



# The Mary Tavy Jubilee Group

## Newsletter No.17

December 2016 & January 2017

Free

### St. Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival

**Thurs 1st to Sun 4th Dec**

Thurs to Sat 11am-5pm

Sun 12.30pm-5pm



There will be trees from many groups, businesses, institutions and organisations in Mary Tavy.

Teas and coffees will be available throughout the Festival, and there'll be a table top sale too.

Do bring your family and friends along, we look forward to seeing you all there.

- Richard Fielder & Sylvia Baish, Churchwardens, mrsbaish@btinternet.com



**YogaWellness**  
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Rosie Stephens  
01822 859217 or 07925 127926  
yogawellnessdartmoor@gmail.com



### Villages in Action

**Thursday 19th January,  
7.30pm, Coronation Hall**

### Neil Maya Quartet

The Neil Maya Quartet is a Devon based jazz group often rooted in the sounds of the cool jazz movement of the 50s and 60s and this concert will be a tribute to the iconic jazz musician Dave Brubeck.

Tickets: Adults £8, Concessions £7, Children £4, Family £20; available in January from Margaret 810408, Doreen 810824 or Mary Tavy Post Office and Stores.

Bring your own food and drink if you want, light refreshments available.



- <http://villagesinaction.co.uk>
- [www.neilmayaquartet.co.uk](http://www.neilmayaquartet.co.uk)



Bonfire Night in November was the best ever, according to lots of people who have told us how much they enjoyed the evening. There were certainly more people there this year, more food consumed, more beer drunk, more raffle tickets bought and more of the glow and flashing light novelties being shown off by all the kids.

We've already started to think about next year's Bonfire Night, with some new features being considered.

Thanks to the generous sponsors and to everyone who bought food, drink and other things and who made donations, Bonfire Night will remain a free event for the village.

It took 30 helpers to make Bonfire Night work so well this year - we'll need more people next time. Please let us know now if you could join the organisers or help on the night.

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



*Photographs by  
Nigel Williams*

### Vote for the Jubilee Group at Galaxy

The Jubilee Group has put in a request for a small grant from the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund for items to help with cataloguing our collection of Heritage items.

It now needs to get lots of people voting online - every week. Please help us to raise this money, go to [www.galaxyhotchocolate.com](http://www.galaxyhotchocolate.com) and search for jubilee.

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**Mary Tavy Coronation Hall**  
**Amateur Drama Society**

**Aladdin**

**Thurs 15 to Sat 17 Dec**  
**7.30pm, Sat matinee 2.30pm**

**Coronation Hall**

**Tickets:**  
**Mary Tavy PO & Stores**

**Enquiries:**  
**Michelle Buncle 810112**

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## The Recreation Ground, it's a breath of fresh air

The Recreation Ground has been described as the "lungs of the village" where the community can breathe deeply and feel both relaxed and energised.

Being right in the heart of the community it's a great location for the many activities such as fayres, fetes and Bonfire Night which happen there, as well as for casual use for walking dogs, using the kids' play area, the tennis courts and now also the Outdoor Gym. As well as the spaces which are easily seen, some people might not be aware of the lovely wooded area to the side. It's worth exploring.

The Mary Tavy Victory Memorial Recreation Ground Trust was founded in 1946 when the field was purchased by public subscription as a memorial to those who lost their lives in World War II. The Coronation Hall was built some 15 years later, on land leased from the Recreation Ground.

It's generally assumed the Coronation Hall and the Recreation Ground are run together, by one organisation, but historically each is run by a separate trust although over the years there has often been a cross-over of Trustees and the two organisations have at times worked closely together.

The Trustees of the Recreation Ground recognise that sometimes when bookings are made for the Coronation Hall it's assumed the grass area immediately outside the Hall is part of that booking, but actually it isn't, and if anyone wants to put up a marquee or a bouncy castle or have any organised activity they need to get in touch with the Recreation Ground Trustees.

The Recreation Ground will soon have its own website and email address. In the meantime contact the Chair –

- George Hill, 810302

## Plants on the move

A dozen Jubilee Group volunteers helped over two days to move the tyres and plants from Blackdown Garage site into the Recreation Ground where they will add an extra touch of colour amongst the trees.

The job of moving the tyres seemed like a major task but was made simple with the help of two tractors, thanks to George and David Hill.



*Art Classes for the over 50s coming soon to Mary Tavy. More information in the next issue or look out for posters.*

## Brighter

As part of a £10.2m scheme DCC is changing 24,000 streetlights to LED lighting. This includes all the streetlights along the A386 through Mary Tavy, which were changed in mid-November.

They are also replacing some wooden telegraph posts with metal columns, where necessary.

The scheme aims to reduce carbon emissions, energy consumption and energy costs. The LED technology will improve the quality of lighting while operating on a much lower wattage than the existing streetlights. DCC was successful in securing Challenge Funding from the Department for Transport for the project.

The lighting in Mary Tavy is now a nice bright white, replacing the previous murky orange.

## Bridleway temporary closure

Bridleway No.20 which runs from between Little Place and Lower Spring on Brentor Road onto the common is due to be closed for maintenance works from Monday 5th December for up to five days.

Further information available from Public Rights of Way Service, Devon County Council –

- Steve Gardner 03451 551004



*Celebrate the birth of the  
Saviour this year at*

*Mary Tavy  
Methodist Church*

*Carol Service  
Sunday December 18th  
At 6.00pm*

*Christmas Morning Worship  
Sunday December 25th  
At 10.30am*

*O Come let us adore Him!*



## Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI in festive mood

As the 'festive season' approaches our thoughts turn to food - almost every member turned up to our recent meeting to listen to Pat Mallett and to taste her excellent 'Christmas cooking ideas'.

It is always good to support community events, so we are again having a tree at the Mary Tavy Church Christmas Tree Festival. The decorations will of course be hand-made.

On 8th December the Primary School Choir will join us and later Brian Higbee will continue with more singing and we'll all join in with songs and carols. We warmly invite the local community to come and join us, gentlemen included, to sing, celebrate and have tea, mince pies and other refreshments.

So make a note – 1.30pm, 8th December, Coronation Hall, everyone welcome.

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

• Barbara Weeks 810697

## Christmas and New Year in the Methodist Chapel & Hall

### Christmas Concert

Saturday 3rd Dec 7pm  
Featuring Angela Banfield and Clarinuts  
Tickets £5 on the door

### Artful Toddlers Christmas Party

Wednesday 14th Dec, 10am  
All welcome

### Carol Service

Sunday 18 Dec, 6pm

### Christmas Morning Worship

Sunday 25 Dec, 10.30am

### Regular activities:

(check for Christmas/New year break)

### Rainbows & Brownies

Mondays 4.30pm-6.30pm

### Artful Toddlers

Wednesdays in term time,  
9.15am–11.15am

### Community Cafe

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

### Knit & Natter

Thursdays, 1pm–3pm

• Tony Smith, 820575



New girlguiding groups will be starting in January, in the Methodist Hall.

Rainbows (aged 5 to 7)  
Mondays 4.30-5.30pm

Brownies (aged 7 to 10)  
Mondays 5-6.30pm

Children must be registered in advance, so please get in touch –

• Kerri Higham, 810786,  
kerrihigham@icloud.com

• [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

## Give a piece of Mary Tavy this Christmas

Designed by Dartmoor artist Helen White, you can buy a high quality mug or tea towel, depicting Wheal Betsy, from the Jubilee Group website.

• [www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk](http://www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk)



## Coronation Hall Annual General Meeting

Monday 5th Dec, 7pm, Coronation Hall. Everyone welcome.

## Brentor Garden Club

Thurs 8 Dec

### AGM and Social Evening

A fun evening with refreshments

No meeting in January.

We meet 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

## Information Highway

When we discovered the A386 was going to be closed for four days in October it was obviously going to have a huge impact on people living in Mary Tavy, and no-one else seemed to know about it. So we created a document with a map showing the areas and dates, which we circulated to more than 70 email addresses within Mary Tavy and asked everyone to pass it on. This was very successful with the Jubilee Group's document popping up on several facebook sites.

We had many calls from people asking about alternative routes, not only from people in Mary Tavy, but some from Cornwall and Somerset.

A shame DCC Highways didn't think to provide their own information about the closures.



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## Mary Tavy Parish Council

We have received complaints from parishioners about the short notice given for the "Drop In" event organised by the DNPA relating to the creation of the new Dartmoor Local Plan. Sadly, MTPC was only given 4 days' notice of this meeting and we simply did the best we could to alert the community under these circumstances. The importance of the new Local Plan should be appreciated by all parishioners as it will be made up of a range of policies which will control the future development of all the Dartmoor communities including our own. All parishioners who hold concerns or opinions over how our community could or should change in the next 10~15 years should make their comments known to the DNPA by the 16th December 2016. Full details can be found on [www.dartmoor.go.uk/localplan](http://www.dartmoor.go.uk/localplan). The DNPA's fact finding process includes a Land Availability Assessment which asks local land owners to submit land within their parish for consideration for future development. A previous Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment review in 2014 considered 5 sites put forward in Mary Tavy of which 2 were considered suitable. We are assured that this is a technical exercise and does not imply a Grant of Planning Permission will automatically be given. However, the very existence of such information can have a negative effect on property values when it becomes public knowledge.

Early November is always a busy time for our Parish. Once again, the Trustees of the Mary Tavy Jubilee Group and Mary Tavy Victory Memorial Recreation Ground held a very successful Bonfire Night Celebration on Sunday 6th. The attraction of a large traditional bonfire was complemented by the availability of a wide range of eagerly sought after food and beverages together with a spectacular fireworks display to round off the evening. Attendance by both parishioners and visitors was better than ever and this level of success is of course due to a great deal of hard work on the part of the organisers and their assistants. All profits are used to fund the activities of the Jubilee Group and to maintain our large Recreation Ground. I am certain all parishioners will wish to join me in a sincere vote of thanks to all concerned.

We were of course fortunate to have good weather for the 6th and for the 13th which was Remembrance Sunday. This year I had the privilege of laying the wreath on the war memorial on behalf of all parishioners and I was deeply impressed by the attendance of over 100 parishioners at this ceremony. The carefully timed proceedings, led by the Rector of Mary Tavy, the Reverend John Higman, were greatly enhanced by the stopping and silencing of traffic on the A386. This duty was carried out by P.C. Chris Higham, a local resident (for those who hadn't guessed, he is the husband of Kerri Higham, our Parish Clerk) who volunteered his services despite being on leave. Once again on behalf of the parish, sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the smooth running of this important event.

Early November also saw a further attempt by BT to remove 2 of the 3 red public telephone boxes from within our village on the grounds of lack of use. MTPC has of course made a strong case for their retention as we believe that their continued presence in a fully operational condition strongly underpins the important Emergency Plan created for this community. Emergency lines of communication are particularly vital in rural Britain where mobile phone coverage is less than certain. Our carefully argued case for retention should be sufficient under the guidelines published by Ofcom for such matters.

Councillors have sympathy for residents who live beside the A386 (classified as a National Primary Route) and who regularly have to contend with motorists exceeding the speed limit and otherwise driving without "due care and attention." We also truly know how difficult it is to persuade DCC Highways Dept. to implement further safety measures. This ongoing problem together with other road safety issues are kept under constant review and we are currently waiting for DCC Highways to complete a statistical analysis after they made unannounced changes to the central white line system in part of the village. Once this is in place we will seek a full meeting with a senior officer to determine what changes and improvements are possible.

Councillor Peter Jarvis  
Chairman, Mary Tavy Parish Council



## Outdoor Gym Informal Sessions

### Sundays 3pm & Wednesdays 6.30pm

On a dry and sunny but extraordinarily windy day in October the Jubilee Group held a Fitness Session on the Outdoor Gym Equipment. The professional trainer, Jamie Turpin, gave us excellent help and advice and created a routine around all the pieces of equipment.

Everyone really enjoyed it, felt fitter because of it, wanted to do more, and there was a call for further formal training sessions as well as a regular get together more informally.



The new sessions on Sundays at 3pm and Wednesdays at 6.30pm will be completely informal, no need to book, no trainer, just turn up and enjoy using the equipment alongside others. At this time of year it's dark at 6.30pm but the days will be lengthening. If you think there's a better day and time let us know.

- Jubilee Group (see back page)

## Thanks again Tesco

### School gets a Woo Woo

It was Tesco's Bags of Help grant scheme which enabled the Jubilee Group to install the Outdoor Gym equipment in the Recreation Ground.

Mary Tavy will again benefit from the scheme, thanks to Tesco customers who buy carrier bags; the Primary School will be receiving a grant for a Woo Woo waterless toilet for their playing field, a ten minute walk from the school.



## More News from the School

In October Jharna Hill told the children all about how Hindus celebrate light in the festival of Diwali. Some children dressed up and



greeted others with a Hindu welcome, we had a puppet show and Class 4 made beautiful Rangoli patterns with coloured sand.

We had a a super Halloween Disco after half term and the children had an exciting evening with lots of spooky fun.

This year, the children made finger printing poppy wreaths and we walked to the Mary Tavy War Memorial for a Remembrance Day Service. The children gave readings, said prayers and held a two minute silence. It was lovely to be joined by many members of the local community.

### The School's Christmas:


Tues 6 December 2pm, St.Mary's Church, **Christingle Service**

Wed 14 December 2pm & 6pm, Brentor Church, **Carol Service**

Thurs 15 December, **PTA Christmas Market**

Plus: Christmas parties, activity days, carol singing in the local community, participation in Tree Festivals at St.Mary's and St.Eustachius' Churches and a trip to the Theatre Royal paid for by our supportive PTA.

- Nicky Pratten, headteacher



## SJP MOTOR SERVICES

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

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## PLANNING FOR DARTMOOR'S FUTURE

### Dartmoor Local Plan

Dartmoor National Park Authority is holding a consultation on a new Local Plan, an important document in shaping Dartmoor's future, and is giving an opportunity for residents, communities, visitors, businesses and organisations to offer views on what the new Local Plan should say.

There was a drop-in event in the Coronation Hall in early November, when people could talk directly to representatives of the Planning Department but DNPA's publicity for the event was very scanty and very few people knew about it.

Members of the Parish Council did attend the drop-in and talk with the Planners, and representatives also went to a special discussion arranged for parish councillors.

You can view the current local plan, access consultation details for the new plan, bring up a form to give your views, and look at the details of the SHLAA on –

**[www.dartmoor.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/localplan)**

You can contact DNPA by email, letter or phone –  
forwardplanning@dartmoor.gov.uk;  
Forward Planning, Dartmoor National Park  
Authority, Parke, Bovey Tracey, Devon TQ13 9JQ;  
01626 832093

**The deadline for giving your views on the Local Plan or for submitting a site for the SHLAA is 4.30pm on Friday 16th December.**

### Blackdown Garage Site

Future Construction Company has started clearing the site ready for further investigations, whilst they are also in discussions with DNPA Planning. They hope to give us more news for the next Newsletter.



## Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Call for Sites

Alongside the Local Plan, DNPA has issued a Call for Sites. This is an opportunity for anyone with land they think might be suitable for development to put it forward for consideration.

The SHLAA does not involve policy making, does not decide where new development will take place and inclusion in the report does not mean that planning permission has or will be granted for a site. But it does outline potential sites for housing, commercial or traveller use.

Consideration of suitability is a technical exercise undertaken by DNPA without local consultation, either of parishioners or the Parish Council.

The 2014 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment identified five sites within Mary Tavy.

*Three were deemed unsuitable:*

**Butcher's Field** (access and pedestrian safety)

**The Burrows / Glebe** (landlocked, contaminated)

**Land at Lane Head** (not part of a settlement)

*The two sites currently deemed suitable and remaining on the SHLAA are:*

**Land to the north of the Royal Standard**  
(0.22 hectares, max 11 houses)  
DNP14/089

**Land to the east of Brentor Road**  
(1.3 hectares, max 42 houses)  
DNP14/117



*These sites are in addition to Blackdown Garage Site and C.J. Downs Garage.*

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Girls Rugby and  
Supports the Mary  
Tavy Jubilee Group

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## **We want to keep our telephone boxes, please!**

In September, without anything being said to the Parish Council, without any notice in the local press, and apparently without anyone seeing the notices stuck inside our three public telephone kiosks, BT in association with Dartmoor National Park Planning started a 'consultation' to withdraw the phones from use and remove the kiosks.

The reason given is the very low usage of the phones and BT's need to save costs.

When this became known in October the Jubilee Group wrote to ask for the phones to remain, and as a second part to the request asked that if any of the phones were removed that the kiosks be considered for adoption. For £1 the Jubilee Group would potentially be able to adopt a kiosk which could be used for other purposes - in some villages phone kiosks have become libraries, art galleries, tourist offices, housing for defibrillators, community greenhouses and even mini shops.

The Parish Council also wrote to say they felt all the phones should remain and gave reasoning for that.

It seems that because of its location close to a major highway, the phone near the War Memorial is likely to be retained.

The kiosk near the church is a listed building, being a K2 model designed by Giles Gilbert Scott in the 1920s. Because of this there is no plan to remove the kiosk, but the phone could nevertheless be taken out of service.

The kiosk at Horndon is considered by many to be important as there is very poor mobile reception in the area, which is popular with walkers.

The consultation period has closed but no further news is yet available.

## **Tor & Tavy WI**

On 1st December we are having our Christmas meal.

The New Year will be kick started, as usual, by our quiz masters Trish and John Wall who always give us a great evening. This year we are extending an invitation to 4 other WIs to include a "bite of supper", raffle and a fun evening.

We have some trips arranged and there will be visits to the Wharf

and lunch time talks in the future. Regular meetings are on the 4th Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the Coronation Hall.

- Lucie 814840, Judi 614198

## **Winter Weather**



DCC gives advice on their website about staying safe in winter.

- <https://new.devon.gov.uk/emergencies/severe-weather/winter-weather>



## *The Mary Tavy Inn*

[www.themarytavyinn.co.uk](http://www.themarytavyinn.co.uk)  
01822 810326



**Sat 3rd Dec**

**Live Music with Rock n Roll Outlaws**

**Christmas and New Year Opening**

*Times in blue are Bar opening and Bar Meals*

*Times in green are Restaurant opening*

**Christmas Eve Sat 24th Dec**

*12pm-midnight / noon-2pm & 5pm-8pm*

**Christmas Day Sun 25th Dec**

*12pm-2.30pm / closed*

**Boxing Day Mon 26th Dec**

*12pm-2.30pm & 5pm-11pm* **Christmas Quiz**

*12pm-2.00pm*

**Tues 27th Dec**

*12pm-2.30pm & 6pm-11pm* **Pool Competition**

*12pm-2.30pm & 6pm-9pm*

**Wed 28th Dec**

*12pm-2.30pm & 6pm-11pm / 12pm-2pm & 6pm-9pm*

**Thurs 29th Dec**

*12pm-2.30pm & 6pm-11pm / 12pm-2pm & 6pm-9pm*

**Fri 30th Dec**

*12pm-2.30pm & 5pm-midnight / 12pm-2pm & 6pm-9pm*

**New Year's Eve Sat 31st Dec**

*12pm-2.30pm & 5pm-LATE!!!* **Live Music with Silverlight**

*12pm-2pm*

**Sun 1st Jan**

*12pm-2.30pm / 12pm-2pm*

**Mon 2nd Jan closed**

**Sat 28th Jan**

**Skittles & Curry Night**

*Quiz, last Sunday every month*

*Sunday Carvery, Takeaway Fish & Chips, Pizzas.*

# CAMPAIGNING FOR SAFER ROADS IN MARY TAVY

There have been concerns over road safety within the village for as long as anyone can remember. From time to time there have been specific campaigns and some of them have resulted in extra safety measures such as the 30mph limit, the zebra crossing and the virtual pavement. Despite these previous improvements there remain concerns over safety.

## Traffic Calming Scheme

Nina Bowden, whose home is alongside the A386, recently started a campaign. She told us *"151 residents have signed the petition, our Facebook page is proving very popular as a platform for people to express their thoughts and concerns, and we also found ourselves featured on the front page of the Tavistock Gazette. This has all been very encouraging and shows a shared frustration at the high speeds and reckless overtaking that is occurring daily."*

The campaign has been joined by Dan Hutchinson, a resident of Mary Tavy who is a landscape architect with experience of road safety schemes that have successfully reduced speeds in similar villages.

The group is planning to meet with local MP Geoffrey Cox and there will be a public meeting in the New Year. Nina said *"This will be a great opportunity to discuss the proposals with interested residents."*

On the Facebook page you can add your own comments or suggestions.

- [www.facebook.com/Mary-Tavy-Traffic-Calming-Measures-192982071113431](http://www.facebook.com/Mary-Tavy-Traffic-Calming-Measures-192982071113431)

## Where have our double white lines gone?

As part of the resurfacing work through the village a few months ago, what had been solid double white lines to stop overtaking around the bend near the Royal Standard were changed to a dashed line. Devon Highways response to complaints about the dangers on that bend was that the Speed Compliance Action Review Forum deemed that solid white lines were no longer necessary, but that they will be putting this to the test by recording speed and overtaking data in the coming months.

## The importance of statistical evidence

Councillors are very aware of the road safety issues which worry local residents. While we negotiate with the road safety agencies for enhancement measures for our community we must ask parishioners to take an active role in highlighting the scale of the problems we all face. As highways authorities base their decisions on statistical evidence we must be prepared to record all relevant facts and events. If, for example, you are subjected to dangerous and inappropriate overtaking in the A386 particularly within the speed restricted area you must report the incident to the police. Properly logged "near misses" can significantly affect the decision-making process and the subsequent deployment of public funds. Parishioners who have the time to do so should seriously consider volunteering for the Community Speedwatch team. Evidence gathered in both these ways makes it very difficult for agencies to refuse to take further preventative action.

Councillor Peter Jarvis, Chairman, Mary Tavy Parish Council

When Speedatch was out in full force for an hour one morning in October they recorded 135 vehicles, 11 of which were going over 40mph in the 30mph zone.

## Watch your speed

Mary Tavy Speedwatch is made up of trained volunteers from the village, currently 5 in number. A minimum of 3 is needed to run a speed check, which take place periodically. Vehicles logged exceeding the speed limit by a certain amount are recorded and the details sent to the police. Speeding motorists are sent a letter informing them they have been recorded speeding and if the same motorists are logged speeding regularly, the police will take action. The more volunteers we have, the more often we can run speedchecks, and the safer we can make our village for motorists and pedestrians. If you are interested in volunteering please contact me in the first instance; I am not the co-ordinator but will pass your details on.

- Jo Albon, 810356, [joanna@albon-art.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:joanna@albon-art.eclipse.co.uk)

## Chaos is good – apparently

The Parish Council has, over the past 18 months, been working on schemes to help safety around the School and there are hopes there may be some improvements to road signage. There have also been attempts to achieve an area of parking near the School to avoid possible chaos around the school gate. DCC Highways' response to this includes *"The congestion to which you refer would be beneficial in terms of further reducing traffic speeds."*

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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, Peter Jarvis Newsletter Editor: Ali Fife Cook

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

🐦 twitter: @marytavyjubilee website: [www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk](http://www.mtjubileegroup.co.uk)

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