



May 2019

Number 137

# ***A Ram with a view...***

- see page 10



Photo by Rosie Dodd

## **PETER TAVY TRAILBLAZER**

Sunday 5th May - see p. 23

## **SPRING CLEAN ST PETER'S!**

Saturday 11th May - 10.00am

## **PLANT SALE & CREAM TEAS**

Saturday 11th May - 2.00pm  
at the Methodist Church

## **CREAM TEAS & POND WALKS**

Saturday 18th May - 2.30pm  
at Edgcombe, Cudlipptown

## **VILLAGE FAYRE 2019**

Competition Details  
announced inside

## **PETER TAVY VILLAGE HALL AGM**

Wednesday 8th May 8.00pm in the Village Hall

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Wednesday 15th May 7.30pm in the Village Hall - see page 4

## May

## WHAT'S ON?

|            |               |   |
|------------|---------------|---|
| Thurs 2nd  | 7am - 10pm    | Borough Council Election: Polling station in Village Hall                         |
| Thurs 2nd  | 4.30 - 6.30pm | "Messy Church", Methodist Chapel  |
| Sun 5th    | 10.30am       | TRP - Peter Tavy Trail Blazer run ( <i>see p.23</i> )                             |
| Mon 6th    | 7.00pm        | Needle Felting Workshop, Village Hall ( <i>p.13</i> )                             |
| Wed 8th    | 7.00pm        | Village Hall committee meeting, followed by:                                      |
|            | 8.00pm        | Village Hall AGM - All welcome. ( <i>See p.12</i> )                               |
| Thurs 9th  | 12 - 1.30pm   | Soup & Dessert Lunches, Methodist Chapel  |
| Sat 11th   | 10.00am       | Spring Clean, St. Peter's Church  |
|            | 2 - 4pm       | Cream Teas & Plant Sale, Methodist Chapel ( <i>p.8</i> )                          |
| Sat 11th   | 2.00pm        | MT & PT WI Sale, Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy                                       |
| Tues 14th  | 7.30pm        | Whist Drive, Village Hall ( <i>See p.3</i> )                                      |
| Wed 15th   | 7.30pm        | Annual Parish Meeting, Village Hall ( <i>See p.4</i> )                            |
|            | 8.00pm        | Quiz Night, Peter Tavy Inn  |
| Sat 18th   | from 2.30pm   | Cream Teas and Pond Walks at Edgecombe ( <i>p.17</i> )                            |
| Sun 19th   | 3.00pm        | Joint Family Service, St Peter's Church   |
| Mon 20th   | 10 - 12.30pm  | "Knit & Natter", Village Hall ( <i>See p.14</i> )                                 |
| Wed 22nd   | 10 - 10.30am  | Mobile Library Van calls, Church Lane   |
| Thurs 23rd | 7am - 10pm    | European Parliamentary Election:<br>Polling station in Village Hall (Provisional) |
| Mon 27th   | 12 - 4.00pm   | Mary Tavy Village Fayre, Coronation Hall ( <i>p.11</i> )                          |
| Tues 28th  | 6.50pm        | Footpath Walk - meet at Village Hall ( <i>See p.13</i> )                          |

## June

|            |               |   |
|------------|---------------|---|
| Thurs 6th  | 4.30 - 6.30pm | "Messy Church", Methodist Chapel                        |
|            | 7.30pm        | St Peter's PCC meeting, Edgecombe                       |
| Thurs 13th | 12 - 1.30pm   | Soup & Dessert Lunches, Methodist Chapel                |
| Fri 14th   | 7.30pm        | "FreePlay" in concert, Village Hall ( <i>See p.14</i> ) |
| Sun 16th   | 3.00pm        | Joint Family Service, Methodist Chapel                  |
| Mon 17th   | 10 - 12.30pm  | "Knit & Natter", Village Hall                           |
| Wed 19th   | 10 - 10.30am  | Mobile Library Van calls, Church Lane                   |
|            | 8.00pm        | Quiz Night, Peter Tavy Inn                              |
| Tues 25th  | 6.50pm        | Footpath Walk - meet at Village Hall                    |
| Sat 29th   | 5.00pm        | St Peter's Church Strawberry Tea, Harford Bridge        |

## July

|            |               |  |
|------------|---------------|--|
| Thurs 4th  | 4.30 - 6.30pm | "Messy Church", Methodist Chapel             |
| Mon 15th   | 10 - 12.30pm  | "Knit & Natter", Village Hall                |
| Wed 17th   | 8.00pm        | Quiz Night, Peter Tavy Inn                   |
| Thurs 18th | 7.30pm        | Village Fayre Planning Meeting, Village Hall |
| Sat 20th - | 10 - 6pm      | West Dartmoor Art Group: Exhibition,         |
| Sun 28th   |               | Village Hall ( <i>See p.22</i> )             |
| Sun 21st   | 3.00pm        | Joint Family Service, St Peter's Church      |
| Tues 30th  | 6.50pm        | Footpath Walk - meet at Village Hall         |

|           |              |  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| Mon 19th  | 10 - 12.30pm | "Knit & Natter", Village Hall              |
| Sat 24th  | TBC          | St Peter's Church BBQ, Harford Bridge Park |
| Mon 26th  | pm & eve     | Peter Tavy Village Fayre                   |
| Tues 27th | 6.50pm       | TBC - Footpath Walk - meet at Village Hall |

The dates and times shown here are as we have been advised, but may be subject to change - watch out for posters and notices to make sure!

*Please let us have any dates and events for the next "Piper" (covering August to November 2018 by **Monday 15 July 2019**. If you can supply your text as a "Word" or "RTF" file, on disk or by email to: [steve.ali@care4free.net](mailto:steve.ali@care4free.net), it saves us a lot of typing. But please don't worry if this is not possible - we still want your hand-written entries too! Thanks!*

*- Steve & Ali Carreck, Compilers, (1 Mill Cottages, 810868).*

So, with May here the Peter Tavy Events Calendar is certainly filling up again! With a 5-mile run; Needle felting workshop; Village Hall AGM; Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting, and more cream teas than you can dream of - there'll never be a dull moment this month!

With the weather warming and the evenings brightening, Jayne Medland is re-starting the evening footpath walks on the last Tuesday of each month, which will help to fill the evenings now that the "Whist Drive season" is drawing to a close.

June brings us another "Villages in Action" concert, and the *a capella* duo "FreePlay" look as though they will give us a wonderful evening of entertainment - book early to avoid missing your chance to see them (see page 14).

The Fayre Planning Committee have decided on the competition categories for this year, and you'll find these on pages 6-7 - we have a "Space" theme at this year's fayre, 50 years after the first moon landing...

Hoping to see you at some of the forthcoming events...

*- Steve & Ali Carreck, Compilers, (810868)*

## **Peter Tavy Village Hall WHIST DRIVE**

The final drive this season is on **Tuesday 14th May at 7.30pm**  
- £3 including tea/coffee and biscuits - or BYO! PLUS a raffle!



## **CLEANING MORNING** **Saturday 11th May, 10.00, St Peter's Church**

Comments from the Visitors' Book show that for many visitors to Peter Tavy, a look around our ancient parish church is a highlight. Can you spare an hour or two to help give it a spring clean? Please come along on Saturday morning, 11th May, and help us to "spruce it up" for the year ahead.

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Well, as of 2nd May we have a minor change in the Parish Council set up. Dave Chanter has decided not to stand this year and is taking a well-earned break from the role.

The council would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his efforts throughout the time he has served the Village.

Derek decided to spend even more quality time with me and has taken Dave's position. He should know what he has let himself in for as he was a Councillor a few years ago. Can I just say that this is not a Fern Cottage take over - as in Peter Tavy today... tomorrow the world?

There will be a Parish Council AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> May in the Chapel. The AGM will see the Councillors choose a Chair, Vice-Chair and who will fill the places on the different committees.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will be the following week, on **Wednesday 15th May in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**. We have Dartmoor National Park Ranger Rob Taylor coming to the Annual Parish Meeting and I am trying to contact further speakers - as soon as I have confirmation, I'll let you know on the website and Facebook page. This meeting is your chance to find out just what the Council has been doing in the last year, together with reports from other groups in the village.

The Council is going to try to obtain help with funding to improve the playground; this application will be a joint application made with Brentor and Mary Tavy Councils; we were just too late to get into the last lot of funding but will be going for the next.

The Council would love it if you did attend the Annual Parish Meeting as this is your chance to put forward your ideas and concerns.

*- Alison Skillicorn, Clerk to Peter Tavy Parish Council*

Tel. 01822 810682    email [petertavypc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:petertavypc@hotmail.co.uk)    [www.petertavyparishcouncil.org](http://www.petertavyparishcouncil.org)

## Election of Parish Councillors for Peter Tavy

The "Notice of Uncontested Election", issued by the Returning Officer, states that *"...the persons whose names appear below stood validly nominated and were duly elected without a contest."*

- Victoria Abel
- Kenneth Ball
- Edward Dodd
- James Jeffery
- William Lane
- Derek Skillicorn
- Harry White

# Angela Larcombe faces the challenge of a missing delivery....

"Ah, you sent me an email saying you couldn't deliver a parcel because no one was at home and to contact the number on the card left in the letterbox. But I was at home all day and there was no card left."

*"Where is your letterbox?"*

"In the door."

*"Is it at the top? We have a duty to our staff and reaching up can cause them strain."*

"No, it's not at the top."

*"Is it at the bottom? Because we have a duty to our staff and reaching down can cause them strain."*

"No. It's in the middle."

*"Do you have a dog? Because dogs often chew up post."*

"No."

*"A fierce cat?"*

"No"

*"Do you have a doorbell?"*

"Yes."

*"How loud is it?"*

"Quite loud."

*"Can you hear it in the attic?"*

"I don't have an attic."

*"Do you have a basement?"*

"No."

*"Have you looked in your shed?"*

"I haven't got a shed."

*"How good is your hearing?"*

"Look I was here, there was no card, nobody rang my bell. Wherever you were, it wasn't here."

*"Please hold the line, I must speak to my supervisor."*

(New voice :) *"I gather you live in Honiton and didn't get your lawnmower delivered yesterday."*

"I don't live in Honiton and I haven't got a lawn."

*"Then why do you want a lawnmower?"*

Crying quietly I put the phone down . . .

# Peter Tavy VILLAGE FAYRE 2019

Bank Holiday Monday 26th August



This year's first Fayre Planning Meeting was held on 29th April. At the meeting, remembering that July this year will be the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the moon, we decided that this year's fayre should have a **"SPACE"** theme.

Please help out with the Fayre - if you haven't already been asked, come along and volunteer! This is a great community event when we all join together to raise funds for the Village Hall, Chapel and Church. Please save your "white elephants" for the Granny's Attic stall (sorry - we can't accept any electrical equipment), and books (but not video cassettes or tapes!) for the book stall. If you're making any jams and preserves over the coming months and can put some aside to be sold to help raise money, they would be very welcome.

The Fayre will start at 2.00pm, with strong helpers needed from 9.00am on the morning to start getting some of the heavier and bulkier items (trestle tables, skittle alley, gazebos etc.) into place.

The next **Fayre Planning Meeting** will be on **Thursday 18th July at 7.30pm.**

## COMPETITIONS 2019

These are a key part of the Fayre, and visitors enjoy the chance to look over our creativity. Several of the competitions reflect this year's **"SPACE"** theme. We all get so busy in the run-up to the Fayre that there's often no time to prepare an entry. So we are giving advance notice of this year's competition categories, to give you time to get started on your entries. Each competition will have three age categories: Under 10's; 11 - 16 and over 16, unless noted otherwise.

## CRAFTS:

- 1▶ A bird or an animal made by needle felting
- 2▶ A knitted scarf
- 3▶ Create a cushion cover (knitted, crochet or sewn) OR “pimp up” a plain cushion
- 4▶ Create something useful and/or artistic using Bailer Twine - the ubiquitous farming standby.

## ART:

- 5▶ A painting or sketch entitled “home”
- 6▶ A painted pebble showing a **SPACE SCENE** (These will be non-returnable. The pebbles will be kept by the competition steward and hidden around and about the village. If you find a pebble, it is then your choice whether to keep it or to hide it in a new location locally for someone else to find, and so on....)

## CREATIVE WRITING:

*All entries to be written on one side of an A4 sheet.*

- 7▶ (Over 16s) The **History of a Peter Tavy Building** .
- 8▶ (10 and under; 11-16) “**Things that make me smile**”
- 9▶ “**A space alien comes to Peter Tavy**”

## FLOWER ARRANGEMENT & PRODUCE:

- 10▶ (Any size arrangement) themed on the title: '**OUT OF THIS WORLD**'
- 11▶ **Best Individual Bloom**
- 12▶ (16 and under) **Garden Flowers in a decorated Baked Bean Tin**
- 13▶ **A variety of three vegetables displayed on a plate**
- 14▶ **Three Brown Eggs and Three White Eggs**

## COOKERY:

- 15▶ Bake and decorate a plate of “**SPACE BUNS**”
- 16▶ A small meat and potato pasty
- 17▶ An individual dessert
- 18▶ **Mrs Rattenbury’s Annual Cake Competition:** This year’s recipe will be given in the August edition of The Piper.

## AROUND AND ABOUT

- 19▶ Make a **SPACE ALIEN** or a **SPACESHIP** from upcycled materials and display it outside or near to your house.

*Entry forms for the Competitions will be available with the next (August) edition of the "Piper"*



## METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Just a quick note to remind you that, over the summer months, our regular Sunday services start at **6.30pm**. The exception to this are our **joint Family Services** which are at 3.00pm. In the next months, our joint services will be on Sundays 19th May at St Peter's Church; on 16th June in the Methodist Church, and on 21st July at St Peters. - *David Dodd*

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On the **first Thursday of each month**, join us for a warm welcome to *Messy Church* in the Chapel, between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. It's a fun, flexible time of worship, full of exciting crafts and activities, songs, stories and a delicious meal! Time to chat, to listen, to make friends and to get to know your neighbours better! Everyone is welcome - although no unaccompanied children, please.

**Upcoming Messy Church dates are:**

**Thursdays: ✱ 2nd May ✱ 6th June ✱ 4th July**

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## SOUP LUNCHES

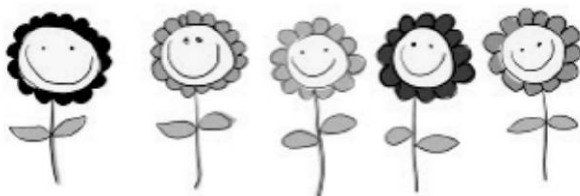
Don't forget Soup Lunches in the Chapel on the **second Thursday** of each month - meet friends and neighbours, enjoy a delicious bowl of soup and a dessert, between 12 noon and 1.30pm.

**Lunches are on Thursdays: ● 9th May ● 13th June**

followed by a break for July & August, restarting in the autumn.

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## PLANT SALE & CREAM TEAS



**Saturday 11th May, 2 - 4pm**  
**at Peter Tavy Methodist Church**

**With "Bring and Buy" Stall**

*We would very much appreciate any offers of plants or help on the day - please contact David Dodd (810776)*



# Cutting the Turf

*You may remember that, in the February issue of the Piper, we asked if anyone could help identify those in our cover photo. **Edward Dodd** kindly supplied us with the following fascinating information:*

The elderly-looking gentleman on the front cover of the last Peter Tavy Piper (first time ever a Dodd has reached such high acclaim on the cover of a popular magazine!) is my Great-Grandad, a spitting image of my Grandfather, William Fredrick Dodd. I am named after my Great-Grandad, and make use of the original branding and paint irons of “E D”.



Great-Grandad Edward was born in 1861, and we think he is in his late 50's or early 60's when the picture was taken. He died Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 1929, aged 68.

We are led to believe he worked down the mines while renting Chubb Farm (14 acres) from the Duke of Bedford. Over the years we have been told that the young lad in the picture was an Abel, possibly Cyril George, who was born in 1907 - Colin, Phil and Nick's grandfather. He died March 8<sup>th</sup> 1979. This seems difficult to believe as the harvesting of turf was very territorial with literal “turf wars” in protecting your own “turf tie” (the gully where turf was harvested from). (Torie and Sandra have been trying to date the picture from these dates.)

In the photo, it looks like Abel was doing the hard work while Dodd looked on! The truth being that ED was tackling the difficult task cutting vertically through the veg (pronounced like “beg” rather than “veg” of your 5-a-day). Veg was vegetation; the stalks and roots of the plants. Young Abel was cutting horizontally under the veg, into the soft peat, similar to cutting into butter. The veg would burn much faster than smouldering peat because of its high plant matter. I'm sure I can remember Dad saying they used to cut and roll large mats of veg to shear sheep on.

Peat was cut using a turf knife in blocks of roughly 2 inches by 6 inches by 14 -16 inches, and laid out to dry. While still fragile but moveable, the turf was stacked up in piles to air off and continue to dry through the summer, then harvested as bricks by the autumn. These bricks were transported back to the dwellings and stored in the turf houses, often a lean-to which was attached to most cottages. Ours is now our kitchen! And on the turf house side of the door is etched “WF, JP, JF and MF”?

Please note, I am no expert, but I have had the privilege of knowing and listening to C. Mudge senior, who lived at Higher Collaton farm and had first-hand knowledge and experience. It was with Mr Mudge, that a group from the village went out to the peat cuttings in the early 1980's, to learn more about this past countryside activity.



# EXMOORS ON DARTMOOR

Well, to be precise, *Exmoor Horned sheep*. When they first arrived on the farms around Dartmoor is probably lost in the mists of time, but although as a breed they may have slipped away in numbers from a high water mark sometime in the fifties, there are still several about.

In our parish the Dodds have always kept them at Chubb, as have the Medlands at Radge - and a flock at Gatehouse, which was the pride and joy of James and Edna Perkins, and we still maintain them there today.

The thing is that these days hybrids are what many sheep farmers keep for their improved performance and productivity but if you want to keep a breed going and maintain its character you have to breed them pure.

Unsurprisingly their ancestral home is on Exmoor and HQ these days is at Cutcombe, which really only exists because of the livestock market there. It's there you have to go in September to get a new ram to change the bloodline every three years, and it is there that we bought Joe (*the cover star of this issue of the Piper!*). His owner didn't introduce him as Joe when she led him around the ring, but I liked the look of him and stuck with the bidding till the hammer fell.

When we got him home and put him in the plat it became apparent that Mrs Blackmoor had treated him a little differently from normal rams. He'd position himself by the gate and expect to have his neck rubbed and to be fed nuts by hand - in fact I thought he was a bit of a wuss and began to doubt his credentials for the job of chief tup.

So it was with some apprehension that I let him out of the trailer in mid October to meet 40 ewes, but my fears were allayed when he went straight into action with front leg outstretched, neck extended and top lip curling like Elvis, with the ewes all around treating him like a rock star.

No doubt they were impressed with his set of horns because horns to an Exmoor are pretty vital. It's what defines them. They're what they use for decking you when you go in a pen to feed them with a bucket full of cake, or push you out of the way in a handling yard, or intimidate a young Collie being taught to "come bye". Such attributes you could really do without, but when you see, through night vision, a ewe use them to defend her newly born lamb against a hungry vixen, then you have nothing but respect for her.

Somehow those horns help create the look which I have yet to notice in any other breed. It's the way they hold their head on one side and follow you with their eye no matter where you are. I seem to remember that some art expert reckoned that the Mona Lisa has the same look and expression and her eye seems to follow you wherever you are in the gallery. Now I'm not saying that Leonardo had a sheep in

mind when he painted his muse, but anyone who keeps Exmoors and has visited the Louvre will know what I mean.

Of course not all farmers see them in the same light - especially those who keep the more athletic hill breeds. They do tend to be a bit stubborn and contrary but given their physiques it's hardly surprising; they'll never keep up with a Welsh Mountain in a yomp across the moor, preferring rather to stay put on gentle moorland pastures in summer and feel a sense of place.

In the winter they can be quite adaptable to a range of habitats, with a liking for people's gardens, not always without incident I might add. I do recall that a ram of ours, who was away to keep in such accommodation, smashed a conservatory door by headbutting his reflection in the glass!

When it comes to showing them however they do coif up very nicely and few breeds can tick as many boxes as they do on parade. Down here on Dartmoor showing them up against their counterparts from Exmoor does take some special resolve. Peter Alford out at Cardwell was someone who did just that and became very highly respected - such a shame that he is no longer with us to 'fly the flag' and share his passion for the breed.

My own passion for Exmoor Horned sheep has been on a very slow burning fuse but I can only say that they epitomise a lot of what you need to keep in farming for the long haul. They're steady, reliable and, although they might not be the most profitable in the short term, they do possess a long lasting set of dentures.

As far as their horns go, however, I'm increasingly ambivalent about them, because the wear and tear on knees through shepherding Exmoors into the seventh age of man is a worrying prospect. I can only hope that some bright spark will invent a type of exoskeleton that will serve as a shepherd's overall. That way we shall be able to continue to husband the flock and resist the tide of farming fashion for sheep that are quick to move, quick to shear, can make a quick buck and of course are naturally polled.

*- Tom Roskilly*

**ART**

**exhibition**

*Light Refreshments available*

## **West Dartmoor Art Group**

**July 20th - 28th**

**10.00am - 6.00pm**

**(4.00pm last day)**

**Peter Tavy Village Hall**



# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

*Village Hall Chairman: Carol Coles, (Gatehouse Farm, 810169)*

*Village Hall Bookings: Steve Carreck, (1 Mill Cottages, 810868)*

## **Peter Tavy Village Hall - AGM** **Wednesday 8th May, at 8.00pm,**

A great opportunity for everyone to come along to share ideas about the Village Hall, how to make the best use of it, and improvements you'd like to see. Meet the committee and find out about the volunteers who keep the Hall running. You won't be forced to join the committee, but new members are very welcome! *(current committee members, please remember the meeting at 7.00pm, prior to the AGM).*

As the last Piper went out, we were in the midst of arranging the most recent pop-up restaurant held in the Village hall; our theme this time out was "Yer Tis!" The aim was to promote local producers and suppliers. Thanks to the great support from many local producers who gave us great deals; the monumental efforts of those who put in so much time in both the planning and preparation, and all who attended, the night was a great success raising approximately £900 for the Village Hall.

In February David Dodd hosted an evening of old pictures of the village and residents, which were very much enjoyed by those attending. (See opposite...)

The weekly Pilates classes have started and are being well attended, Ann-Marie is working hard to make us a fitter and more flexible bunch!

The planned Bingo evening had to be postponed because of rugby and lambing; but keep your eyes peeled on the village Facebook page and signs in the village as we will be rescheduling this soon.

Our upcoming events include a Needle Felting workshop on the 6th May; as this went out there was still some availability to book (call Jayne on 810277). The course is £10 with all materials and tuition included.

The ongoing **Whist evenings** are being well attended: the last one before the summer break will be held on **Tuesday May 14th**, then to restart in September. We also have our ongoing **Knit, Craft and Natter Group, The West Dartmoor Art Group** and **Scottish Country Dancing** as well as another upcoming Villages in Action concert on June 14th. We are also hoping to arrange another *genuine* American Square Dance with Tony Mates, (who brought us a great fun evening of

dancing back in April 2018), provisionally booked for Saturday 14th September - possibly this time it will be a real “barn dance”. We will keep you all updated.

Thanks to everyone who supports the Hall and all of our events - it is massively appreciated!

- Carol Coles, Chairman

*Special thanks to Carol and to Abi Ball for their hard work recently in weather-proofing the Village Hall shed ....and Gents loo “privacy screen”.*

## RE-STARTING SOON!



We'll be re-starting our evening footpath walks on the last Tuesday of each month throughout the summer.

**The first one will be on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May - meet at the Village Hall by 6.50pm.**

All able walkers welcome. Length of walks vary from 2 to 6 miles. Remember suitable clothing and footwear, preferably no dogs (stiles, cattle in fields and occasionally we get children coming along who can feel intimidated by large dogs bounding around them!)

## Needle Felting Workshop

with Julia Terry (of “The Felted Sheep”)

**Monday 6th May, 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

£10 - all materials provided. **Places very limited** - please call Jayne on 01822 810277 to check on availability.

**ONLY  
TWO  
PLACES  
LEFT**



## Time Travelling in the Village Hall...

In February an evening of old pictures of the village and residents were enjoyed by those attending. Slides taken by the late Ray Downton of Lower Mill and Phyllis Dodd taken from 1964 onwards portrayed a history of village activities and old characters of the day. Those who were younger in the 60's look much more mature today. There was much amusement to view the hair styles and clothes of the day. The venue of the Village Fayre was originally at The Lodge owned by Mr & Mrs Tyson. A Fancy hat competition and May Pole dancing appeared to be the main attractions of the day. The Fayre then moved to Harewood, owned by Mr & Mrs Guest, and then to various of the Dodds' fields, eventually ending in the grounds of the Village Hall and the Methodist Church.

It was useful to identify many of the individuals seen in the pictures and the names have been recorded. Scenic pictures showed how the village, Coombe and surrounding area have changed over the years. Some wonderful cine film from the Collins family showed the Coombe and young people of the day.

We hope to have another similar evening in the autumn, so if you have any old village pictures, please talk with **David Dodd (810776.)**

## Villages in Action

# Freeplay, A Cappella Around the World

For our next Villages in Action performance (the last until the autumn), musicians Suba Sankaran and Dylan Bell will take us all over the world, “from the concert halls of Europe, to the temples of India, and back to the their native Toronto,” - all without leaving our seats! “From Bach to Bird to the Beatles, Freeplay effortlessly cross musical boundaries, using only their voices and innovative live-looping technigques to create a concert of endless variety,”



Can't wait to hear them!

As always, this concert will be well advertised through the VIA scheme and will attract a good audience. So do book soon! **Freeplay, A Cappella, Around the World. Peter Tavy Village Hall. Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm. Tickets: £8 adult; £4 child; £22 family (2 adults/2 children) call Dawn on 01822 810552.**

## KNIT, CRAFT AND NATTER

Join our small and friendly group which meets on the third Monday morning of each month, 10.00am to 12.30pm in the Village Hall.

*More information from Ruth Boswell on 810687.*

**Forthcoming dates are:**

**Mon. 20th May      Mon. 17th June**

**Mon. 15th July      Mon. 19th August**



### Congratulations to Peter Tavy Scottish Country Dancers on their 21st Anniversary!

Patrick Cashell started the group in 1998 and has brought much enjoyment to many people over the years.

The dancers continue to meet on Friday evenings in the Village Hall at 8.00pm. If you would like to join in or to find out more, contact Patrick on 810918.

# Patrick's PERAMBULATIONS

A week or two ago I went on a *Virtual Walk* from Peter Tavy to Two Bridges. This was a nostalgic - and only - way that I could join, in spirit, Angela, Sylvia, David and Rhian on their expedition across the Moor.

David and Rhian had driven down from Sussex with the firm intention of walking on Dartmoor, Sylvia fell in with the plan and Angela, for some considerable time denied walks with me, eagerly agreed to guide the party over ground she knew pretty well. David had fed a route plan into his mobile 'phone; so with walking poles and good footwear they were well-prepared for the walk.

Up the combe they started, to join the Peter Tavy Peat Track just below the craggy rocks of Setters and follow it round the eastern flank of White Tor and on towards the Bronze Age menhir, known as 'the long stone' or 'lan(g)stone' from which moor and mire are named. This landmark was damaged by American troops during WW2 who used it as target practice.

The party took the left fork in the track, leaving Arthur's Hill on their right and Daw's Newtake on their left as they approached the Lych Way and, shortly, Whittaburrow - a large despoiled cairn which features importantly on the Forest Bounds as well as the Bounds of Peter Tavy. I could picture them taking a coffee break here, looking south towards Great Mis Tor across the River Walkham, which they would cross at Sandy Ford. A glance to their left would reveal the site of Wheal Prosper, which saw mining activity up until the 1850s. The track also crosses the Prison Leat over a pretty little arch bridge, which replaced a wooden bridge, known as Timber Bridge.

The way ahead is steepish but Conies Down Tor comes into view on the left and beyond it the River Cowsic and the crossing point - Travellers' Ford - Eric Hemery in his book "*Walking Dartmoor's Ancient Tracks*", recounts that here he once met *a remarkable man possessed of extra-sensory perception* and was astonished to hear him say that many, many people had passed this place in former times, burdened by a great sorrow. A German Prince, he was a complete stranger to Dartmoor and its history, but the true purpose of the Lych Way and his demeanour brought home to Hemery the power of extra-sensory perception.

Leaving Travellers' Ford behind them, the party passed above Lydford Tor and descended into the valley of the West Dart River. To the south is Beardown Tor and enclosures and the path leads to a weir across which they go and head up to the north end of Wistman's Wood where they probably rested before taking the well-trodden path south to Two Bridges. I can imagine the relief of the party as they slaked their thirst in the hotel grounds. Theirs was a great achievement, covering 11 miles of Dartmoor's rugged terrain - I was with them all the way.

- Patrick Cashell

# St. PETER's CHURCH NEWS

Janet Bedford's "Daffodil Coffee Morning" at Manor Farm, Cudlipptown in March was very successful, enjoyed by everyone who came along, and raised a fantastic £385 for St Peter's church funds. Thanks to Janet and all involved for the delicious coffee, cakes and biscuits - and for a great morning!



On 17th March we enjoyed a memorable Taizé service of meditative music, readings and prayers, with music from our visiting musicians echoing around the candle-lit church. Two weeks later, on Mothering Sunday, another visiting choir led an atmospheric choral evensong service at St Peter's. Our thanks to Father Steven Martin for arranging these special services in the church. After the choral evensong, the congregation and visiting singers enjoyed a delicious tea together in the Village Hall - thanks to all who prepared and served our refreshments.



*Choral evensong at St Peter's*

Our Easter season services included the traditional procession through the Village to the Church on Palm Sunday; Maundy Thursday Holy Communion in St Peter's, and a joint Good Friday service in the Methodist Church. This year, our Easter garden was beautifully put together by the children. On Easter Sunday, thanks to the efforts of our flower arrangers, the Church looked beautiful as we welcomed all those who joined us for our Communion Service.

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## Can YOU Play the Organ?

If you - or someone you know - can play a church organ, we would love to hear from you to occasionally assist with our services at St Peter's. Please contact one of the churchwardens - Peter Tinson (810314) or Angela Collins (810243).

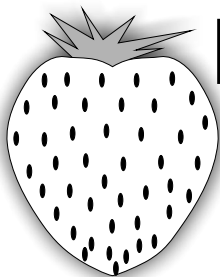


Coming up soon, Peter and Pearl Tinson look forward to seeing you at the...



# CREAM TEAS & Pond Walks

at Edgecombe, Cudlipptown, on Saturday  
18th May, from 2.30pm Everyone welcome.



# T!

St. Peter's Church, Peter Tavy

## Strawberry Tea

on Saturday 29th June,  
from 5.00pm

at Harford Bridge Holiday Park *courtesy of the Williamson family.*

Everyone very welcome.

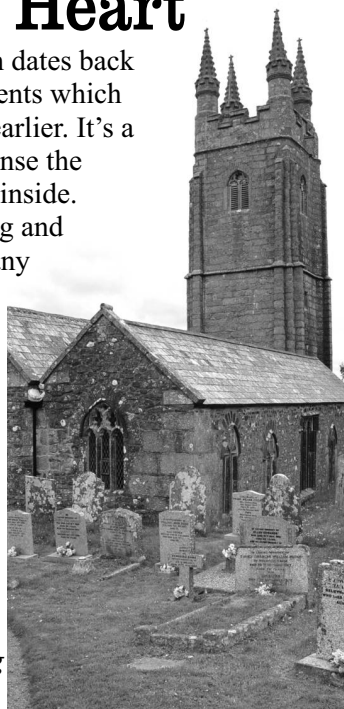
## Peter Tavy's Historic Heart

Standing in the centre of the village, St Peter's Church dates back to at least 1185, and there are some architectural elements which suggest that there may have been a church here even earlier. It's a haven of peace and tranquility, and you can't fail to sense the hundreds of years of history around you when you go inside. Besides the imposing architecture, there are fascinating and intriguing smaller details, each with a story to tell. Many parishioners, who are not church-goers, may not realise what a treasure we have here in Peter Tavy, so later in the summer we're hoping to organise an "open day" (although the church is open to visitors every day!) and invite everyone to come and have a look around and discover a bit more about our shared



village heritage - watch out for details of date and time.

*Meanwhile, if you can spare an hour or two on the morning of **Saturday 11th May**, from 10am to help with our Church "Spring Clean", we'd love to see you!*



## **'Wandering Thread'**

**2019 Exhibition by Peter Tavy Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers in Peter Tavy Village Hall, Friday 25th to Sunday 27th October 2019.**

Many in Peter Tavy will remember Peter and Bobbie Cox, who lived at Higher Manor, Cudlipptown. Bobbie was an internationally known artist and weaver of large scale tapestries. In 1996 the village hall secured funding, with the help of 'Villages in Action', for spinning and weaving workshops run by Bobbie. A small group continued to meet, and with her encouragement we formed our Guild.

We were very sad to learn of Bobbie's death last Autumn, and as a tribute to her it seemed very appropriate to hold this year's exhibition back in Peter Tavy. We are very grateful to both the Hall and Chapel for accommodating us.

We will be holding one of our workshops in Peter Tavy during May, so you might see a group of us wandering around the village with cameras/mobile phones and sketchbooks - hopefully the weather will be kind enough for us to enjoy a picnic.

Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you at our exhibition in October.

*- Jill Morris*

## **MARY TAVY & PETER TAVY W. I. NEWS**

The weather on the day of our February meeting was beautiful sunshine, with a definite feel of spring. Our speaker was Andrew Scowcroft of Foot Solutions and we soon found that there is a lot more to feet than you ever realise - until something goes wrong!

The March meeting was a celebration of Mary Tavy's 70th birthday, Peter Tavy having joined some years later. Green and white balloons and birthday banners were well in evidence. For "old times' sake" Jerusalem was sung, now kept for special occasions only. It was a great pleasure to welcome our speaker, Alison Haslem, a qualified London Blue Badge Guide, who gave a great talk.

Few ladies of the WI have had a "brush' with the law", so hearing about the work of Magistrates and Courts at our April meeting was both new and interesting. Magistrates are unpaid and, after hearing what is involved, we had a great respect for those who give their time and energy to make sure that justice is done.

Our next meeting is on 9th May, 1.30pm - prospective new members are welcome to come and see if they would like to join. *Barbara Weeks & Jill Lamerton*

## **Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI SPRING SALE**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2.00pm - Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy**

There will be refreshments, a raffle, plenty of plants, cakes,  
and a bric-a-brac stall.

# PETER TAVY INN

Over the summer until the end of September, we will be open all day:

## Summer Opening Hours:

**Monday - Saturday:** 12 noon till 11.00 pm

(food served 12.00 noon - 2.00pm and 6.30pm - 9.00pm).

**Sunday:** 12 noon till 10.30pm (food served 12 noon - 2.00pm and 6.30 - 9.00pm).

Come along and enjoy a refreshing pint or a nice cup of coffee in our beer garden (or as a number of the locals call it, our orchard!)

## QUIZ NIGHTS

The popular quiz nights start at 8.00pm, and there's 20% off food prices at the Inn for quiz participants on the evening.

Entry fees for the quiz are split 50% to the winning team, 25% to the runner up, and 25% to a local charity. Forthcoming quiz night dates are...

- **Weds. 15th May**      • **Weds. 17th July**
- **Weds. 19th June**      • **Weds. 18th September** (NB: No quiz in August)

## Milk to your Doorstep!

Did you know that Peter Tavy has a three-times-a-week milk delivery available from Chubb Farm to your doorstep? Enjoy Underdown Farm Dairy local milk from free range cows and don't ever run out of milk again! Contact Edward and Sandra Dodd (810343) for details.



*Have you visited*

## YOUR Nearest Shop - Harford Bridge?

  
Harford Bridge Park

Dartmoor Holidays by the River Tavy

Harford Bridge Park's shop is stocked with a variety of essential grocery items, including milk, butter and eggs. We also stock a short range of 'Hogs Bottom' jams and chutneys and Harford Honey when available. Newly installed is our Tamar Koffi 'Beans to Cup' machine which delivers on its promise of delicious coffee, expresso, americano, mocha, hot chocolate and latte as well as Smugglers Brew Cornish Tea.

This year we have teamed up with Endacotts of Okehampton to stock their bread and cakes, all of which can be ordered directly from their shop and collected from Harford Bridge Park.

The '**Riverside Diner**' will be on site again for the 2019 season on Fridays & Saturdays from 5pm-8pm and Saturday mornings from 8:30 - 1pm. If you have any questions about the menu or to pre-order, just call John on 07914424695.

# Donna's Deliberations

It seems quite a while since I deliberated here, but perhaps that's because it's been a fairly busy time for me, culminating in a wonderful trip to America (Memphis to new Orleans via paddle steamer for 7 days and nights, with 2-3 days in each city - and all that jazz!). I might tell you about that another time. And I have LOTS of photos.....

But before that, I had a very painful stiff neck for weeks (this does become relevant - I'm not just looking for sympathy, although that's always welcome) and as if that weren't enough, had dull and boring things like insurances and other financial bits and pieces to sort out. Now, I know some people find these things fascinating and even choose to spend their lives dealing with them, but I am not one of those people. Like a lot of us, I do it because I have to. And what I want to know is, why has it all got so *difficult*?

Time was, when if you needed to renew, for instance, your motor or house insurance, you rang up your chosen company and did it. Well, you can still do that, of course, but I have noticed a tendency (probably you have too) for said company to pile on the agony by piling on the pounds. The ones that come in little round metal discs. Every year. So, in order to get them to reduce their price, you have to look for another company offering another price. That, in this digital age, means a Comparison Website.

You've seen such things advertised on TV, apparently operated by small animals of varying degrees of furry cuteness (meerkats) or, endearing ugliness (bulldogs). Why these creatures should be thought good at selling insurance I don't know but there it is. There's a lot I don't understand about computers. And, having done this, you go back to Company A, tell them what Company B will insure you for (probably about half the price) and Darren or Claudia or whoever you speak to will go and ask their manager and return to you after several reprisals of Beethoven's 7th with the good news that they can beat it by about £2.49. So why couldn't they do that in the first place? Why can't *they* go to the meerkat or the bulldog and find out before they even send you the figure they just grabbed out of the air, in the hope that you will pay without question? (I think I've answered my own question there.)

But that was the easy bit. I also wanted to close a building society account that, like Evita, had done nothing for years, and buy some more premium bonds. Last time I did this, it was easy. I went to the Post Office, got a form, filled it in, took it back with my cheque and voila! More sets of numbers for Ernie to chew over and spit out each month. Sometimes I even get a small prize.

It's not like that now. I had to ring up. I hadn't got a password, although the helpful (well, she tried to be helpful) lady told me I had. So as I didn't know what it was, I had to have a new one.

I am not completely sure, now, of the exact order of our exchange, but it went something like this:

*Helpful Lady*: "I'll have to ask you some security questions first. These are set by a credit checking company [or something like that] but won't affect your credit rating."

*Me*: “OK”

We then went through the usual rigmarole of date of birth etc (*HL* suppressing gasp of astonishment that there are still people that old walking this earth and apparently able to wield a telephone) and then came to the really difficult ones.

*HL*: “What is your mother's middle name?”

*Me*: (surprised that they didn't want her maiden name): “*Mary*” [Not sure I should have divulged this here, but I trust you.]

*HL*: What is her birthday?

*Me*: Well, she died thirty years ago, so I've stopped sending cards but it's July 20. [You won't go using this information to buy your own premium bonds, will you?]

*HL*: Did you open a bank account in 1996 [yes, she really did say 1996] and what bank was it?

*Me* (completely thrown): Well, yes, I probably did, in fact I probably opened two - which do you want?

(*Helpful Lady* doesn't know. She only knows the questions and if the answers are right or not. I randomly state one of the two names.)

*HL*: What was the overdraft limit on that account?

(Now, forgive me if I am getting extra forgetful or just plain unreasonable in my old age, but I was even more thrown by this. I mean, who even *would* know? One of those rarified beings mentioned at the beginning of this diatribe, who enjoy such things, perhaps, but ordinary mortals like me? No chance.)

*Me*: I don't know.

*HL* (still trying to be helpful): Would it have been £100, £150, or £250?

*Me*: I don't know.

*HL*: Could it have been any of those figures?

*Me* (recognising her efforts but getting a bit impatient anyway): Look, it doesn't make any difference how you phrase your question or how many times you ask me, I am still not going to know. Anything I say would be only a wild guess.

*HL* (give her credit for trying): Would you like to make a guess?

*Me* (somewhat bemused because this is supposed to be a security question, after all): Oh, all right, say £250.

*HL*: Sorry, that's wrong. [Do we detect a touch of triumph there? Surely not.]

So that was that. Whatever test had been set, I hadn't passed it. I couldn't have any more premium bonds.

And this, mark you, was trying to *buy* new ones. What happens when you want to get back the ones you already own?

It's no wonder I needed that holiday, and no wonder I have been suffering for some weeks with a very painful stiff neck. There's a reason for that term 'pain in the neck', you know. And it's been just waiting for the digital age and its security questions to come into its own.

- Donna Baker

# Patrick's Competition

WIN A STAR PRIZE!

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I hope everybody enjoyed the spring weather, which promises to lead us into summer, and had no time to have a go and enter my Who? Where? Which? No 6.in the last "Piper".

Well done to Julie & Paul for being the only entrants - 7/10 was a good effort! The answers were:

1. Eden Philpotts.
2. Buckland Beacon.
3. Saddle Bridge.
4. The Revd Keble Martin & friends.
5. Vur Tor.

6. Stenga Tor
7. Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt.
8. King's Oven.
9. Cowflop.
10. When the bells of South Tawton's Church are rung.

For this issue, I offer...

## A Dartmoor Quiz.

1. What was the original name of The Elephant's Nest?
2. What was the original name of The Warren House Inn?
3. Where might you think you would find crabs hiding?
4. Name the track joining Tavistock and Buckfast Abbeys.
5. Name the 'dog' Tor.
6. Name the track that links Dartmouth and Bideford.
7. With what, on the Moor, do you associate "Excalibur"
8. What is the main characteristic of a Clapper Bridge?
9. By what name is Blackwood usually called?
10. On which Cross can you see BOC LOND?

***Good Luck! Have Fun! Have a Go! Send an Entry!***

Answers on a postcard, on a scrap of paper to me at Brook Cottage or by e-mail: [gpcwshell@btinternet.com](mailto:gpcwshell@btinternet.com) by 8th July 2019.

## Mary Tavy Village



**Bank Holiday Monday**  
**27th May, 12.00 noon - 4.00pm**

in the Coronation Hall & Recreation Field

- ★ Dog Show
- ★ Car Boot Sale
- ★ Stannary Brass Training Band
- ★ BBQ
- ★ Beer Tent
- ★ Plants



**Tavistock RUN Project**

**is proud to present the...**

**3RD**

# PETER TAVY TRAILBLAZER

**Sunday 5th May at 10:30am**

This 5 mile run starts from the Peter Tavy Cross to the ancient Langstone and back on moorland track and trails. Entry is £8.

Registration/number collection is from 09:00 in Peter Tavy Village Hall where there is free parking.

There will be a commemorative medal to all finishers.

Enjoy the run and stay for tea, coffee and cakes in the Village Hall with your fellow runners ! See you there.

For any queries, or if you wish to join Tavistock Run Project, please contact David Chanter on [davechant@me.com](mailto:davechant@me.com) or 07815 318145 or visit

**[www.tavistockrunproject.co.uk](http://www.tavistockrunproject.co.uk)**

This is a sustainable event. Please share lifts; TRP will avoid plastic waste wherever possible - *"leave only footsteps, take only great memories and medals."*

**Enter at: <http://www.tavistockrunproject.co.uk/trailblazer>**



**YOUR mobile Library  
- please support it!**



The Mobile library calls in Peter Tavy on one Wednesday each month with a 30 minute stop. It is free to join and return dates are flexible, so there's no need to worry if you miss a month. There is a good selection of children's books, along with fiction, non-fiction, large-print and talking books. DVDs are also available to borrow.



|   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
| <b>Forthcoming visits<br/>are at 10.00 - 10.30am<br/>at the bottom of<br/>Church Lane on...</b> | <b>Wednesday 22nd May</b><br><b>Wednesday 19th June</b><br><b>July</b><br><b>August</b> | } Watch out for dates! |
|---|---|------------------------|

*If you have any queries,  
please contact 0345 155 1001  
[info@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:info@librariesunlimited.org.uk)  
[www.devonlibraries.org.uk](http://www.devonlibraries.org.uk)*

# THE WEEK

in **PETER TAVY**

regular events

## SUNDAY

**9.30am** (Check in Church porch for details of dates) Holy Communion - St Peter's Church

**2.45pm** Junior Church, Methodist Church (term-time) (Torie 810264 or Sandra 810343)

**6.30pm** Service, Methodist Church

## MONDAY

**10-12am** (3rd Mon of month) - Knit & Natter, V Hall

**7.30pm** Bellringing practice, St Peter's Church

## TUESDAY

**c.10.45am** Ring and Ride Bus to Tavistock\* (returns from Tavistock c.12.45am). Older & disabled passengers - book on 01822 618028

## WEDNESDAY

**10.00 -** (monthly) Mobile Library calls at the bottom of Church Lane

**10.30am** Mornings Art Group, Village Hall

## THURSDAY

**2.00pm** (2nd Thursday each month) Mary Tavy & Peter Tavy WI. Usually Mary Tavy Coronation Hall (Barbara Weeks 810697)

**7.30pm** (4th Thursday in month) Tor & Tavy WI, Mary Tavy Coronation Hall (Trish - 810115)

## FRIDAY

**10.00am** "Minnows" (Parent/toddler group) in Chapel.

**10.45am** Bus to Tavistock from Peter Tavy - was No. 95, now **No. 122** - Oakley's Coaches (\*Departs: Village Hall, returns at 13.15 from opposite Bedford Hotel in Tavistock)

**8.00 -** Scottish Country Dancing, Village Hall -

**10.00pm** (Patrick Cashell 810918 for details)

NB: The Parish Council meets in the Chapel at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month

**\*Bus Notes:** Don't forget that about 8 buses a day stop at the junction on the main A386 road near Harford Bridge Holiday Park (See page 12 for details of changed service).

For all public transport information contact Traveline SW (0871 200 22 33).

Please report any problems with the No.122 bus to Devon Bus on 01392 382800.

# Useful Phone Numbers

**Peter Tavy Parish Council - Clerk**

Alison Skillicorn 01822 810682

**Peter Tavy Village Hall bookings**

Steve Carreck 01822 810868

**Peter Tavy Chapel**

The Dodd Family 01822 810343

01822 810776

**St Peter's Church**

Ch.wardens - Peter Tinson 01822 810314

Angela Collins 01822 810243

**Local West Devon Councillor**

Terry Pearce 01822 810648

**Local Devon County Councillor**

Philip Sanders 01822 612265

**Traveline (public transport info.)**

0871 200 22 33

**National Rail Enquiries** 03457 48 49 50

**Ring & Ride bus for Peter Tavy**

01822 618028

**Highways Emergencies**

(Devon County Council) 01392 383329

**Highways Local Services**

(Okehampton area) 01837 52773

**Devon County Council** 0345 155 1015

**West Devon Borough Council**

01822 813600

**Western Power Distribution**

General contacts 0800 096 3080

Power failure 105 or 0800 6783 105

**South West Water Helpline** 0800 1691144

**Environment Agency emergencies**

0800 80 70 60

**Floodline** 0345 988 1188

**Tavistock Library** 01822 612218

book renewals 0345 155 1001

**Citizen's Advice Bureau** 03444 111 444

**West Devon Voluntary Services**

Freephone 0300 660 0357

**Devon & Cornwall Constabulary**

(non-urgent -24 hours) **New No.** 101

**Crimestoppers** 0800 555111

**Domestic Violence Helpline** 01837 55228

**Trading Standards** 03454 040506

**Alcoholics Anonymous** 0800 9177 650

If you can add others to this list, please let us know for the next "Piper".