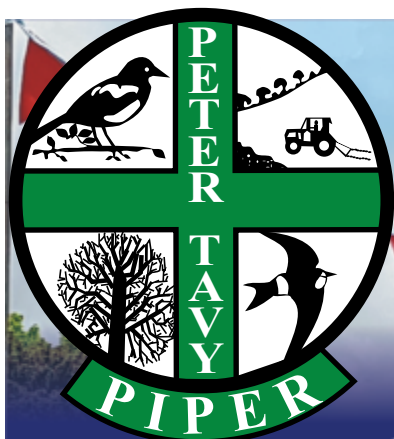


Number 144 Spring 2023



The Coronation Weekend in Peter Tavy
Saturday 6th May to Monday 8th May - *see page 4*



**Don't forget you'll need PHOTO ID to vote at a
Polling Station in future elections - *see page 6***

Welcome to the first edition of the “Piper” for 2023. There’s plenty to look forward to in the coming weeks, so please do join in with the events and activities. St Peter’s Church and the Methodist Church offer a range of services and activities to celebrate Easter. A month later will see the Coronation of King Charles III, and plans are being made for how our Parish will mark this significant occasion (see p.4).

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



The dates and times shown are as we have been advised, but may be subject to change - watch out for posters and notices to make sure! For those on **Facebook**, you can get village updates by joining the “**Peter Tavy Community**” **Facebook group**.

*Please let us have any dates and events for the next "Piper" by **Monday 10th July 2023**. If you can supply your text as a "Word" or "RTF" file, by email to: steve.ali@care4free.net, it saves us a lot of typing. But please don't worry if this is not possible - we still welcome your hand-written entries too!*



Photo: ©Nina Seez

The **Peter Tavy Piper** is our parish magazine, and has been produced since 1984. It is distributed free to every household in Peter Tavy, bringing information, news and events listings to parishioners. Its printing is funded by Peter Tavy Parish Council.

The Parish Council meets in the Chapel (or by Zoom) at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month. See bus shelter notice board for information, or find agendas and minutes on the Council website: www.petertavyparishcouncil.org



What's On?

IN PETER TAVY

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS are shown on page 22.

APRIL

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|---|
| Tues 4th | 6.00 - 7.00pm | Dancing Group, Village Hall (<i>see page 7</i>) Continues each Tuesday until 30th May |
| Weds 5th | 7.30pm | Whist Drive, Village Hall |
| Thurs 6th | noon - 1.30pm | Soup and Dessert Lunches, Methodist Chapel |
| | 6.30pm | Maundy Thursday meal & reflection, Chapel |
| Fri 7th | 4.00pm | Good Friday Meditation & Hymns, St Peter's Church |
| Sun 9th | 8.00am | Easter Sunrise Service, Smeardon Down |
| | 9.30am | Easter Day Communion Service, St Peter's Church |
| Sun 16th | 3.00pm | Joint Family Service - St Peter's Church |
| Mon 17th | 10 - 12.30pm | Knit, Craft and Natter, Village Hall |
| Wed 19th | 10 - 10.30am | Mobile Library calls, bottom of Church Lane |

MAY

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Tues 2nd | 7.00pm | St Peter's Church Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Village Hall |
| Thurs 4th | 7am - 10pm noon - 1.30pm | Local Elections: Polling Station at Village Hall (<i>see p6</i>) Soup and Dessert Lunches, Methodist Chapel |
| Sat 6th | | CORONATION DAY |
| Sun 7th | 11.00am 12.30pm onward | Coronation "Songs of Praise", St Peter's church Coronation "Big Lunch" - Bring & Share, Methodist Chapel |
| Mon 8th | 10.00am | "Big Help Out" day - details TBC |
| (Bank Holiday) | 5.00pm | Barbecue, Village Hall |
| Sat 13th | 2.00 - 4.00pm | Plant Sale & Cream Teas, Methodist Chapel (p.11) |
| Mon 15th | 10 - 12.30pm | Knit, Craft and Natter, Village Hall |
| Wed 17th | 10 - 10.30am | Mobile Library calls, bottom of Church Lane |
| | 7.00pm | Village Hall Committee meeting, followed by |
| | 8.00pm | Village Hall AGM |
| Sun 21st | from 1.00pm 4.00pm | Garden walks in the village (<i>see p.11</i>) followed by Community Service at Harewood House, and tea! |

CORONATION
see page 4

JUNE

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--|
| Fri 9th | 7.30pm | Haldon Quartet Concert, Village Hall (<i>see p.15</i>) |
| Sat 10th | 4.00pm | St Peter's Church Strawberry Tea, Village Hall |
| Wed 14th | 10 - 10.30am | Mobile Library calls, bottom of Church Lane |
| Sat 17th | from 10.00am | Church and Churchyard Cleaning Day, St Peter's Church (<i>see p.16</i>) |
| Sun 18th | 3.00pm | Joint Family Service - St Peter's Church |
| Mon 19th | 10 - 12.30pm | Knit, Craft and Natter, Village Hall |



CORONATION WEEKEND in Peter Tavy

Saturday 6th May - Monday 8th May

Very special occasions like this are an opportunity for our whole community to come together to mark the event, and share fun and friendship with friends and neighbours.

We held a first planning meeting for the Coronation weekend back on 1st March, where lots of ideas were suggested. There's a second meeting on Wednesday 29th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall - hope you can come along and join us! Our initial ideas and plans - yet to be finalised! - include:

In advance of the weekend, we'll be putting up bunting around the village, and you could join in the "**DECORATE YOUR HOME FOR THE CORONATION**" competition - adorn your gate or house with flags or flowers. There's also a "**DESIGN AND MAKE A CROWN**" competition - age categories: 5 & under; 11 & under; 16 & under - and over 16s. The crowns will be put on display in the church.

Saturday 6th May - Coronation Day. King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla leave Buckingham Palace in the 'King's Procession' for the Coronation service in Westminster Abbey in the morning. After the service they return to Buckingham Palace in the larger 'Coronation Procession'. We thought that many people may prefer to stay at home to watch the pageantry on TV with families and friends - so our Peter Tavy activities would start on...

Sunday 7th May A special "**SONGS OF PRAISE**" service at 11.00am in St Peter's church, held jointly with Peter Tavy Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to suggest their favourite hymn for the service - we'll fit in as many as possible!

This will be followed by Peter Tavy's own "**BIG LUNCH**" (they're being held across the country) in the Methodist Chapel - a "Bring and Share" meal together - wear your own crown if you'd like!

The big "**Coronation Concert**" will be taking place at Windsor Castle later in the day - again it will be televised... *and we do have a big screen, projector and wifi in the Village Hall...*

Monday 8th May (Coronation Bank Holiday): nationally today has been designated "**THE BIG HELP OUT**", encouraging people around the country to volunteer and work to support their local areas. Our current idea is that, at 10.00am, we should all make our way up to the Coombe Pool together, and work to tidy and improve the surrounding area... But plans may change!

After a day of working together, we would return to the Village Hall to share a **BARBECUE** together, starting at around 5.00pm

There are many other ideas to be added to the mix - maybe a walk around the parish, a dance, games, and more... Watch out for more details of how you can join in as the weekend approaches.

REPORT from Your PARISH COUNCIL

It has been a busy few months for the Parish Council since the last edition of '*The Peter Tavy Piper*', and spring is now here - so hopefully we will all have some lovely sunshine to enjoy soon.

The Millpond has had essential repairs to the back wall, getting ready for the better weather.

Both the Church Cottages have tenants in place, and a programme of ongoing maintenance is being steadily worked through. These Cottages really are vital assets to this Village, with many neighbouring Parishes without any such affordable housing.

The Playing Field project is now taking priority with dangerous decaying older items being demolished and replaced with longer lasting modern play equipment. The Parish Council hope to get this next phase finished before the summer holidays. There has been a lot of hard work on the funding applications behind the scenes to get this next phase underway.

The Chairman of the Parish Council has had a face-to-face meeting with the new Neighbourhood Highways Officer to point out problems with our road network, and although budget constraints mean there could be no commitment as to when these works will start, it was a pleasant change that somebody was listening to our concerns. One of the most important issues is the junction with the main A386, which as we all know is like running the gauntlet at times, waiting to turn back into Peter Tavy from the Tavistock direction. The County Council will not entertain even looking at the problems with this junction until they have had actual reports of near misses and accidents at this particular accident black-spot. With this in mind if you should be involved in or witness a near miss here could you please let the Clerk know so I can report it directly to Highways, then hopefully if we get enough reports they will in turn take a look at what can be done to make this junction safer for all.

Plans to celebrate the upcoming Coronation of King Charles III are being made (*see opposite*) and the long weekend in May should be one to remember.

Finally **ARE YOU HAPPY WITH YOUR PARISH COUNCIL and what they all do on behalf of your Parish?** Now is your chance to have your say in the upcoming **local elections of May 4th**. If you or anybody you know would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, or you think would make a good Parish Councillor, please let The Clerk know. Nominations need to be submitted to West Devon Borough Council by 4th April. If you can come along on 4th May and vote for your chosen Parish Councillors, it can only be a good thing to know that you had a say in who was democratically elected. The Parish Councillors, after all, give up their time to attend monthly meetings and work on your behalf to keep this Parish the unspoilt place we love to live in.

(continues overleaf)

It has been great to see our Village Hall being so well used - and I believe all the hard work from the Village Hall Committee should be applauded. I have been to several events there in the last few months. I've also been particularly enjoying the dance evenings; there have been lots of laughs and it has been lovely to meet so many new faces.

I hope the farmers have a successful lambing season and that the Easter Holidays are nice and sunny for all the children enjoying the break from School.

- Michelle, Clerk to the Peter Tavy Parish Council

Your Clerk to the Parish Council can be contacted via email at petertavypc@hotmail.co.uk or via telephone in the evenings on 01822 811075

LOCAL ELECTIONS

On Thursday 4th May 2023, local elections are taking place across West Devon. At these elections, you will need to bring photo ID to be able to vote at a polling station.


Acceptable forms of Photo ID include:

- ✓ a passport
- ✓ a photographic driving licence
- ✓ a Blue Badge
- ✓ an Older Person's Bus Pass
- ✓ a Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- ✓ a Defence Identity Card
- ✓ a Biometric Immigration Document
- ✓ a PASS card (an identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram)

You can use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as the photo still looks like you.

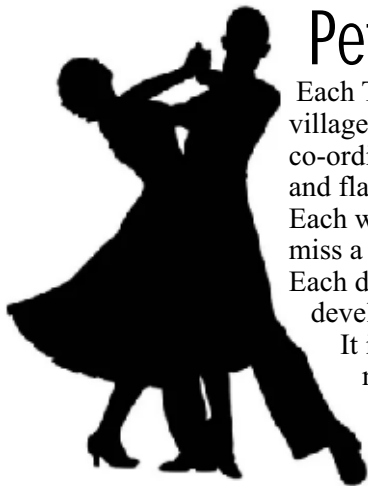
You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station

Postal voting is not affected by the new requirements.

 If you don't have any of the accepted forms of ID, you can apply for a **FREE Voter Authority Certificate**. Apply online at: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate> (use the QR code to the left) Or call West Devon Borough Council on 01822 813600.

Find out more on the Parish Council website at: <http://www.petertavyparishcouncil.org/youll-need-photographic-identification-photo-id-to-vote-at-future-elections/> (use this QR code)





Peter Tavy Dancing Group

Each Tuesday, from 6pm for an hour, the left feet of the village come together for patient tuition from Tom on how to co-ordinate with the many right feet and produce an elegant and flawless waltz or tango, samba or cha-cha-cha!

Each week it's a different dance - so it doesn't matter if you miss a week, or have never been before.

Each dance will be revisited and developed in the weeks to come.

It is great fun, and most of us can now count to 3 or 8!

Everyone welcome; refreshments after with time for a chat and reflection.....



WHEAL BETSY LADIES

Wheal Betsy Ladies will be holding their monthly meeting on 13th April in Mary Tavy Coronation Hall; our talk for the month is entitled "Lillies and Chillies". The talk is about bulbs throughout the year, and the speaker will be bringing some plants along for sale as well.

Wheal Betsy Ladies hold their monthly meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month; we start at 14.00 and doors are open from 13.30 to ensure a prompt start. We look forward to meeting you.

For more information, contact Di Broughton on peterguybroughton@hotmail.com / tel. 01822 820671, or call Elaine on 07446 992990.



Lambing & Bird Nesting Season

1st March - 31st July

Report uncontrolled dogs to
Dartmoor Livestock Protection Officer -
07873 587561 - or Police on 101

By Law you must control your dog so it does not scare, worry or disturb farm animals or wildlife. Farmers are entitled to shoot a dog that worries or harms their animals.



**Keep
Dogs on
Leads**

www.dartmoor.gov.uk



Remembering Coronations Past...

As plans are laid to mark the Coronation this year, we're looking back at the memories of those who celebrated the coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II, 70 years ago in 1953.

● **John Collins** recalls...

"I was a boy of 9 years of age, and I recall there were sports held for children and adults in the field below the Reading Room (now Laurel House). I took part in the sports and we were presented with mugs afterwards.

Mrs W. Bailey, who ran the village shop with her husband, had a stall in the field with refreshments and I particularly remember having an ice cream soda.

The Reverend Pratt, the rector of Peter Tavy, made a speech over the sports club PA. The bells were rung. There were also refreshments available in the school, as it was then - now the Village Hall.

I seem to remember there was a radio in the school broadcasting the Coronation - there was little or no television in the village at that time as reception was very poor as Hessary Tor mast was not yet completed.

That evening there was a dance, held in the school, which my older sister, Julia, went to. My mother made her a dirndl skirt to wear to it.

That same evening I can remember going up to Smeardon Down to see the beacon fire. In the days leading up to the fire being lit, my brother, Graham, and I helped my father take up faggots of wood on my father's tractor and trailer."

● **Norman Nankivell** remembers ringing the church bells on Coronation Day, soon after he had been taught to ring by Rev. Pratt.

**PETER TAVY BELLS
RING ALL DAY**

Peter Tavy Parish Church bells were rung from early morning till well into the night and a united service, conducted by Rev. B. C. C. Pratt, rector, was largely attended. A sports programme and a tea followed, and later there was a social in the schoolroom. A bonfire with over 1,000 faggots was lit on Smeardon Down by Mr. S. Gendle and Mr. A. R. Bellamy.

Report in the 'Western Morning News' of June 3rd 1953. Don't panic - no plans to ring all day this time... But do listen out for the bells on Coronation morning!

● **Marjorie Sherrell (née Vogwill)** was living with her parents at Hillside, Langsford at the time. She remembers that her cousin **June Arcscott's** family, who lived next door, got their first TV set for the Coronation, and all her family went round to their house to watch the ground-breaking live broadcast.

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● **Bill Lane**, then a junior lieutenant, was in charge of the hospitality tents as the 16th Parachute Battalion were Beating the Retreat at Moascar Stadium (right) on coronation day - in the then-occupied Suez Zone in Egypt.

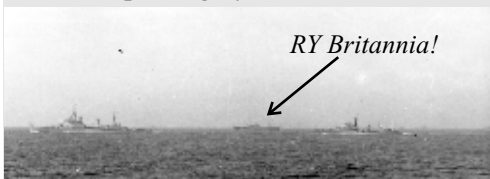


He recalls... “My main recollection was that during the playing of ‘Sunset’ (the evening hymn), we were instructed to take the wire off the bottles of champagne.

“The organisers had failed to work out that although the bottles were kept in large wash tubs of ice, due to the Middle Eastern heat the corks were likely to pop. The playing of ‘Sunset’ then sounded much more like the ‘1812 Overture’!”

● **Phyllis Dodd** (late of Chubb Farm) told us that she was asked to help out with the Coronation celebration tea. She had to make sponge cakes - but not in the traditional round tin: this was in a rectangular swiss roll tin. So the finished sponge was topped with red, white and blue icing and cut into little ‘fancies’ - to ensure that everyone got a bit of red, white and blue icing!

● The year after the Coronation, **Peter Tinson** was a national serviceman on a troop ship headed to the Suez Zone in Egypt. In the Mediterranean, his ship crossed with the Royal Yacht *Britannia* carrying the Queen homewards from her Coronation tour. The troopship captain hoped to close with the *Britannia* to allow the servicemen to parade on deck for their new Queen. But the Royal Navy Mediterranean fleet escorting the *Britannia* had other ideas, keeping the troopship at a distance. Peter and his fellow servicemen could only snap the *Britannia* passing by on the horizon!



Looking further back...



We haven't found any photos of the 1953 Coronation celebrations in Peter Tavy - but this one shows the gate to the Village Hall (then the School) decorated for the 1937 Coronation of George VI.



The Lime trees which used to surround St Peter's Church may have been planted in 1760 on the coronation of George III.

If you can add to the memories of the 1953 Coronation, please contact us!



METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Much has happened since the last Piper. Christmas has come and long gone - but we have happy memories of carol singing in the village hall yard, the Nativity play, carol services and Christmas bell ringing. Much fun was had by all at Messy Church in January and joint services with St Peter's are always a good time of worship with chatter after.

As days get longer and warmer, life springs into action again with snowdrops, daffodils, birds nesting and lambing. Sorry... but couldn't resist the temptation to include a few lamb jokes:

What music do lambs like? *Ed Shearan and Lady Baa Baa.*

What does a lamb sing to their mother on her Birthday? *Happy Birthday to Ewe.*

What do you get when you cross an angry lamb with a grumpy cow?

An animal that is in a baaaaaaaaaad moooooooood.

As in nature at this time of year, the message of Easter is about new life through the sacrifice of Jesus. In the Bible, 2 Corinthians 5 v 17 says:

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

We would very much welcome you at any services as we journey through this lent and Easter time leading up to the great celebrations of Easter Sunday. See the back cover of this “Piper” for details.

- *David Dodd*

Soup and desert lunches

First Thursday of the month, 12-1.30pm at the Chapel.

If you haven't been before - or not been for a while - we would love to see you. The locally made soups and desserts are amazing and it is such a good time to sit and talk with others. Forthcoming dates are **Thursdays 6th April and 4th May.**



Craft Group

Meets **Fridays 2pm - 4pm at the Methodist Chapel.**

All sorts of crafts undertaken with enthusiasm and laughter! The group is great medicine! Enjoy a cuppa, a cake and a craft. Make and extend friendships, learn a new craft or build on one you already work on... Everyone is very welcome!

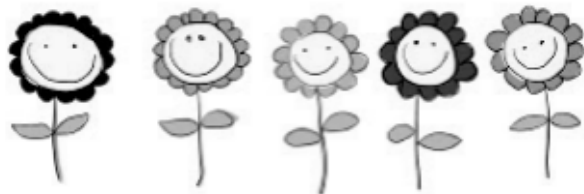


POPPY MAKING

The Craft Group have had the wonderful idea of producing as many poppies as we can, to use for Remembrance Day. We would like to invite anyone reading this to make poppies - any material (crochet, knitting, sewing, metal, wood... etc) - as long as they can stand rain and wind! If you have any surplus red, black or purple wool, or material that others could use, please let us know. If you would like to join us, it's also an opportunity to learn a new skill. Just pop along on Friday afternoons - and someone will share with you the joys of double treble stitches!

Hope to see you soon! - *The Craft Group*

PLANT SALE & CREAM TEAS



**Saturday 13th May, 2pm - 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)*

Some "Open Gardens"...

On **Sunday May 21st**,
from 1.00pm, some
villagers are kindly
opening their gardens
for the afternoon,
giving us all a chance
to wander around and
explore them.

Maps will be available
from the bus shelter from
lunchtime on the day.

The afternoon will
conclude with a
community service at
Harewood House,
at 4.00pm.
Afterwards, there will
be tea in the garden.

*(If the weather isn't kind
that day, the service will
take place in the Chapel.)*

Looking forward, there's another chance to explore a local garden later this year...

Open Garden at Beulah

With Tea and Cake!

Saturday 22nd July, 2.00 - 5.00pm

Proceeds for



Mind the Gap
AFRICA

&

FAST
ROMANIA

Linhays, Lintels & Lunkeys

- Tom Roskilly ponders

Anyone who casts their mind back to February 2022 will remember that ‘furious winter’s rages’ and in particular Storm Eunice which blew in with gusto on the morning of Friday 18th, leaving a trail of havoc in its wake. Out at Willsworthy brook bridge, a tree fell down and blocked the road, but thanks to the sterling efforts of Tim Dodd, who was working in the area, it was soon cleared for residents to go on with their busy lives. At Lower Nutley, Janet heard an almighty bang whilst in the sheep shed, and looked out to find the roof of an old shed in the lower field completely gone and deposited in the field above the cottage. The shed, which we have always referred to as ‘The Abbot’s Linnie’, had been useful as a nursery for ewes with young lambs, but alas no more.

Scrolling on to May, Steve Allen - an old Tavistock School friend - and his wife Kim were spending a short break in the vicinity and dropped in to see us. He is an actor by trade, with an interest in all things local and historical and so we took them over the lane to see the old building in its damaged state. After doing a little research he told us that our building had most likely been an old *Linhay*, where cattle were sheltered and fed below a sort of loft where hay was stored. The loft area had long gone, and the gaps between the unique round pillars have been stoned in for ages, but nevertheless it has all the features of this type of farm building really only found here in the South West. Suffice it to say that, thanks to a local builder well-versed in the concept of restoration, the *Linhay* has now acquired a new roof, not only to protect its rather special architecture, but also to give it a new lease of life for sheep-husbandry.

Across the lane, Lower Nutley – aka Old Nutley – is very old as well, and whilst ‘our’ builder was about, he also replaced a couple of decaying *Lintels* above the front-facing windows. Now, whereas most people will know what a *Lintel* is, they might not know what a *Lunkey* is. To tell the truth, I only came across one when I listened to an episode of *The Archers* some years ago, when a chap appeared on the scene at Ambridge to build it. A *Lunkey* is essentially a dedicated passage through a stone wall or bank for animals to travel through. You see them around here in several hedge banks, often stock-wired up now because they’re no longer appropriate, much like the stone styles which post-boys used years ago to take the shortest route between distant houses in the parish.



A Lunkey...

(Sorry - this one's in Yorkshire - compilers)

How does all this fit together? Well, Steve played the chap in the storyline who made a masterful job of constructing the *Lunkey*. Quite clever people, these actors! Oh, and by the way, in 1991 he ‘stormed’ through and won Mastermind with his knowledge of Sir Francis Drake and the Armada of 1588.

From what I remember the Spaniards ran into a bit of bad weather as well when they were on the way home that April and it didn’t end well for them.

So, notwithstanding climate change, one thing’s for sure: if you’re thinking about more sheep housing, or even crossing the Channel, you can’t go by the weather in the previous year....

In contrast with the gales of last year we’ve just had the quietest February the Met Office could have ever recorded!!

Sarah’s Taking On the National 3 Peaks Challenge!

If you see me walking up and down Smeardon numerous times, or in the dark, I am not going mad - but training my legs and head! *(If you feel like a fast hilly walk then*



company also welcome!) I’m taking on the National Three Peaks Challenge (which takes in the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales in 24 hours) on



13th May - for the Stroke Association, because I am fortunate to have the good health to do so.

In December 2020, my best friend of over 40 years suffered a catastrophic stroke. Sally had just turned 45, and was an incredibly fit, active women, with a fierce focus on being the best for her family and in her professional life. Overnight her life changed instantly and irreversibly.

Sal’s journey over the last couple of years has been hard, humbling and heart-breaking to observe. Physical demands and mental struggles after a brain injury are huge. Re-learning simple life skills is enormous, progress slow and the mental willpower required as the brain tries to adapt is simply immense.

The best I can do is continue to be her “bestie” and help those who can help her, and others like her. The Stroke Association provides specialist support, research and campaigning which are only possible with the courage and determination of the stroke community. Be generous with your donations - with your support they can rebuild even more lives.

Stroke
Association



Any donations would be very gratefully received, or you can donate through my “Just Giving” page - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarah-brown-three-peaks>

- Thank you! **Sarah Brown**

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Village Hall Chair: Janett Reed, (janett.reed@yahoo.com)

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

Now that Covid restrictions are hopefully now finally behind us, the village hall has been putting on more events.

Under the “Try Something New” category there was a fused glass workshop in November; present wrapping in December, and Cup cake decorating in February.

The return of the winter talks saw a varied program including a talk on wreck diving by Barbara and Steve Mortimer; the early history of Cudlipptown by Chris Wordingham; Tavistock policing in the past by Simon Dell, and wildlife photography by Colin Sargent.

The Bingo organized by the Medlands in December, in aid of Devon Air Ambulance, was very successful - as were the Christmas Fayre and pop-up restaurant.

As well as the weekly art group, circuit training, pilates, and the Knit and Natter group, which continues to meet on the third Monday of each month, we now also host a very popular ballroom and latin dance class on a Tuesday evening, organized by Sandra Dodd.

Over the last months, the Hall has been hired for several private parties, by groups of all ages. If you're looking for a venue for your event, contact us to take a look around the Hall to see if it would meet your needs.

We've also installed WiFi in the Hall, broadening the range of facilities we can offer.



Meanwhile, we have continued opening the Pit Stop through the winter, Friday to Sunday, and daily in the school holidays. If you haven't already, do pop in and take a look when you're passing! There's a good selection of tasty snacks and drinks available, plus bike repair and re-charging facilities for e-bikes. We take cash and credit cards. Thanks go to the team of volunteers who open and close up, and keep everything stocked up.

Peter Tavy Village Hall - AGM

Wednesday 17th May, at 8.00pm

A great opportunity for everyone to come along to share ideas about the Village Hall. 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).*



Come along - whether you are a beginner or more experienced.

We have a lot of laughs along the way, so if you would like to learn, do join us.

Wednesday 5th April, 7.30pm, Village Hall

In previous years, our monthly footpath walks have been held on the **last Tuesday of each month**, starting in May. This year, with so many people enjoying the dancing each Tuesday in the Village Hall, we're not sure which day we will re-start - contact Jayne on 07825 397824 for an update.

No booking is necessary, just meet at the Village Hall and **be ready to start walking by 7.00 pm.**

Please wear suitable footwear and clothing. We prefer not to take dogs with us.

WARNING: The going can get a bit rough under foot, so the walks are only suitable for fairly active folk!

Walks are weather-dependant and will be cancelled if the weather is too bad at 6.00pm on the day of the walk.

RE-STARTING SOON!



Later on, we welcome the return of on **Friday 9th June at 7.30pm** in the **Village Hall.**

Their last concert in the Hall, (way back in pre-Covid days), was a great success and praised by all who came along. Don't miss this chance to enjoy professional musicians performing on your doorstep! Booking for tickets will be available closer to the date - watch out for details on posters and the Peter Tavy Community Facebook page.



CIRCUIT *fitness* TRAINING

Every Monday Evening

6.00pm Peter Tavy Village Hall

Find out more from Dave Chanter on 07815 318145



KNIT, CRAFT AND NATTER

Our friendly group meets on the **third Monday of each month.** Come along for a morning of working and chatting together, in the **VILLAGE HALL** from **10.00am - 12.30pm** Future dates are:

Mondays 17th April; 15th May; 19th June; 17th July.



For more information, contact Ruth Boswell on 810687.



St. PETER'S CHURCH NEWS

Alongside our regular Sunday morning communion services, we've enjoyed welcoming so many to special services, including last October's Harvest Festival (which raised £660, split equally between the Shelterbox, Sightsavers and Farm Community Network charities) and our Christmas Eve "midnight communion" service,

Christmas morning service and service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

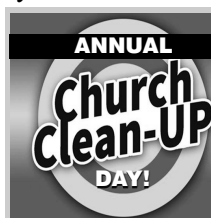
Many thanks to all those who came along to our Church and churchyard cleaning and clearing day last September - there's another one coming up on 17th June, when we plan to make the church look its best for wedding services there later in the year.

By the time this Piper reaches you, we will have enjoyed a Coffee Morning at Janet Bedford's wonderful home, Manor Farm House in Cudlipptown. It's always a welcoming gathering of friends and neighbours, raising funds for St Peter's - thank you, Janet! There's another opportunity for a get-together at our **annual Strawberry Tea in the village hall at 4.00pm on 10th June.**

Since the last "Piper" there has been a lot of work going on at St Peter's, re-wiring the building and starting to address the problem of our "wet tower". In September last year, scaffolding was installed inside the tower and the cement render was removed from the inside walls of the ground-floor ringing chamber, allowing them to "breathe" again. The timber floor and beams above the ringing chamber were replaced while scaffolding was in place. Externally, cement pointing was removed from the lower courses of the stonework. Dowels have been inserted into the thick walls of the tower to monitor and trace the damp within. Now phase 1 of the project has been completed. New cupboards and wooden trunking have been installed around the electrical works, and some work has also been undertaken on drainage and guttering. Phase 2 of the work on the tower will be starting soon, and repairs made to the tower roof. The PCC (Parochial Church Council) are very grateful to Anya Yeatman for her work in leading these projects forward.

The PCC have been continuing to consider the church finances. Alongside regular outgoings, we have faced major expenditure on the tower and electrical works. (We are grateful for the grant of £3,000 received from the Devon Historic Churches Trust to help towards our costs.) We are also looking at the future position of St Peter's within the Tavistock Deanery and have held an initial meeting with the new Vicar of Tavistock, Rev'd Matthew Godfrey.

You are very welcome to join us to find out more at our
Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at 7.00pm
Tuesday 2nd May in the Village Hall.



Please come and join us to spruce up the church and churchyard on **Saturday 17th June from 10.00am**
All helping hands very welcome!

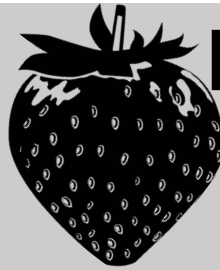
St Peter's Church, Peter Tavy

INVITE YOU TO OUR

STRAWBERRY TEA and Savouries!

WITH • BRING & BUY • RAFFLE • GAMES

**on Saturday 10th June at 4.00pm
in the Village Hall**



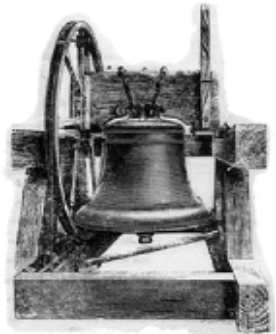
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Peter Tavy Bellringers

In October last year, we were pleased to host ringers from around the area at the special "Deanery Day" service in St Peter's, followed by tea in the Hall. (Thanks to all who provided food for this, and who helped out with serving.)

Unfortunately, with the tower repairs ongoing, we were unable to do more than toll one bell for the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II. But we're hoping to be able to ring out for the Coronation of Charles III in May.

If you've ever wondered how the bells are rung (hanging bells on wheels is a peculiarly British thing!) and fancy having a try - *or you think to yourself "if you can't beat them, join them"!* - then you'd be very welcome to come along and meet us at one of our regular Monday evening practices, between 7.30 and 9.00pm at St Peter's.



TOR AND TAVY W.I.

Spring is on its way and with it WI AGMs countrywide. Tor and Tavy WI meet on the 4th Thursday of each month, 7.30pm at the Coronation Hall in Mary Tavy and this year's AGM will be preceded by a session of Tai Chi. Visitors and prospective new members are welcome to join us even they are unable to stay for the AGM. In accordance with WI policy a whole new year of activities has been arranged by our programme planner for 2023/2024. We have speakers to give us talks on life as a Housekeeper/Butler and Wildlife photography plus practical sessions to include making our own hanging baskets and first aid. Two walks are also on the plan, one in the summer months to include a picnic and an October walk with Simon Dell as our guide. There are also opportunities to join in activities organised by the Devon Federation of WI. Do feel free to turn up and join us or email torandtavy@devonwi.org.uk for more information.

- Corrie Grice

Peter Tavy COMMON

- A Commoner's Perspective

It is with great sadness and a troubled mind that I am writing this.

20 years ago, Natural England (NE) brought a potential agreement to Peter Tavy Commoners, suggesting working together to improve the Common. They believed that the Common was over-grazed and in poor condition. NE had been doing the same thing across the country with other common associations.

This was a voluntary agreement for Peter Tavy Commoners, under which we could reduce the levels of livestock on the Common, or sign into an agreement with NE to reduce stock slightly further, and receive a payment for following the restrictions they had set out for 10 years, to enable the Common to improve.

The rules included removing cattle from the Common each year from November to March. This resulted in planning permissions being sought for cattle sheds to house the once-hardy cattle when they were brought down from the moor in these months. We Peter Tavy Commoners were never really sure what improvements NE hoped to see, but it was reluctantly agreed to take a harder cut in stock levels and receive a payment for delivering public benefits. So for 10 years our 32 Commons right-holders, the majority of them not being graziers, have been suspicious of one another, all constantly seeking that last extra blade of grass.

The agreement ended in 2012, and yet although the Common had changed, it was deemed not to have improved as much as NE wanted. The SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) was looking favourable, as were a few other areas. Therefore, another agreement was offered. It was agreed to maintain that same stocking level then, as improvements were coming.

But in 2017, following a survey by NE, they found it vital to reduce winter sheep levels. After tough negotiation the Commoners managed to get NE to agree to a 45% reduction of sheep grazed on the Common between October and March, (this was a lower reduction than NE had wanted). But what exactly are we to do with a hardy hill sheep for all those months it is off the Common?

Fast forward to 2021/22, and another survey still does not find what NE require. Meanwhile gorse is taking a strong hold on Cudlipptown Down, no lapwings and no livestock have been seen for years, and *Molinia* is rampant (*Molinia caerulea* - or Purple moor grass - can form dense tussocks covering large upland areas. Without management it can dominate other grassland species resulting in a monoculture - to the detriment of grazing and key species of wildlife). Only walkers' feet and dogs remain!

The agreement ends in September this year. To extend it, graziers would have to take **all** sheep off the Common in winter, and cattle and ponies must make up 50% of summer grazing.

It's a hill farmer's nightmare. There seems to be a total lack of understanding by those making the rules. The rules are generic across England, so there is no consideration of the local climate and environment particular to Peter Tavy Common. Beyond losing the hefted* stock that has taken generations to build up into hardy, disease-free flocks and herds, the restrictions take away the skills and traditions that are needed to farm the hills. The next generation of farmers will not have their parents' example to learn from. Likewise the dogs, the shepherd's faithful work companions, need different skills to work up on the Common than they do in lowland "bye work".

The Commoners work the Common as an extension to their farms. Grandfathers registered Commoners' rights though the land they owned, and these rights are passed on when land changes hands. The majority of farmers have grown up respecting and enjoying commoning; its more than a way of life and it certainly isn't a 9-5 job!

The majority of graziers do not want to feel dictated to any longer. But in providing public benefits - like clean water; access to archaeology; space for walking and enjoyment, and training grounds for the MoD, to name but a few - alongside biodiversity, they should be recompensed. It seems to have been forgotten that the improvements in the landscape and environment that have been seen occurred alongside our continuing management of a variety of livestock on the Commons. I thought you might be interested to know what is happening to the Common of Peter Tavy - all 1,018 hectares of it - and what will be filling the Commoners' Association's time over the coming months.

(*For those who aren't sure, "hefting" is the traditional way of managing livestock on large open areas of communal upland grazing, like common land. Over time, the animals have learnt their 'heft' and do not need to be shepherded to stay in particular area. This knowledge is passed from ewe to lamb each generation. The stock learn where good grazing and shelter can be found at different times of year.)

YOUR Mobile Library

The Mobile library calls on one Wednesday each month, for a 30 minute stop. You can join on the van (it's free!) if you don't already have a mobile card. There's a good selection of fiction, non-fiction, audio books, children's books, and large print. Come and meet Heidi, our friendly and helpful mobile librarian.

If you have any queries, please contact 0345 155 1001 or email info@librariesunlimited.org.uk

Forthcoming visits are at 10.00 - 10.30am at the bottom of Church Lane on...

Weds. 19th April • Weds. 17th May • Weds. 14th June • Weds. 12th July



Thank you, Patrick!

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Patrick Cashell, who passed away on Monday 6th March.

Piper readers will know that Patrick has been a regular contributor since February 1998. For 24 years his writings have featured in every issue. From May 2000, no edition was complete without his accounts of walks on the moor - "Patrick's Perambulations" - and the intriguing puzzles of his "Competition Corner", for which he also provided the prizes. In addition, he also helped with distribution of the *Piper* to households in the village.



*Patrick helping to lead the 2014
"Beating of the Bounds"*

During the years since he moved to the village in 1997, Patrick served on the Village Hall Committee; on St Peter's Church PCC (Parochial Church Council) and, for a time, on the Parish Council. He founded the Peter Tavy Scottish Country Dance Group, and instituted the biennial Peter Tavy Dartmoor Evenings. These regularly included Donna Baker's Peter Tavy-based comedy playlets, in which Patrick took on roles including an escaped Dartmoor Prison convict; a second world war German pilot who had crashed on Smeardon... and even 'Lord Caster' (Peter Tavy's version of Lord *Sugar* in its own episode of "The Apprentice"). He also shared his love of walking on the Moors, organising and leading walks - including the "Perambulation of the Forest of Dartmoor" - and helping to lead the Beating of the Parish Bounds.

Thank you, Patrick, for all you did and for all your contributions to the *Peter Tavy Piper* - we will surely miss them!

Extra COVID-19 booster vaccine this spring for those at highest risk

Devon County Council is warning that COVID-19 continues to infect thousands of people every week - and advises that those at highest risk of severe illness should top up their immunity ahead of the planned autumn booster programme.

An extra COVID-19 booster vaccine dose in spring 2023 is to be offered to:

- adults aged 75 years old and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- people aged 5 to 74 years old with a weakened immune system

DCC explains that the vaccine offers the best protection against the virus and helps to reduce the risk of becoming seriously ill or hospitalised. Immunity wanes over time so it is important to top it up by getting a booster if you are eligible.

Please wait to be contacted by the NHS if you believe you are eligible as they will let you know when you can be offered the booster.



PETER TAVY INN

Just a quick reminder of our **opening hours**:

Monday-Friday: 12noon until 3pm & 6pm until 11pm

Weekends: 12noon until 11pm (*10.30pm Sunday*)

Food is served daily from 2 noon until 2pm
and from 6.30pm until 9pm.

To book a table call 01822 810348.

To find out more about our menus, and for more information about the inn, please visit our website at petertavysin.co.uk Scan here ▶



Colin Sargent Greeting Cards

After Colin gave his very interesting talk in the village hall, we agreed with him to become a local outlet for his photographic greetings cards. Hopefully we will have cards ready for sale by Easter. The cards will include a mixture of local wildlife and local scenery, and are blank for your own message.

ART exhibition

West Dartmoor Art Group

July 22nd - 29th 10.00am - 6.00pm

(4.00pm last day)

Peter Tavy Village Hall

Light Refreshments available

Why is a Pothole called a Pothole?

Some brief online research suggests that... no-one is really sure. One intriguing idea is that during Roman times, potters found an easy source of raw material by digging up the roads to reach clay underneath. People trying to use the roads later knew what the potters had been up to, and called the resulting ruts “potholes”.

Alternatively, if the word is split into two parts, in Middle English the word “pot” or “potte” meant “a deep hole”, often for mining or peat-digging. Today “pot” can also mean something cylindrical in shape - a good description of a “pothole”.

Or how about the simple idea that a “pothole” meant a hole or recess on the top of a stove into which you can place a pot?

The use of “pothole” in caving terms is seen as far back as 1809, and by 1811 it was in use to describe the awkward ruts and holes in a road surface. In the 1820s, geologists in America described the cylindrical holes in river rock beds as “potholes”. The Archbald Pothole in Pennsylvania is one you'd really want to avoid, being 38ft (11.5m) deep and 42ft (12.8m) across!

Today the word is often also used as a metaphor for problems or difficulties encountered. It seems fair to say that in trying find the origin of the word “pothole”, we have found a series of potholes in our way!

THE WEEK

REGULAR EVENTS in Peter Tavy

SUNDAY

9.30am (Check Church gate / door for details of dates) Holy Communion - St Peter's Church

3.30pm Service, Methodist Church (NB - from May 7th onwards, service time is **6.30pm**)

MONDAY

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

6.00pm Circuit Fitness Training, Village Hall (details from Dave Chanter 07815 318145)

7.30pm Bellingring 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 07939 093232

6.00-7.00pm Peter Tavy Dance Group, Village Hall (see p.7)

WEDNESDAY

10.00 - 10.30am (monthly) Mobile Library calls at the bottom of Church Lane (dates - see p.19)

Mornings West Dartmoor Art Group, Village Hall

THURSDAY

2.00pm (2nd Thursday each month) Wheal Betsy Ladies - Mary Tavy Coronation Hall (Di Broughton 820671)

7.30pm Pilates, Village Hall (Details - amjstreets@hotmail.co.uk)

7.30pm (4th Thursday in month) Tor & Tavy WI, Mary Tavy Coronation Hall (Linda - 820563)

FRIDAY

10.45am Bus to Tavistock from Peter Tavy - No. 122* www.oakleyscoaches.co.uk -01752 729866 (Departs: Village Hall, returns at 13.15 from opposite Bedford Hotel in Tavistock)

***Bus Notes:** Don't forget that about 9 buses a day stop at the junction on the main A386 road near Harford Bridge Holiday Park. 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

Mrs Michelle Widdows 01822 811075

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 - Angela Collins 01822 810243

Janet Bedford 01822 810231

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

07939 093232

Highways Emergencies

(Devon County Council) 0345 155 1004

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 0344 346 2020

Environment Agency emergencies

0800 80 70 60

Floodline 0345 988 1188

Tavistock Library 01822 612218

book renewals 0345 155 1001

Citizen's Advice Bureau 0808 27 87 999

West Devon Community & Voluntary

Services 01837 738133

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

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

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

West Devon Women's Aid 01837 55228

Trading Standards 01392 382159

Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177 650

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

Exploring the Rainforest...



The Colley Brook in Peter Tavy Coombe is included on a map of “*Lost Rainforests of Britain*”, as one of the few surviving pockets of Temperate Rainforest in the UK.

A high-moisture atmosphere creates a growing medium on every surface, so 'life grows upon life'. The woodlands have a sense of mystery; the air can be thick with mist, enigmatic fungi work their magic, and the exquisite colours and textures of mosses, ferns and lichens cloak the trees. Our temperate rainforests' bryophyte (moss and liverwort) richness is said to rival the cloud forest of the Andes. Explore our rainforest, but tread gently to preserve it for generations to come.



Easter in Peter Tavy

Sunday 2nd April - PALM SUNDAY

9.30am - Communion Service in St Peter's Church

3.30pm - Service in Peter Tavy Methodist Church

Thursday 6th April - MAUNDY THURSDAY

6.30pm - Meal and a time of reflection at the Methodist Church

Friday 7th April - GOOD FRIDAY

4.00pm - Meditation and Hymns in St Peter's Church

followed by carrying of the cross up to Smeardon Down

Sunday 9th April - EASTER DAY

8.00am - Sunrise (- ish!) Service organised by the Methodist Church on Smeardon Down, *followed by bacon butties*

9.30am - Communion Service in St Peter's Church



The Easter cross set up on the skyline of Smeardon, 2022