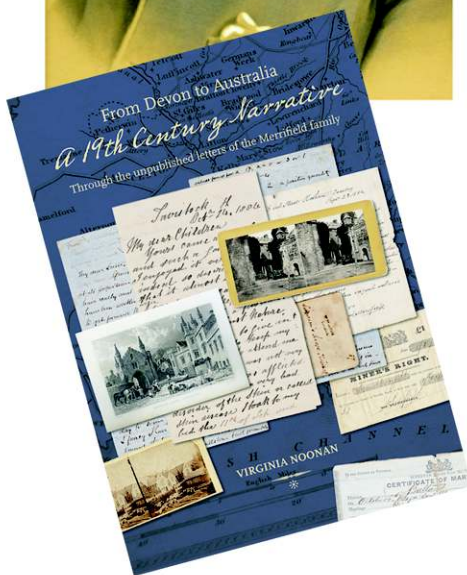
In the mid-1800s, William Merrifield and his family owned a book titled *The Gold-finder of Australia*, basically a travel guide for young men who were eager for adventure and keen to make a quick fortune in the goldfields. A well-worn copy of the book was discovered amongst family memorabilia in Australia over a century and a half later, and triggered a journey of research and exploration resulting in a book, bringing to light a series of letters written between 1856 and 1911, mainly between Australia and Tavistock, as well as Mary Tavy.

William Merrifield and his wife Ann had five sons and a daughter; the eldest son Samuel was fired by enthusiasm for the gold rush and departed for Australia in 1854, whilst the next eldest, John, was Master at Mary Tavy National School and an ambitious man who chose to stay in this area.

William had been born during the middle of the industrial revolution, whilst enormous changes were occurring. He witnessed the demise of the agricultural labourer, and his family's descent into poverty. Many were forced to move into towns and to eke out a living in factories and mines. William was determination to rise above the difficulties, to become a learned person and to succeed in life. William became a teacher as well as Librarian of the



Dr. John Merrifield, c. 1880



Tavistock Subscription Library from 1841 to 1872, and he was also an early Devon photographer, taking stereographic views of Tavistock and surrounding areas. He also kept daily weather records which can be seen in Tavistock Museum.

The family letters provide a great insight into the lives of William's eldest two children Sam and John, in Australia and England.

John (also known as Jack), like his father, had a relentless thirst for knowledge and was a 19th century polymath. After his years as Master at Mary Tavy National School from 1851 to 1862, he was appointed the first Headmaster at Plymouth School of Navigation and won awards for his nautical discoveries. He achieved sufficient national and international stature to serve on a British Association for the Advancement of Science committee concerned with the tides of the English Channel and North Sea. John portrayed himself as a thorough-going radical in religion and politics. This radicalism created many challenges for him, and he clearly thrived on them. John was a driven person, determined to be successful and to ensure his children received university educations

'From Devon to Australia, A 19th Century Narrative' is written by Virginia Noonan, great-great granddaughter of John's brother Sam.

The book is being launched at a signing with the author on Saturday 28th April, 11am to 2pm, at BookStop.



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COMPETITION

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Why not have a go at this second competition, it's the same as last time, all you have to do is identify the photographs, all of them taken recently and of places and things you can see easily from the roads or public places within the parish. The winner will be the first fully correct (or if none are fully correct the most accurate) answer drawn out of the hat at the Post Office & Stores.

Entries must be in by 10th May. Answers can be a written description, or the places marked on a sketch map, or you could take your own photographs, or whatever is the easiest way for you to make sure we understand your answer. Don't worry if you don't know them all, you might still know more than other people do. Entries can be emailed to competition@mtjubileegroup.co.uk, or marked 'Jubilee News Competition' and handed in at the PO & Stores. Please make sure we have your name and a phone number or email address.

Good luck!

Well done to everyone who entered the first competition, especially those who managed to get all the answers right.

There can only be one winner, and congratulations go to Jane Rolfe.

The answers to the Competition in issue 24 were:

1. Wall on the corner of Station Road and Warne Lane;
2. Chimnies at Midland in Horndon;
3. The post in the car park of the Coronation Hall;
4. The corner on Bal Lane just below The Oaks;
5. Planter on the front of the PO & Stores;
6. Sign just before the cattlegrid as you come into the village from Brentor.



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 Jubilee News Editor: Ali Fife Cook

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

twitter: [@marytavyjubilee](https://twitter.com/marytavyjubilee) website: www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk

Visit our website to find out more about the Jubilee Group and how you could be involved