



The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group

Free

Newsletter No.22

October & November 2017



DYED, WARPED & TWISTED

An exhibition of work by Peter Tavy Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers

Fri 27th to Sun 29th October, 10am to 4pm, Coronation Hall

FREE ENTRY

Demonstrations and Refreshments

Mary Tavy Live!



Mrs Beeton, My Sister

Alison Neal

Tuesday 10th October, 7.30pm
Coronation Hall

This is the first event presented by Mary Tavy Live.

Alison Neal brought us 'The Fossil Lady of Lyme' last year, which was a fantastic one-woman show, and 'Mrs Beeton, My Sister' will no doubt be every bit as enjoyable. The one hour show will be followed by a question and answer session. In the interval free tea/coffee and cakes will be available.

The Neil Maya Quartet is booked for a return visit on 28th February. Further details will be in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Please try to support these events to enable Mary Tavy Live to continue to bring live theatre to the village. See you there!

Tickets £8 adults, £4 children, available from Mary Tavy Post Office & Stores, or from -.

- Doreen Rogers 810824 & Margaret Aston 810408

Blackdown Garage Site

After a lull over the summer, building work is stepping up a gear at the Blackdown Garage site.

Site facilities are going in and ground works start in early October. Highways works start soon and they hope to have them completed by the end of the year.

It is anticipated that the first show homes and all front highways and garden works will be complete by the end of May.

There will inevitably be mess and disruption, but it'll be good to see things happening.

Air Ambulance Night Landing Site approval

The lighting mast to enable a part of the Recreation Ground to be used as a Night Landing Site for Air Ambulance has been granted planning permission. The mast is a thin pole with a light on top, which can be turned on by the pilot so it can just be lit when it's needed.

Welcome

On behalf of the community, we'd like to offer a warm welcome from the Jubilee Group to new Headteacher at Mary Tavy & Brentor School, Barbara Earnshaw.



The Jubilee Group is working alongside Learn Devon to bring some new courses to Mary Tavy.

These might include Computer Skills for the over 50s, Languages for Holidays, Photography, or perhaps a Mosaic Workshop or Creative writing sessions.

If you are interested in any courses please contact the Jubilee Group or phone Penny at Learn Devon, 0781 697 3926, so that we can be sure to arrange the sessions that people would find useful or would particularly enjoy.



Tamar Energy Community



Local Matters Community Space Elbow Lane, Tavistock

MARY TAVY POP IN



Information & Advice Event

With cream tea!

Come along on

Tuesday 3rd October

12.30pm - 3.30pm

Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy

If you need transport call 01822 616958

Christmas Tree Festival Thurs 30 Nov to Sun 3 Dec St Mary's Church



Growing up in Mary Tavy - Part Two

An account of Mary Tavy by Annette van Oppen who was born in 1936 and spent her childhood in Tavy House. Annette had been a journalist with the Tavistock Times and later a teacher and was married to Richard van Oppen, Coroner and a Mayor of Plymouth City. She died in 2011.

Her story is being serialised over several issues; the first part was published in the Newsletter in issue 18, earlier this year.

There were several retired army officers living in Mary Tavy during the war (my Dad was one of them) and they were all very keen to

create a Home Guard which would be the envy of the world! Colonel Thompson of Blackdown House [Blackdown Nursing Home] was the commanding officer (I believe he was actually a retired bank manager but given the rank of Colonel for the duration of the War) and he soon had plenty of volunteers. My Dad was the supplies officer and he managed to get the platoon everything they needed.

All sorts of exercises were organised which involved them marching around Mary Tavy and bossing us all about but sometimes they had to rehearse capturing Germans and the WVS were the unlucky victims of this one! On one occasion when this was taking place several of them came running through our garden in gentle but determined pursuit of some unfortunate lady when one of our Scotties dashed out and fastened its teeth on the leg of one of them. Try as he would, the embarrassed soldier could not shake off the feisty little dog and had to run past our windows with the dog attached. Dougie let go at the gate, however. The WVS were duly rounded up and imprisoned in their hut and forced to provide the victorious army with refreshment, which they did ... later announcing that they had poisoned the tea and so the men were all dead and victory was theirs! Colonel Thompson was not amused but everyone else was!

The meetings of the Home Guard often took place at Blackdown House where Colonel Thompson had a wonderful air raid shelter under the rockery. I can just remember seeing down there once but I think it was when my brother and I were exploring and we were not supposed to know about it so we were sworn to secrecy (or rather threatened with dire consequences if we told anyone). It may still be there and it would be fun to uncover it. The other thing I remember about Colonel Thompson is that he believed that children should be seen and not heard but his wife was very kind; she once

gave us scones with real butter and strawberry jam for tea! Later on I was allowed to use their drive and garden as a short cut to the moor as my pony's field was across the road from their gate and it saved me from having to ride on the main road, which became quite busy after petrol rationing was lifted and also quite dangerous as traffic speed increased tremendously.

A memorable incident which involved the Home Guard and us concerned something that my brother and I found when we were out on our bikes one late summer day. As we pushed up the hill from the station we decided to go into a field to look for blackberries. As soon as we climbed over the gate we saw it - this huge, white billowing mass of silk! It was a parachute! We dashed home and ran into the house shouting to Mum that we had found a German! She listened to our garbled tale, took it seriously, told us to stay indoors and got on the phone to Colonel Thompson (in those days you went through a person on a switchboard and it took some time if the lines were busy).

Not only the Home Guard but the whole male population of the village of Mary Tavy turned out with whatever they could lay their hands on to put fear and trembling into the enemy! Women and children were to stay at home!! The brave men surrounded the field and gradually closed in; they approached the billowing canopy with cautious determination. The nearer they got, the slower they went until, finally they were there! They looked around for the enemy, dead or alive! He was nowhere to be seen. Must they organise another search party? Could he be armed? Colonel Thompson had to think fast!

Then someone looked a bit closer at the parachute. It was not a parachute. It was a barrage balloon which had broken loose from its moorings in Plymouth. Their function was to confuse and disrupt enemy aircraft and they certainly succeeded in that - but occasionally they broke loose and then it was the population who were confused and disrupted! The village ladies burst forth with scissors and within a very short time there was absolutely nothing of it to be seen!



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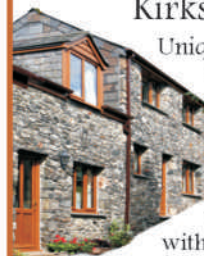
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Photograph by Wendy Bagnall

Country pursuits

The photograph shows sheep shearing at the Mary Tavy Country Fayre in August – a great day which raised funds towards the upkeep of the Recreation Ground.

Our parish bounds have been beaten

On a not-too-hot and not-too-wet Saturday in August around two dozen intrepid Mary Tavy residents, and a couple of dogs, set off to perform the traditional act of Beating the Bounds. From Tavy St Mary Church they were sent off with aptly chosen prayers spoken by lay preacher Hazel Butland. Thankfully good weather stayed with them for the duration and an enjoyable day was had by all. Twenty five walkers in total met the challenge of walking part or all of the boundary of our village. The range of age and ability spanned the generations with the youngest walker being just six years old whilst the eldest were into their seventies. The day was rounded off with a social gathering of walkers and volunteers enjoying a well earned barbeque on the Recreation Ground. Thanks and congratulations go to all those who took part and to those who helped organise the event. It would not have been such a success without them.

Cemetery concerns

Some of our readers will have seen the articles in the Tavistock Times in mid-September, or might have read the minutes of Council meetings, and will know there are people who feel they are faced with difficulties in dealing with the Parish Council on matters concerning the cemetery. The problems relate to wording wanted on a gravestone, and flowers moved from graves.

As well as representations made to the Parish Council in letters, phone calls, and at a Council meeting, a petition was set up to galvanise views from others who feel the rules and the attitude of the Parish Council are inappropriate and uncaring. A petition can be found on facebook by searching for petition 1504866058, or contact Mrs Duke on 810800.

The Parish Council has rules in place which they believe are appropriate and which all those who have bought plots have agreed to. Those who have contacted the Parish Council have had personal responses to that effect. The Parish Council had 'no comment' to make regarding the articles in the Tavistock Times, but their view is given in the Parish Council feature on page 4 of this Newsletter.

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.

Next Newsletter The copydate for editorial and advertising for the Dec/Jan issue is 20th November.



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www.tavonians.org.uk
08455 196592

Mary Tavy Parish Council

We are delighted to report that the very successful Beating of the Bounds was completed on 12th August and that Planning Consent has recently been received for the construction of the DAA night landing site on the Recreation Ground. We are also pleased to report that we have commented to the DNPA regarding the Parish Settlement Profile they published as part of the Local Plan review. The terms of the new Local Plan will of course affect everyday life in all Dartmoor communities. Interestingly, immediately prior to the closing date for such comment only 8 parishes out of over 50 had made such a return to the DNPA!

A very small minority of local people seem surprised that regulations are in place for the proper operation of our parish cemetery. Regulations have been in place for the last 15 years and have remained largely unchanged despite the annual review process. The regulations are not arbitrary and are based on best practice drawn from the regulations of the Diocese of Exeter and neighbouring Burial Authorities, such as Tavistock Town Council, and quite frankly plain common sense. The 15 regulations are simple and straightforward. They provide a balance between the needs of the bereaved and our duty as a Burial Authority to ensure that our cemetery offers a safe, tidy, respectful and dignified environment for all. The parish cemetery is council property and control of it and its operation is totally in the hands of MTPC. Councillors expect that all those who purchase an Exclusive Right of Burial or the Right to erect a headstone with an inscription will comply with the cemetery regulations. The same level of compliance is required of all visitors attending graves in the parish cemetery where the regulations are on display.

While all parishioners have the right to elect to be buried in the parish cemetery, our agreement is dependent on the purchaser accepting the regulations in force at the time and any subsequent amendments made to them. All those who purchase any of the Rights relating to a burial are given a copy of the Charges and Regulations booklet. It has always been the policy of MTPC to view this booklet as, in effect, being the Terms and Conditions governing any sale of Rights. As several weeks elapse between the occurrence of a death and the interment we are reassured to note that

bereaved families are able to cope with this legal aspect of a burial. As our Clerk is readily available to give advice and clarification prior to an interment those who still find our rules unacceptable should seek to use an alternative burial ground. They will of course discover that alternative venues have much the same rules as we do.

The parish cemetery is financially supported by Parish Precept funds. Therefore the cost of maintenance is important and is why we have asked those who insist on laying floral tributes along the length of a grave to follow cemetery regulations. These ill-considered actions make it more time-consuming for our contractor to cut and trim the grass. In simple terms, the longer it takes, the more it costs. As MTPC has an enviable record over the last 2 years of reducing the Parish Precept we feel certain that parishioners will wish to support us in keeping a tight grip on our expenditure of their money. Your Council remains unmoved by the actions of individuals who, simply because they cannot have their own way, resort to parading their discontent in local newspapers and social media. Equally we view petitions drawn up and signed by non-residents to have little value as such people do not contribute towards the management costs of our cemetery. We of course encourage all parishioners who feel they have a justifiable complaint to bring it to our attention in Parishioners' Time prior to our monthly Parish Council meeting. It remains our firm belief that good management and insistence on regulatory compliance is the only certain way of ensuring that people will use the cemetery respectfully and with due regard for the sensibilities of other parishioners.

Much to the wry amusement of Councillors, but also tinged with a degree of sadness and despair, our Clerk has informed us that a parishioner who was complaining to her about a Council decision firmly believed that we are paid for the work that we undertake on behalf of the community. The reality is of course quite the opposite. Parish Councillors receive no payment at all for holding public office and seldom even claim expenses incurred in the execution of their duties. The situation is totally different for the next 2 tiers of local government where allowances and expenses are much more the order of the day. Is this perhaps the reason why we still have 3 vacancies on MTPC?

CIlr Peter Jarvis
Vice-Chairman, Mary Tavy Parish Council

MARY TAVY BONFIRE NIGHT

Sun 5 Nov
from 5pm

Recreation Ground &
Coronation Hall

FREE ENTRY

Sponsors:
The Pool Guy
SJP Motors
Mary Tavy Inn
C J Down

- Huge Bonfire
- Spectacular Fireworks Display
- Carved pumpkin competition
- Come in fancy dress if you want to
- Beer Tent – soft drinks – hot chocolate
- Hog Roast – Chips – Soup – Pie – Cakes
- Lots of great glow-in-the-dark products

*If the weather
is abysmal
Bonfire Night
will be
one week later*

Mary Tavy Bonfire Night is now a regular feature in the village calendar, having started following a Beacon Bonfire as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Each year it gets bigger and better and we hope that 2017 will be no exception. The event is free, although it is hoped everyone will come with plenty of cash for the great food and drink, to buy raffle tickets and to make a generous donation to show appreciation for a really fabulous evening.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Tavy Jubilee Group & Trustees of the Recreation Ground
08455 913812 mail@mtjubileegroup.co.uk
info@mtrg.org.uk

We need helpers

Bonfire Night is run by the village for the village, it's your event. Could you help with stewarding, car parking, serving food or drinks, selling raffle tickets, collecting donations? Please get in touch, we need you.



*Mary Tavy Bonfire Night 2016,
photograph by Nigel Williams*



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Tavy Jubilee Group

School Report

Thank you so much to everyone for their warm welcome. I am already really enjoying my time at Mary Tavy and Brentor Primary School. The children are working hard and showing an excellent attitude to learning as well as friendliness and politeness.

Our new pupils in Reception have already settled in and are enjoying themselves, investigating their classroom and outside learning area. They have also started their nature walks, when they get to explore our beautiful countryside.

At the beginning of term, the pupils voted in a School Council, who will be meeting to discuss matters important to them and helping make decisions, such as fundraising events and purchasing of new play equipment. They have already revised the Playground Charter and presented it to the school in assembly.

Our Year 6s have again been to the Junior Life Skills event in Tavistock where they were able to meet a range of people from the emergency services and practice skills to keep themselves and others safe as well as learning how to be a good citizen.

The school is having a Bags2School collection, so if you have any old clothes, shoes, belts, bags or soft toys, please bring them down to the school between 3pm and 5.30pm on Monday 9th October to help raise funds for our PTFA.

Mrs Barbara Earnshaw
Headteacher

Dartmoor announce potential development sites

We announced in an issue of the Newsletter last year that Dartmoor National Park was issuing a 'call for sites' as part of their Land Availability Assessment (LAA). The process identifies sites with potential for housing, employment and traveller uses, assess their suitability and consider when they are likely to be developed.

The LAA is not a policy making document, it does not decide where new development will take place. Decisions included in this report do not mean planning permission has or will be granted for a site. They are not a planning decision made by DNPA, sites deemed acceptable by the panel are simply technically feasible. All sites will still be required to go through the normal process of planning permission process and are not guaranteed permission.

The 2017 LAA Report has now been completed and can be viewed on the DNPA website.

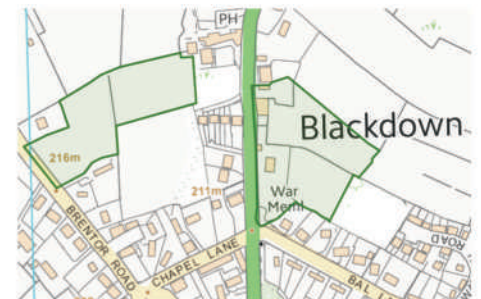
Five sites in Mary Tavy are included in the 2017 LAA Report. Three of those were listed in the previous Report, of which two were found not to be suitable for development. The site which remains listed as suitable is –

Land to the east of Brentor Road: Listed in 2014, suitable for max. 26 homes.

Two new sites were submitted for consideration in 2017. They are –

Land adjacent to Sunnycote: Not considered to be suitable for development.

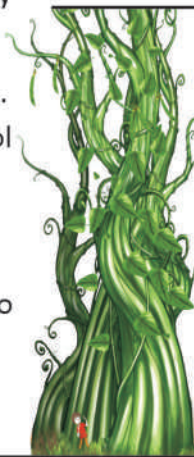
The Stannary and Croftner: Suitable for c.14 homes, existing buildings to be retained.



Jack & The Beanstalk

The Mary Tavy Panto is 14-16 December, and there might still be opportunities to get involved. Rehearsals Mondays and Fridays and for children Sunday afternoons.

● Michelle Buncle
810112



Mary Tavy Play Day

The 2nd Mary Tavy Play Day in August was a truly great success. More than 80 children and their parents/grandparents came along to enjoy a wide variety of games and activities, ranging from cricket to painting with balloons. And it was all free. Play Day is now a regular feature in the Mary Tavy calendar and is a project run by Kerri Higham and her pre-school Artful Toddlers group, with support from the Mary Tavy Jubilee Group and the Recreation Ground.



The Mary Tavy Inn

www.themarytavyinn.co.uk

01822 810326

Forthcoming Events

Sat 11th Nov
Help for Heroes Dinner

SOLD OUT



Sat 25th Nov
Ladies Christmas Trip

Tues 26th Dec
Boxing Day Quiz

Starts 8.30pm



Wed 27th Dec
Annual Pool Competition

Sun 31st Dec
New Year's Eve Party
with Rock'n'Roll Outlaws

Ticket entry only, please contact the pub

Quiz, last Sunday
every month, 8.30pm

Sunday Carvery,
12.30-2.30pm

OAPs' Lunch every Thursday

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**Working with Mary
Tavy Parish Council**

Remembrance Sunday

12th November

10.50am

at the War Memorial:
Act of Remembrance

11am:

2 minute silence

Followed by a
service of
remembrance in
the Methodist Church



From the War Memorial:

**Leslie Kenneth Colense
Stephens**

Gunner 861553, 51 (Devon)
Light A.A. Regimnet, Royal
Artillery. Died 27 May 1940.
Aged 26. Son of Charles Henry
and Beatrice Stephens, of
Horndon, Devon. Buried in
Dunkirk Town Cemetery, Nord,
France. Special Memorial.

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 19 October
**Moss Gatherers of Dartmoor,
World War 1**

A talk by Ann Pulsford



Thursday 16 November
**"If you go down to the woods
today"**

A talk by David Price

- Heather Webster 810004

**Mary Tavy & Brentor School
Harvest Festival**
Tavy St Mary Church
Thurs 12th October 2pm

The theme is 'Harvest Traditions'

Methodist Chapel & Hall



Harvest Lunch

Sun 8th October 12noon

All are welcome to a hearty lunch
of soup and puddings.

No charge but we'd be grateful
for any tins, packets or cartons
for the Food Bank.

Coffee Morning in November

Look out for posters!

Craft Fair

Sat 25th November, 11am-3pm

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

- Ring Pauline 610079 or
email janetixxa@gmail.com

Short Mat Bowls

Tuesdays, 11am-1pm
Coronation Hall

Fancy having a try at short mats
bowls for £2.50? Give us a call or
just turn up on a Tuesday morning.
We are a small, friendly group and
we are looking for a few more
players.

The Wednesday evening Short Mat
Bowls is proving very popular and
is currently full.

All equipment provided expect
treadless shoes (socks are fine).

- Jo, 810356



Latest news on Allotments

We're making good progress. The Parish Council have voted to adopt the allotments, and a formal proposal was submitted to the Trustees of the Recreation Ground back in July. We are currently awaiting a response but are quietly hopeful. 14 members of the village have made formal requests for allotments and have formed the Mary Tavy Community Allotment Garden Association.

- John Bright
07704 634695
brighty749@gmail.com



Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI

It was good to get together after the summer break which included Okehampton Show – we didn't make first but we were second with good comments made! The only other WI event was a walk from Cothele to Calstock with lunch, of course!

Now plans are ahead for taking part in a guided walk at Bovey Tracey and a visit to the WI Autumn Showcase at West Point. Christmas has been mentioned but just quietly, though time flies and we must get busy!

- Barbara Weeks 810697



Better mobile phone coverage for many in Mary Tavy

The whole of the Mary Tavy area will soon have vastly improved O2 and Vodafone mobile phone coverage. Currently the coverage is classified as outdoors only, and doesn't include outlying areas. The change is due to a new mast erected in Horndon by Telefonica.

Telefonica's representatives looked at 10 possible sites in and around the parish. Some were not suitable because of tree heights or lack of space, some landowners did not want a mast on their property. Land at Lower Creason was found to be suitable in all respects.

Consultation letters were sent last October to the Borough Councillor, the Parish Council, the School and the School Governors. This was followed up by a planning application which was granted in June 2017 by DNPA Planning under the powers of 'permitted development'. Erection of the mast started in August, but it can take between 6 months to a year for the service to go live.

Users of O2 and Vodafone will not only find huge improvements in the coverage for mobile phone use, but also 2G, 3G and 4G.

Some concern has been expressed that mobile phone equipment can be a hazard to health, and the mast is situated quite close to the school. However O2 has told us that "radio base stations operate at low power and emit low levels of radiofrequency fields, typically hundreds or thousands of times lower than the guidelines."

If anyone would like further details the Jubilee Group holds copies of documents which were submitted by Telefonica with their planning application.

Compassionate Neighbours

The project, whose Patron is the famous south-west based explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE, will shortly be undertaking the training of its second cohort of volunteers. If anyone reading this feels able to contribute two or three hours a week to a worthwhile and rewarding local cause, and has experience in health or social



care – or indeed some relevant life experience – the BMCN Co-ordinator would be very pleased to hear from you. For further information, or to make a referral – or indeed to make a donation – please get in touch:

- Mark Alderson (Co-ordinator), 01822 860799.
information@bmcneighbours@gmail.com,
www.bmcneighbours.org

St. Mary's Harvest Supper Sunday 1st October, 6:30 pm, Coronation Hall. Contact the church for details.

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