



Free

# The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group

## Newsletter No.21

August & September 2017



*Beating the Bounds, 14th August 1985. Will any of these people be walking the route this year?*

Beating the Bounds is taking place on 12th August. Full details and a Registration Form are on page 5.



### Artful Toddlers

supported by Mary Tavy Jubilee Group and the Recreation Ground, bring you another

## Mary Tavy Play Day

A day full of fun activities and games for kids

### Wed 9th Aug

11am to 3pm  
In and around the Recreation Ground and Coronation Hall

Featuring arts & crafts with Tavistock Scrapstore, Cricket with Tavistock Cricket Club, and Football with Plymouth Argyle Community Trust Plus lots of other games and activities

All activities are free

Drinks available. Bring a picnic for lunch

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

Part of National Play Day



### House Martin Project

Due to a sharp decline in the number of house martins, a project has been set up to check numbers on Dartmoor. Last year there was a pilot project which included Mary Tavy, a very successful public meeting was held in the Coronation Hall, following which 30 nests were recorded in the parish. This year the project is being extended to cover the whole of the Moor. Visit the website to record nests or to get further information.

• [www.dartmoorhousemartins.org](http://www.dartmoorhousemartins.org)

PLUS CAR BOOT!  
For Stall Pitch  
Contact 01822 810302

[www.mtrg.org.uk](http://www.mtrg.org.uk)

Sunday 6th August

# Country Fayre

Opens 12 Noon

## MARY TAVY

AT THE RECREATION GROUND & CORONATION HALL

FEATURING: THE AMAZING 'DIVING DUCKS'!  
'LIVE' SHEEP SHEARING  
SPOONER'S & WEST DARTMOOR HOUNDS  
DOG SHOW  
VINTAGE TRACTORS  
FARM ANIMALS  
HOG ROAST & BEER TENT  
PRODUCE & FLOWER SHOW  
GRAND DRAW 3PM

PRODUCE & FLOWER SHOW ENTRY FORMS FROM THE MT PO & STORES

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE UPKEEP & ENHANCEMENT OF THE RECREATION GROUND

The heavens opened on 21st July, resulting in several properties in the parish being partially flooded. But it could have been much worse. Thanks to the quick thinking and action of the Parish Council Emergency Officer John Roy Hill, and to the trailer of equipment which had been purchased by the Jubilee Group with grant funding, clogged pipes and vegetation were cleared and flood defence bags put in place.

Special thanks go to Ray Aston who helped for hours with diverting water, creating defences as well as clearing stones which were strewn across the road. It was also great to see other residents on Brentor Road helping each other to stop water getting into neighbours' properties.

## Water, water, everywhere

*What may appear to be rivers and waterfalls are actually our normally familiar paths and roads.*



The best way to deal with flooding is to be prepared. It would be sensible for anyone whose property is at risk of flooding to have a stock of hydro sacks (like sandbags but lightweight and filled with expandable grains). The Jubilee Group can make a wholesale purchase and provide them at cost to residents. Please contact us if you are interested.

### Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI

We are again entering for the Okehampton Show hoping as always that this year we will win! Members enjoyed a day out at Otter Nursery, returning well fed and loaded with plants. Another day out is planned to the Totnes Costume Museum.

Possibly our best achievement is that after writing to Devon WI voicing our annoyance that West Devon seemed to be a forgotten area the County meeting this autumn is to be at West Point and Tavistock has been reinstated as a pick up point for the Christmas shopping outing.

• Barbara Weeks 810697

### Dog waste bin being installed at Horndon

The Parish Council has purchased a new dog waste bin which will be installed on the grass area near the phone kiosk at Horndon. All the dog waste bins in the parish are emptied regularly. If anyone is aware of problems with the bins or wishes to suggest new locations, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

**Clubs & Local Contacts** There is no space for the list in this issue. Please visit the Jubilee Group website or phone us if you want information.



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## 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.

There is no meeting in August

**Thurs 21st Sept  
Dartmoor's Sett  
Makers & Bankers**

**A talk by  
Simon Dell**

- Heather Webster 810004



**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**



**Help raise funds for this very worthwhile cause, whilst enjoying great cakes made by pupils at the school and others.**

**Macmillan Coffee Morning  
Friday 29th Sept, 10am  
Mary Tavy & Brentor  
Primary School**

We wish a warm welcome to

## Café Scrumptious

Opening 29th July, at the former Royal Standard

Ian and Becky tell us their story –

*Two and a half years ago we were offered the opportunity to buy Simply Scrumptious, a long running catering company; we started with a food van and the odd buffet. We now continue to provide our food van to local businesses in Tavistock, supply Meals on Wheels to our customers in Tavistock and the surrounding villages and we have had the privilege of supplying buffets to the former Mayor of Tavistock for her Civic Service and teamed up with Becky's sister to provide the catering for the Civic Ball.*

*As the business continued to grow we started to look for commercial premises and came upon the Royal Standard. We preferred the option of a café as Mary Tavy already boasts a thriving pub and we felt we should offer something different, so here we are.*

*We have had a few implications along the way and we may have to open under the name of 'The Royal Standard' but as soon as we are able to change the signage we will!*

*We look forward to welcoming you soon and would like to thank you all for making us feel so welcome in the Village.*

Ian, Becky, Ryan, Mitch & Ruby, and Zeus the Lab

As we say welcome to Café Scrumptious, we also say farewell to the Royal Standard Inn as we know it.

The Standard has been a part of the Mary Tavy scene since the 1840s when it was built by the owners of Wheal Friendship Mine to quench the thirst of miners.



*Locals outside the Royal Standard Inn. Date of photograph unknown, possibly around 1900. (Please tell the Jubilee Group if you know anything about this photograph).*

*John Duke (1864-1940), with his horse and dog, outside the Royal Standard. We believe John lived in Standard Court. Photograph probably from the 1930s.*

Have you got any other photographs of the Standard which could be added to the Jubilee Group's Heritage Collection?



Open 9am for breakfast til 5pm, serving a range of homemade food, delicious cakes and our cream teas which will be able to be enjoyed in our Garden – weather permitting of course!

The Café will be available for private functions. We will also be offering our Meals on Wheels service locally, please pick up a menu from the Café.

We are now taking bookings for our Traditional Sunday Roast, if you would like to book a table please phone us on 810555 (please do leave a message if we can't get to the phone).

## Mary Tavy Live!

Good news!

Neil Maya and his jazz group are returning to Mary Tavy on 28th February 2018 so put that date in your diary. Remember that great Dave Brubeck set they did earlier this year? We are also working hard to attract another performer for autumn 2017 and will announce this as soon as possible. Keep watching this space!

## Mary Tavy Parish Council

We are pleased to be able to report that a meeting has been held with an officer of WDBC regarding the condition of pathways and the need for boundary management and tree work in the parish churchyard. The outcome was very positive and we are certain that better physical management of our churchyard will occur as a result. This in turn will allow us to improve the appearance and functionality of the adjoining parish cemetery. However, we are saddened to note that problems still appear to exist with regard to headstones and floral tributes in our parish cemetery. We have reviewed the matter in depth and have given very specific instructions to our contractor concerning the removal of dead flowers and the need to replace flower vases after grass cutting has been completed. Floral tributes are of course easily damaged and displaced by the elements and are often the target of small animals such as rabbits. It is unreasonable to expect our contractor to have the time or the knowledge to replace them on the correct grave. However, we must stress that we depend on those parishioners visiting graves to be understanding and to use common sense when placing floral tributes to allow for the easy cutting of grass by either mower or strimmer. We regret that our cemetery noticeboard has had to be removed for some very necessary repairs to be carried out. Therefore any parishioner who is unsure of the regulations governing our parish cemetery should, in the short term, seek advice from our Parish Clerk.

I have been asked to point out that, following this Council's decision to cancel plans to extend the parish cemetery, we are always looking for an alternative site. This decision to cancel was, of course, taken on the grounds of the unsuitability of the proposed site and the high costs involved. Unfortunately land in the parish is highly sought after and commands high prices. Therefore if any parishioner can assist us in this search please contact us as soon as possible.

Recently MTPC received a complaint from a parishioner concerning the felling of mature trees within the Parish and the apparent failure of the Council to stop such work taking place. Needless to say it is a complete misconception

to believe that a Parish Council has statutory powers in such matters. Many parishioners rightly take the view that, as the tree work they wish to undertake is on private property without the hindrance of Tree Protection Orders and Conservation Area restrictions, they are not obliged to inform us of their plans. If we believe such work to be ill-advised or extreme the only course of action open to us is to bring the problem to the attention of the Trees & Landscape Officer of the DNPA. We also examine closely all planning applications involving trees but as none of us holds professional qualifications on arboreal matters we rely on common sense and the professional advice of others. We always recommend to parishioners who approach us for guidance that they should seek the advice of a properly qualified Tree Surgeon and if necessary the consent of the relevant authorities before commencing work. In the last 2 cases reviewed by MTPC this is exactly the procedure that was followed to the satisfaction of all concerned.

MTPC will undertake the Beating of the Bounds on the 12th August. This ancient ceremony, which dates back to at least Anglo-Saxon times, is of course a reflection of an age when maps were a rarity and literacy the privilege of the very few. Parishioners walked the parish boundary to establish in everyone's memory the exact limits of their own parish with its necessary rights and privileges. All arrangements are in place for our modern version with the 27km distance being split into 3 sections. Please note that if you wish to take part prior registration is mandatory as we have to satisfy Health & Safety regulations. Entry forms are available in this Newsletter, from our website and from Mary Tavy Post Office and Stores.

Finally, I have been asked to remind all parishioners who use local moorland and public footpaths to exercise their dogs to keep their animals on a lead. We have already received complaints of sheep worrying by dogs not properly controlled. Frankly it is little wonder that when this happens the farming members of our community begin to consider the need for drastic action against both uncontrolled dogs and their irresponsible owners.

Cllr Peter Jarvis  
Vice-Chairman, Mary Tavy Parish Council

## Beating the Bounds

On Sunday 12 August we'll be beating the bounds. All parishioners are invited to take part in this traditional walk around the parish boundary. Hopefully some hardy trekkers will walk the whole distance, however in the interests of allowing as many people of all ages and abilities as possible to join the event the course has been divided into three sections.

Those wishing to attempt the entire distance of around 27km will start from Tavy St Mary Church at 9am.

A second group wishing to attempt our medium distance course will be transported by coach – for which we are grateful to CJ Down – from the Coronation Hall to Brinsabach (beyond the Gliding Club) where they will join the first group to continue the walk. The distance this second group will cover is in the region of 16km.

A stop for lunch at Lydford Station will also see a third group of walkers join in. Again transport will be provided for those wishing to join in for the short course which will cover the last 9.5km and bring everybody back to the Church.

Allowing the two additional starts also means we have two points from which walkers can 'bail out' should they feel that cannot make it any further. It should also allow families with younger children to take part. We would advise that children under the age of 9 should not attempt the entire course.

Lunch will be provided for those doing the complete boundary and a barbeque at the Coronation Hall from 5pm onwards will await everybody who has completed any distance. A complimentary burger and drink will be provided for all those you registered to take part but we encourage all of you to bring family and friends to celebrate your achievement.

During the day we would ask that walkers stay together as a group as much as possible. Group and section leaders made up from volunteers within our community will assist and ensure everybody keeps on track. These leaders have already walked their sections to ensure the route is safe and passable. We owe great thanks to Cllr Graham Ross, Beverly Ross, John and Wendy Bagnall and Nick Butland for all their help and support organising the event. Thanks go to Cheryl Downham for kindly agreeing to man the barbeque.

If you wish to take part please complete the form below. The final date for registration will be at Mary Tavy Country Fayre on Sunday 6 August. Please seek out our Clerk who will be collecting completed forms and will have spare forms should you require them.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Cllr Roger Page

### Mary Tavy Beating the Bounds Registration Form

Please read and fill out this form and return to [parishclerk@marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marytavyparishcouncil.co.uk); or 9 Warren Road, Mary Tavy, PL19 9PF; or hand it in at the Country Fayre.

**MAKE SURE YOU FILL OUT ALL SECTIONS MARKED WITH\***

Full Name & Title \* \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \* \_\_\_\_\_

Address, Telephone and/or Email \* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Name of local friend or relative \* \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \* \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you \* \_\_\_\_\_

The Route has been split into three sections. Those wishing to take part in the full boundary walk will start at 9am from Tavy St Mary on Church Road. Transport to the start of the medium and short courses will be provided. Times to be confirmed. Please tick the distance you intend to complete. \*

**Full boundary:** Starting and ending at Tavy St Mary Church – approximately 27km

**Medium course:** Brinsabach to Tavy St Mary Church – approximately 16km

**Short course:** Lydford Station to Tavy St Mary Church – approximately 9.5km

Lunch will be provided for those completing the full boundary walk.

All those who have taken part in any distance are invited to a barbecue at the Coronation Hall from 5pm onwards. Please indicate below whether you will be attending the barbecue plus any dietary requirements. A complimentary hotdog or burger will be provided to all those who took part. Friends and family are welcome at the barbecue but there may be a small charge for food.

I'll be attending the barbecue \* Yes  No  Dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_



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

## “Upset by trifles”

### As you walk the parish bounds this August spare a thought for William Ball

William was a farm labourer at Holditch Farm in the early 1900s. Before he came to Mary Tavy he had a riding accident which resulted in him suffering severe headaches as well as memory loss, which a doctor had put down to “the shock of the accident.” In the doctor’s words it caused Ball to be “upset by trifles.”

*Holditch Farm as it is today, where William Ball worked in the early part of the 20th century*



On 7th August 1905, a Bank Holiday Monday, William Ball went missing. He’d been seen earlier that day at Blackdown and it was believed he had been on his way to Willsworthy. When he had not returned that night it was assumed he had gone to visit friends; however as the day went on his family became concerned and sent telegrams to Tavistock and Princetown enquiring if he had been seen; the response came that there had been no sightings of him.

What caused great concern was that the whole area was pitted with open mine shafts belonging to Devon Friendship Mine and it was feared he may have fallen into one. Search parties were organised and over the next few days the police and the villagers accompanied by their dogs spread out all over the area in the hope of finding him. The rector of Mary Tavy, Mr. I K. Anderson, not only joined in the search but even removed the bell ropes from St. Mary’s Tower so that they could be used for men to descend the mine shafts to ensure that Ball was not at the bottom of one. Despite an exhaustive search, there was no sign of William Ball and hopes of him being found alive were fading.

Some days later a family from London who were on holiday at the Manor Hotel in Lydford took a horse ride across the moor. When they came to the boundary stones on the Mary Tavy and Willsworthy Manor bounds, Mr. Boulton noticed a man lying on the ground; at first he thought he was taking a snooze but soon discovered that the man was dead.

Under the direction of the police the body was laid on a gate which was fastened to a cart, and they went down to the schoolroom at Mary Tavy. When they couldn’t get the gate through the door it was taken instead to one of the buildings at Wheal Friendship.

William Ball’s inquest was held on 16th August in the Counting House at Wheal Friendship [now Glebe Cottage]. Police Constable Berry from Lydford testified that he found the deceased lying face down and that nearby was a rusty razor. There were no signs of a struggle or of a second party being involved. On the arrival of PC Heale from Mary Tavy the body was searched and they found a note which read “I know this will be a great trouble to you all, and to all the family, but I cannot help it. I am just mad. Oh my poor head.”

PC Heale added that he had always regarded Ball as being “very reserved and peculiar”. The coroner summed up by saying the deceased had “allowed trifles to worry him which had led to the loss of his mental balance.” The Jury returned a verdict of “suicide whilst temporarily insane.”

Shortly after the inquest the coffin was carried to the Parish Churchyard for the funeral. It was reported that many villagers stood along the route to pay their final respects. Rev. Anderson refused to perform a service because the order of service for funerals stated it was not to be used for any that have “laid violent hands upon themselves.”

With thanks to Legendary Dartmoor  
 ● [www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk](http://www.legendarydartmoor.co.uk)

**MARY TAVY**  
**BONFIRE NIGHT**  
**Sun 5th Nov 5pm**

### Could you help with preparations for Bonfire Night?

As Bonfire Night gets more popular each year we need to make sure we are planning well and providing everything we can to make the event not just enjoyable but also safe for everyone. If you could help in any way, please join the group of people making it all run smoothly. There will be an informal meeting on –

**Thurs 17th August, 7pm**  
**Mary Tavy Inn**

If you’d like to be involved but can’t make it to the meeting please let us know.

● [mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk](mailto:mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk)  
 08455 193812

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## Methodist Chapel & Hall

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

Hall available for bookings  
only £10 per hour

● Tony Smith, 820575

## Moor Otters

Meet Otto. He is one of 100 otters in locations across Dartmoor and you can visit him and the others by taking part in an otter trail. Moor Otters is a public art initiative with models of otters painted by artists, placed across the Moor, and there are prizes to be won for those who spot a good number of them.



So, start your trail at the very beginning - Otto, by Devon artist Tony Williams, is number 1 on the trail and you can track him down at the Mary Tavy Inn.

The otters will feature in a live online auction later in the year, to raise funds towards the conservation of the Moor.

There are trail leaflets in many locations or visit the website to find out more and download the leaflet.

● [www.moorotters.co.uk](http://www.moorotters.co.uk)



## "All change"

Plymouth Citybus have decided not to continue its No.46 Okehampton to Tavistock bus service. Fortunately Dartline will be operating a very similar timetable, although with no through buses to Plymouth. There are generally 9 buses each Mon to Sat to Okehampton, and 11 to Tavistock. Dartline service 118 will start on 4th September.

● 01392 872900,  
[www.dartline-coaches.co.uk](http://www.dartline-coaches.co.uk)

The Sunday Rover train from Okehampton has been rebranded as "Summer Trains to Exeter from Okehampton". It runs until September. Unfortunately there are no longer Sunday buses to connect with the train service.

There are once again talks about re-opening a northern rail line as an alternative to the troubled Dawlish section between London and Cornwall. Mary Tavy is part of a possible route although there wouldn't be a station. You can read more at [www.devonlive.com](http://www.devonlive.com), search for: options for a second Devon train line.

## Would you consider opening your garden?

Children's Hospice South West are asking residents in Devon to open their gardens in 2018.

If you feel you would like to open your garden for others to come along and walk around, and at the same time safeguard CHSW's important work, contact their Fundraising Team:

● CHSW, 01271 325270;  
[www.chsw.org.uk](http://www.chsw.org.uk)

## News from the School

There has been an action-packed Summer Term. The School held a lovely Proms in the Park with families having a picnic followed by entertainment with the children singing, dancing, playing instruments and acting. Year 6 children had a residential week at an activity centre where they had a fantastic time. The children have been out and about on educational visits to RHS Rosemoor, Devonport Waste Centre and Dartmoor Zoo, and Year 6 had a great Leavers Day at Crealy wearing lovely purple hoodies donated by the PTA.

The children were able to share their successes with their parents at their Open Afternoon towards the end of term.

Best wishes go to Year 6 children as they leave for their new schools and the next step in their education. The new Reception children have had the opportunity to spend eight Induction Afternoons at the school so they will surely quickly settle into school life.

As well as saying farewell to Headteacher Nicky Pratten, a fond farewell is also being said to Mrs Bassett as she retires. Both will be hugely missed.

# The Mary Tavy Inn

www.themarytavyinn.co.uk

01822 810326

## Forthcoming Events

Sat 16th Sept  
Live Music 'Lillismith'



Sat 11th Nov  
1st World War  
Themed  
Help for Heroes  
Dinner

Quiz, last Sunday  
every month, 8.30pm

Sunday Carvery,  
12.30-2.30pm

OAPs' Lunch every Thursday

## Toddlers on the move

The pre-school activity group Artful Toddlers is moving to the Coronation Hall from September. This is to allow more space, use of outdoor areas, and easier parking.

Artful Toddlers meets every Wednesday in term time, 9.15-11.15am.

- Kerri Higham, 810786, kerrigham@icloud.com

## Compassionate Neighbours is "up and running"

We are pleased to announce that the Compassionate Neighbours scheme - which aims to support members of our local community who are suffering from a serious long term condition, a life-limiting illness, or are approaching the end of life - is now fully operational.

If you know of anyone in this situation - a friend, neighbour, or perhaps a family member - who may benefit from some extra support, we can be contacted through your GP, or via our website.

Working in partnership with St Luke's Hospice  
Patron: Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE

- www.bmcneighbours.org



## Update on the proposal for allotments

I was very pleased with the level of response to my article in newsletter 20. As a consequence of the large number of enquiries, I was able to demonstrate the high level of demand for allotments within the village by presenting to the Parish Council 13 letters requesting plots. This is more than twice the number needed under legislation which requires a response from the Council.

Although the first location proposed proved to be unsuitable, a much more appropriate site was suggested by the Council and my formal proposition will be submitted to the appropriate committee this week.

In the meantime all of us who have submitted requests for plots will be meeting at the start of August to begin organising ourselves into an association, adopting a constitution and agreeing a set of rules by which the site will be run.

I am so very grateful to those who have supported me with this initiative.

From the Jubilee Group who have published articles and offered advice, the Coronation Hall for allowing us to meet, to the Duchy of Cornwall and the very large number of people from the village who have approached me to wish the project well or offer advice and information. With this continued level of support I am very optimistic that we will see allotments within the village in the very near future.

- John Bright, 24 Great Fellingfield, 07704 634695, brighty749@gmail.com



Odd Jobs? General Maintenance?  
House Repairs? Masonry?  
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Renovations? Building Work? Ground-works?

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## Next Newsletter

The copydate for editorial and advertising for the Oct/Nov issue is 20th September.

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

twitter: @marytavyjubilee website: www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk