

Number 146 Spring 2024

INSIDE:

Details of Easter services

What's On in the Parish

What about a 'Men's Shed'?

St Peter's Coffee Morning - 23rd March

Chapel Plant Sale & Cream Teas - 11th May



Photo: Ali Carreck

PLUS: ● Dance Group - first anniversary ● New Recycling Opportunities ● Rain!!
● Remembering Dartmoor Evenings ● Tavistock Radicals in the Hall - 10th April
● A moving saga of two Scotch Ewes *with attitude!* - and much more.
AND...Don't forget your Photo ID when you go to the Polling Station!

It's been a while since the last issue of the "Piper", but welcome to the first edition of 2024. A lot has happened since last Summer, so we look back at some of the events. Now, with Easter approaching fast, you can find out more about services and activities planned (*see back cover*). There's also information about new opportunities and events coming up in the weeks ahead. As always we look forward to seeing you at some of these!

- 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 **Friday 28th June 2024**. 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: Michelle Widdows

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 at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month. See bus shelter noticeboard 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.

MARCH

Mon 18th	10 - 12.30pm	Knit, Craft and Natter, Village Hall
Tues 19th	6.00 - 7.00pm	Dancing Group, Village Hall (<i>see page 6</i>) Continues each Tuesday
Saturday 23rd	from 10.00am	St Peter's Church Coffee Morning, Oak Cottage
Sunday 24th	9.15am	PALM SUNDAY - meet at Village Hall to process up to St Peter's Church for 9.30am Communion Service. Service, Methodist Chapel
	3.30pm	
Thursday 28th	7.00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY service, St Peter's Church
Friday 29th	2.00pm	GOOD FRIDAY - joint service, Methodist Chapel
	3.00pm	Carrying the cross from Village Square up to top of Smeardon Down
Sunday 31st	8.00am	EASTER DAY - Sunrise service, Smeardon Down
	9.30am	Communion Service, St Peter's Church

APRIL

Tues 2nd	7.30pm	Whist Drive, Village Hall
Thurs 4th	noon - 1.30pm	Soup and Dessert Lunches, Methodist Chapel
Wed 10th	7.30pm	TALK - Village Hall (<i>see page 13</i>)
Thurs 11th	1.30pm	3 C's Coffee & Chatter Group, Peter Tavy Inn Continues every other Thursday (<i>see page 15</i>)
Mon 15th	10 - 12.30pm	Knit, Craft and Natter, Village Hall
Thurs 18th	7.30pm	Men's Shed intro meeting, Village Hall (<i>see p.20</i>)
Sun 21st	3.30pm	JOINT Service, St Peter's Church

MAY

Thurs 2nd	7am - 10pm	Police Commissioner Elections - Polling Station at Village Hall
	noon - 1.30pm	Soup and Dessert Lunches, Methodist Chapel
Tues 7th	7.30pm	Whist Drive, Village Hall -TBC
Thurs 9th	7.00pm	St Peter's Church - Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Village Hall
Sat 11th	2.00 - 4.00pm	Plant Sale & Cream Teas, Methodist Chapel (<i>see p.15</i>)
Sun 19th	3.30pm	JOINT service, Methodist Chapel
Mon 20th	10 - 12.30pm	Knit, Craft and Natter, Village Hall
Weds 29th	7.30pm	Village Hall Committee meeting, followed by
	8.00pm	Village Hall AGM - <i>see page 13</i>

REPORT from Your PARISH COUNCIL

Your Parish Councillors are Chairman David Chanter, Vice Chairman Jim Jeffery, Amanda Barton, Ruth Myott, Ken Ball and Edward Dodd – they are all very approachable and do not bite, so feel free to ask them about local issues affecting your Parish.

There is a **vacancy** on your Parish Council - if you would be interested in joining us then please let the Clerk or one of our Councillors know asap. Don't be shy - your Parish needs you.



New **Playing Field equipment** has now been installed and is regularly being used by a large age range of local and visiting children. This new equipment is a great asset to the village and really enhances the Playing Field. The new equipment was made possible by grants from the National Lottery Communities Fund, West Devon Borough Council and £10,000 of funding directly from your Parish Council.



Would you like to see how **energy efficient** your property is and where it might be leaking the most heat from? The Parish Council will have the use of a thermal imaging system in the Autumn under loan from West Devon Borough Council – If you would be interested in using the camera please register your interest with the Clerk: peterstavpc@hotmail.co.uk

Highways issues continue to be a constant concern within our Parish and the Parish Council regularly inform Devon County Council Highways of the issues. Unfortunately, communication from Highways is poor and budgetary constraints often mean that works are either not undertaken or completed to poor standards. The more people that report problems with our roads, drains, potholes etc directly to Highways via their online portal on the Devon County Council website then the more likely that works will be carried out. Please report directly to them at



'Report a Problem - Roads and transport' (devon.gov.uk). Of course, your Parish Council will also continue to report these problems directly on your behalf.

During a recent meeting with our MP, Sir Geoffrey Cox KC, the Parish Council put forward questions regarding broadband and mobile coverage; issues with DCC Highways, and issues with the Land Registry – the meeting was well attended, and Sir Geoffrey listened to the concerns that the Parish Council put forward.

At the time of writing there is no Dartmoor National Park Ranger responsible for our area. However the DNP are actively recruiting to fill this position asap and will let us know once a suitable new Ranger has been appointed.

The parish council recently commented on the **Devon Carbon Plan**; the plan is available on the DCC website. Our comments included a description of our parish in relation to carbon and covered the things the parish is already doing, plus future possibilities. To see our comments in full, or to be involved in working towards net zero here in Peter Tavy, please ask the clerk: petertavypc@hotmail.co.uk.

The Parish Council hopes you all enjoy a pleasant sunny Easter.

- 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

Visit the Parish Council website at www.petertavyparishcouncil.org

ELECTIONS and VOTER ID...

At the time of going to print, the elections on Thursday 2nd May 2024, are for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall.

As last year at the local elections, (and at any parliamentary election which *may* arise this year..!), **you will need to bring photo ID to be able to vote at a polling station.**



In brief, 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)

NB: The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote. You can use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as the photo still looks like you. Postal voting is not affected by the new requirements.



Find out more about acceptable forms of Voter ID; how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate if you don't have any of the accepted forms of ID; and what to expect on polling day - scan this QR code or visit

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id>

Or telephone West Devon Borough Council on 01822 813600.

Peter Tavy Dance Group

The group celebrated its first year of dancing on 28th February. Along with the Princetown group, we gathered to enjoy a lovely evening meal to celebrate.



We have learned four ballroom and four Latin dances and enjoyed a summer dance and a Christmas ball. We have forged friendships and shared a lot of laughter - and nearly an equal amount of frustration each week!

We are extremely fortunate with Tom, our instructor, who has immeasurable patience with us.

Several of the group are looking forward to joining others from the Dartmoor Dance School on our first dance camp to be in Cyprus in May.

We have all been on an amazing journey with dancing. For some it's exercise, while for others it has brought a new focus into their lives - an hour that takes them away from the pressures and issues of everyday.



We meet on Tuesday evenings at 6pm in the Village Hall.

A new beginners group may be starting up in September - watch out for more information.

WHEAL BETSY LADIES

Wheal Betsy Ladies will be holding their next meeting on Thursday April 11th . The meeting will host West Country Falconry.

Future meetings will include talks by Simon Dell, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Anne Widdecombe

Our annual Plant Sale will be held in the Coronation Hall Mary Tavy on Saturday 18th May starting at 10.30am.

Subscriptions, which are due in April, are £25 for the year. For anyone wishing to come to a meeting as a trial there is a charge of £3 which will be refunded on joining.

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 (please arrive by 13.45) 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.



Between 2001 and 2017, we enjoyed nine “Dartmoor Evenings” of traditional entertainment in the Village Hall. Organised by Patrick Cashell, and raising funds for the Hall and other charities, the events always concluded with a sketch or playlet. Here, Donna Baker looks back over...

Nine Years of Dartmoor Evening Drama

It was on a winter's evening in the Peter Tavy Inn (where so many great ideas have been born) when Patrick Cashell asked me if I would write a short sketch, based on the popular TV sitcom 'The Vicar of Dibley', for the Bellringers to perform at an evening of entertainment he was organising in the Village Hall.

It was a simple idea - a parish council meeting, with rather familiar characters but using an event from Peter Tavy's history. After some thought, I remembered the famous escape from Dartmoor Prison of the so-called 'Mad Axeman' Frank Mitchell, a figure well known in Peter Tavy for drifting away from the working parties, calling in at the pub and even taking a bus into Tavistock for a little shopping!

My short sketch was set at an annual open parish council meeting, at which the prison governor was due to give a talk to parishioners. In fact, it was the escaped prisoner (never named) who entered, on a mission to settle scores with the pompous Chairman who, as magistrate, had been responsible for sending him to prison. You may sometimes still hear those of us who took part quote his first words, as he came in to find a large audience awaiting him: 'Oo are all these people?'

The council members, who had been told there had been an escape, quickly realised who he was, but the Chairman believed him to be the governor (dressed to impress in a suit of broad arrows, and carrying an axe), and refused to listen when they tried to tell him. When he finally realised, he turned to the other Council members and then to the audience for support, but he was not a popular man and was met instead with a barrage of recriminations and complaints. He was saved only by the arrival of the Governor himself, accompanied by a policeman, who took the now compliant prisoner quietly back to jail.



2003 - Patrick Cashell, as a crashed german pilot, confronts the Peter Tavy Home Guard with a bomb...

After the success of this short piece, it became tradition at the Dartmoor Evenings to end with a play, often based on parish council meetings (who remembers the entire cast wearing teddy bear ears for the meeting of a council several hundred years in the future?) and also on other TV sitcoms, such as 'Dad's Army' - our version was 'Grandad's Army' and involved women shutting the men out of the village hall while they made 'scrim' (camouflaged netting). They were interrupted by Steve Carr who dashed in shouting that 'there was something odd going on up at Smeardon - lights flashing and people rushing about', which turned out to be the crash of a German plane that really happened; some remains of it can still be found.

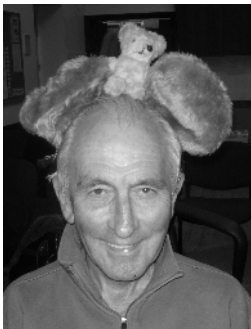
I tried as often as possible to include an event which either had happened, could have happened, or we rather wished might happen, in the village - such as the *Great Phone Mix-Up* which caused some consternation a few years ago.

It sometimes took a little stretch of the imagination. For instance, *Dr Who* has never actually visited the village (well, as far as we know....) but there have certainly been scarecrows seen around the village in August of several years, and is it really impossible that, with Peter Tavy *definitely* the centre of the universe, space aliens might well target the village in their attempt to take over? And who can have forgotten the Dalek, which had been standing quietly in a corner of the stage for the entire evening, suddenly coming to life, swooping amongst the entire cast and threatening to 'exterminate, exterminate' while David Dodd, wearing a long scarf, raced up the aisle shouting that he was on a mission and saving us all?

Patrick always took a leading role in these productions. As experts in the *Peter Tavy Antiques Road Show*, he and Roger Meyrick gave their opinions on items including a trombone, played by Jerry Morris until a dead rat fell out, and a musical box which had been used in the treacle mines of Pitt's Cleave to warn of fumes from the natural toffee seam (did I really write this stuff?!). And, as Lord Caster in our version of the *Peter Tavy Apprentice*, Patrick was suitably irascible about the disastrous attempts by Steve, Alan, Sue and Dick to make money from doing up old items of furniture, farm machinery and so on, most of which were better before they got their hands on them.

There were other sketches too, of varying situations associated - sometimes a little loosely - with Peter Tavy. They always came at the end of the *Dartmoor Evening* itself, an evening of Dartmoor song and dance - remember Philip Perry, Bill Murray, Geoff Hill, the readings from articles by Jan Stewer, and all those other wonderful local entertainers? - and each concluding sketch always ended with Angela coming on stage brandishing her huge teapot and loudly demanding: '*Does anyone want TAY?*'

Well, yes Angela, we would all like tea, please. We would like the chance to go back, just for one more time, to those wonderful Dartmoor Evenings which Patrick organised so well and so thoroughly. We would like to listen and laugh and cry a little, to chat and eat pasties and cakes during the interval, to enjoy the old songs, to forge again the friendships and memories that village entertainments bring.



We might even like to enter again the madness of the world that Patrick began when he first asked me to write a sketch based on a popular TV sitcom, which led me and the rest of us into realms we had never dreamed of.

But we would always like to end with TAY.....

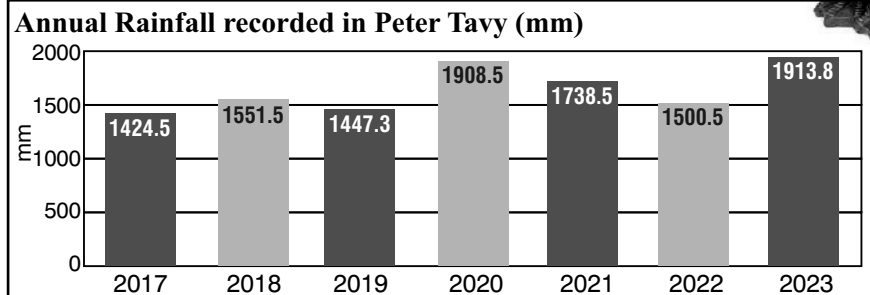
*With fond memories of Patrick Cashell,
who died on 6 March 2023 and left
a huge gap in the life of Peter Tavy.*

- Donna Baker

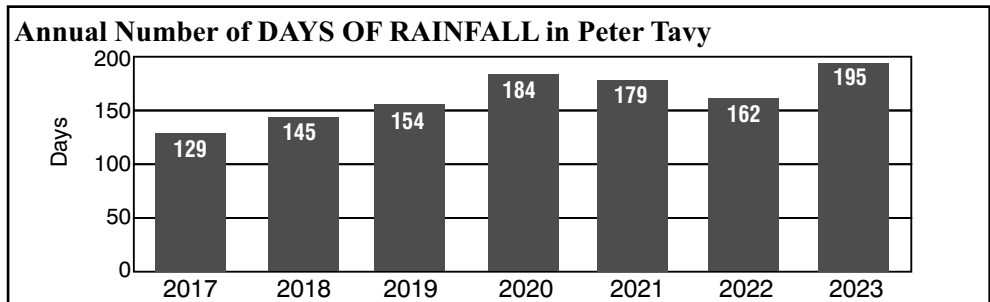
Looks like Rain Again!

Nina Seez has contacted us with “updated rainfall data for anyone interested!” She explains that “Rainfall is recorded daily and then accumulated to produce these graphs.” So the figures now cover annual statistics for 2017 - 2023...

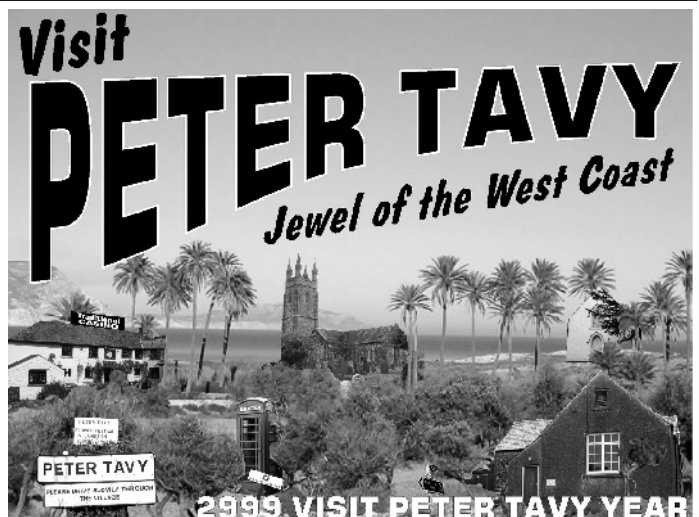
Her results may come as a bit of a shock, but they’re certainly no real surprise! Many thanks to Nina for keeping us informed.



*1913.8mm
= just over
75 inches
of rain!*



Coincidentally, one of Donna's sketches for Patrick's 'Dartmoor Evening' was set in the distant future, as the Parish Council met beneath this giant poster; rising sea levels and global warming had left Peter Tavy as a tropical coastal resort....





St. PETER'S CHURCH NEWS

The bells rang out on Christmas morning and we were pleased to welcome so many to our services that morning and on Christmas Eve. Thanks to all who decorated the church for the season and made it look so beautiful for the festive season.

While the "Suspension of Presentation" (which delays the appointment of a rector for St Peter's and St Mary's, Mary Tavy) continues, Angela and Janet, our churchwardens, and the churchwarden from St Mary's, have met with the Arch-deacon of Plymouth to discuss possible future arrangements for our two parishes. The future is still not settled, but we have recently received support for our regular church services through Tavistock church. On Palm Sunday, March 24th, the Vicar of Tavistock, Rev. Matt Godfrey, will be coming to St Peter's to join us in processing from the village Square up to St Peter's, where he will lead our service. Full details of Easter services are given on the back of this Piper; we hope to welcome many of you at these!

The St Peter's Church "Annual Parochial Church Meeting" will be held on Thursday 9th May at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, and all parishioners are welcome to join us. This year will also see the preparation of a new Church Electoral Roll; if you would like to join, please contact Angela Collins.

Maintenance and repair work has continued. Over the summer, the Tower fabric dried out, but the much wetter winter weather has seen the damp problems return. Further inspection, and remedial works - including repointing of problem areas and addressing the overflow of rainwater from the tower roof - are planned for later in the year. Meanwhile, wet rot in the skirting along the north aisle wall has been addressed by removing the woodwork and replacing it with suitable plastering. A new handrail has also been installed at the steps leading up to the churchyard upper gate, in memory of the Holmes family, whose descendant kindly financed the work.

Maintaining the fabric of our ancient church, central to the parish, is a costly undertaking, and we are grateful for contributions for this work received through regular monthly contributions from members of the "**Friends of St Peter's**" scheme. If you would like to join the "Friends" and help with the ongoing work, contact Bill Lane or Steve Balm for more details. You can also help with fundraising by donating your used ink cartridges for recycling - there's a box available at the back of the church.

Finally, we've been discussing another **Flower Festival** for the parish. In pre-pandemic years, a Festival had been held every four years, raising funds split, (like the Village Fayre), between Church, Chapel and Village Hall. The festivals featured themed floral displays in St Peter's, refreshments provided throughout the day in the Chapel, and a variety of parish history exhibitions. Unfortunately, there is not enough time to prepare for a festival this year, so we may look at trying to organise another in 2025 - with a difference, to mitigate the cost and environmental impact of using bought-in fresh flowers. Watch out for more information.

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 9th May in the Village Hall.

St Peter's Church, Peter Tavy **INVITE YOU TO OUR**
COFFEE MORNING

with Bring & Buy stall
on Saturday 23rd March
from 10.00am
at OAK COTTAGE

*(in the centre of the village,
next to the Colly Brook bridge)*

- by kind invitation of Michelle Widdows

EVERYONE WELCOME!



*We're approaching Easter, and the end of the Lent; but we're including this poem from **Peter Tinson** looking back to the traditional start of the season - bear it in mind for next year!*

As memories of last Christmas gently fade away,
And the sun, though weak, is rising earlier each day,
Our thoughts inevitably turn to the warmer days of spring,
The joys of morning chorus, as the birds begin to sing.

But first there is the season when all the fat is spent,
And pancakes oozing fillings herald coming days of lent,
Chicken, beef and bacon, and mushrooms if you will,
And even plain with lemon - it's time to have your fill.

For Christmas was a while ago - the waistline should have shrunk,
Even with all that lovely wine - in which Titanic could have sunk!

So now take heart and gird your loins: a pancake's nearly done.

With the frugal days of lent ahead, you really should eat one!

(Or two!)

**A
R
T**

exhibition

West Dartmoor Art Group

August 3rd - 10th 10.00am - 6.00pm

(4.00pm last day)

Peter Tavy Village Hall

Light Refreshments available

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

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

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

There have been a number of events since the last piper.

In November, screening of the 1969 film “*Run Wild Run Free*”, (one scene filmed at the Peter Tavy Inn using several local residents as “extras”), was a very successful and popular event and had members of the audience trying to identify locals and the locations where the outdoor scenes were filmed.

“Run Wild, Run Free” - A Who’s Who of Local Extras

This scene was filmed in the Peter Tavy Inn’s “Old Bar” in 1968. In the left-hand photo you can see the unchanged fireplace in the corner.



So far we have identified... *Left-hand photo* - Harold Vogwill and Kate Stevens; *Centre photo - L to R:* (probably) Florrie Williams; Sir John Mills (not a local!); Bob Roberts (then the REAL landlord at the Inn); *Right photo* - Jack Jefferey (a.k.a. ‘The Mayor of Peter Tavy’!). Locations spotted include Newton Abbot Market, Fox Tor Mire and Whiteworks (where, *Dave Woodhouse* tells us, Ernie Worth oversaw the excavation of the “bog” in which the white colt gets stuck); and *Amanda Barton* identified the location of “the Colonel’s house” as Headland Warren Farm, west of Grimspound.

The Village Hall Christmas Fayre in late November was less well attended possibly due to the weather and the number of similar events nearby.

The pop-up restaurant “*Let’s Pig Out*” in February was again extremely popular and well attended and a very enjoyable evening was had by all, helping to raise much needed funds for the hall. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a success.

The monthly Whist Evenings have continued through the winter and have been mostly well supported. The next Whist Evening will be on Tuesday 2nd April - all welcome from beginners to “old hands”.

The hall continues to be used for weekly bookings for fitness training on Monday at 6pm, ballroom and latin dance classes on Tuesday at 6pm and the art group on Wednesday mornings.

The Pit stop has continued opening Friday to Sunday through the winter with takings very much affected by the weather. Lets hope that we get some drier weather soon to encourage walkers and cyclists out.

- Susie

Peter Tavy Village Hall - AGM

Wednesday 29th May, at 8.00pm

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, but new members are always very welcome! We have a vacancy this year, so why not join us in helping to ensure that the Village Hall continues to offer something for everyone in our community!? *(Current committee members, please remember the meeting at 7.30pm, prior to the AGM).*

Village Hall Talks Wednesday 10th April, 7.30pm



The Peoples' Champions: Tavistock Radicals and Reformers in the 19th Century

Local historian Andrew Thompson explains how Tavistock's surprisingly radical past shaped the town as it is today.

Did you know that Tavistock stood out in the early 1800s as a place with a tradition of radicalism? Come along and hear about the life of the working class of Tavistock in the 18th century, and the freethinking figures who fought for their empowerment and to improve their living conditions.

Book your place - tel. Dawn on 810552 or Steve & Ali on 810868

(Tavistock's reputation for "radicalism" surely endures, as we've just seen 'people power' defeat Devon County Council's plans for parking meters in the town... and many will remember how Tavistock became the first UK town to make MacDonald's give up and leave when it received so few customers...)



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.

Tuesday 2nd April, 7.30pm, Village Hall



Thanks, Abi!

Thanks are due again this year to **Abi Ball** for creating another stunning "Peter Tavy Calendar". Its sale raises funds for Village Hall, Church and Chapel - and provides a selection of wonderful local views of our parish to enjoy throughout the coming twelve months.



METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Are we the only family who are still finding things from Christmas that never got packed away into the attic, shed or cupboard? One of the traditions with Emily and Nathan when young was to hide some 20 little robins around the house that they, and visitors, could hunt for. The tradition continues but unfortunately, we tend to forget where we have hidden them - so occasionally another robin is spotted.

I mention Christmas as it reminds us of the wonderful time had at the impromptu Nativity on Christmas eve and the village carol singing earlier. As volunteers were asked to perform the role of key people in the nativity story, it resulted in a new twist as the young lady playing Mary was already with child, her own child, even before Gabriel arrived! We thank all who took part, and we know for many it focuses their celebrations on the real meaning for the season.

It was with great sadness that we lost our dear sister and friend Betty Gilbert in November. She had been a great supporter of the village and the Chapel where she grew up through the Sunday School, was a regular attender and sometimes played the organ for us. Her interest and support for young people was amazing and we remember her with many happy memories. At her celebration wake at the Chapel, people could plant daffodils around the yew tree and other patches in the lawns. They are now beginning to flower and will always remind us of her beautiful character and wicked sense of humour.

I think as our generation and those before us grew up, they were expected to accept things as they were, whereas today young people are encouraged to ask questions and discover for themselves their role in society, views and moral judgments. Have you ever thought about "what is the Church for, and does it have meaning in today's world?" The Church is seen as the building with all its architecture and history but a Church without people is not a Church! It is all about people and the opportunity to meet together, think about God and our world. If you have not been inside a Church building for a long time but want to meet, ask questions and importantly share your own views here are some opportunities: (We know our friends from St Peter's Church also have other opportunities for you to explore the questions we ask.)

Sunday Services We try to make our services as informal as possible, always starting with a cup of tea. You will always be made welcome. Details of special Easter Services are shown on the back of this Piper.



Soup Lunches

Our Soup and Dessert Lunches take place on the **first Thursday of each month** in the Chapel, from 12 noon -1.30pm.

It's a very informal time to chat, meet friends and make new ones over a delicious lunch.



Craft group continues to meet on **Fridays 2-4pm** at the chapel. Everyone welcome!

CCC 3C's at the Peter Tavy Inn

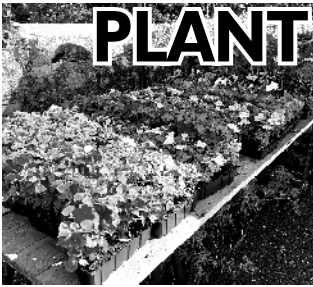
A new venture - Peter Tavy Methodist Church invites you to join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, starting on April 11th, at 1.30pm at the Peter Tavy Inn.

Meetings are open to anyone who wants to explore and question the **C**hristian Faith with **C**offee and **C**hatter.

It's a chance to get answers about the relevance of God in our world today.



Everyone welcome - Be great to see you!



PLANT SALE & CREAM TEAS

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

Any donations of plants - or help on the day - would be very gratefully received.

Please contact David Dodd (810776)

Recycling for Charity

Collection Point coming to Peter Tavy

The scheme recycles certain items that cannot be recycled by the council - and supports nominated charities, mainly 'KICKS COUNT', who aim to reduce the UK still birth-rate.

Types of waste you can recycle - and raise funds for charity - include...

Cake and biscuit wrappers... ...Tea and Coffee Packets... ...Crisp and nut packets...



...Personal care product packaging... ...and MUCH MORE!



A Collection has been organised in Tavistock for some time - find out more on facebook:

[recycling.for.charity.tavistock.collection](https://www.facebook.com/recycling.for.charity.tavistock.collection) Or scan



We are setting up a trial Collection Point outside Peter Tavy Methodist Chapel, on the left-hand side of the main entrance.

Inspired by years of gathering sheep off the moor as part of seasonal husbandry, and written in the light of threatening measures proposed by Natural England which would shatter these traditional patterns, Tom Roskilly spins an epic and thrilling yarn, telling the saga of



MAUD & ETHEL

Maud and Ethel, two aged Scotch ewes, were happily grazing away out on the high moor back in late October when the distant sound of an engine came filtering through the mist.

“That’s that new quad revving away again, Maud - it’s a bit closer than yesterday,” sighed Ethel.

Maud continued nibbling and occasionally looking up to check her surroundings. She knew all too well that it wouldn’t be long before they too were herded up and taken in to the fold for ‘husbandry’. Several moons had passed since they had arrived to take their place in the flock and she instinctively knew that the last gather was fast approaching.

“We’ve got a few days yet,” said Maud, seemingly unperturbed and continuing to graze a patch of sweet molinia that a wild camper had ignited in the previous winter. “They say there’s a new young collie on the team,” said Ethel, and added “nowhere to hide from her.”

“We’ll see,” replied Maud.

“What do you mean, Maud?” her companion ejaculated whilst interrupting her ruminations.

“I’m not going back this time, Ethel,” Maud finally said quietly and defiantly.

“But Maud, you know we have no choice. If they don’t have you on the main gather they’ll have you later on just for the sake of it. It’s their mission.”

Maud moved to another tussock and muttered that she was staying no matter what. Ethel tried to reason with her by reminding her of her wobbly teeth and how they’d probably end up on some low ground for the winter with a posh tup as a mate, so life wouldn’t be too bad after all. Maud was having none of it.

“I’m not leaving the place where I belong just to get bloated on some fancy herbage, no matter how blue the ram’s blood!” she said, “besides which, the word on the yard is that none of us will be able to return this winter anyway, because of some stupid Ministry scheme. They reckon we’re not sheep any more, we’re ‘tools of the landscape’.”

Over the next few days they just roamed around their lea, not saying a lot and just content in each other's company. Then, one foggy morning after a foul night they'd spent hunkered down beside the big granites of their tor, came the unmistakable sound of two throbbing quads approaching fast in their direction.

"Right, Ethel, this is it," said Maud, "are you with me or are you with the flock?"

Ethel had known for some time that she would not leave Maud when the moment came; why this was she didn't really know, but she just wouldn't.

"I'll follow you Maud," she bleated. "You can count on me."

"Good, dear cousin," Maud muttered. "The first ploy will be to tuck down behind the rocks where they can't ride, and hope they don't see us. Our peat-washed coats should make us camouflaged."

Sure enough their tactic appeared to be working but Rose, the sharp eyed collie, must have detected them when driving out the more compliant gimmers of the flock, and turned her attention on Maud and Ethel.

"There's only one thing for it Ethel - we'll race for the wetlands. I know a place where we can cross the brook, where the quads will get stogged down and they won't abandon the rest of the flock just for us - no matter how determined that collie bitch is."

So then the pair of them took off with Rose in hot pursuit, but not for long; on seeing the situation, her master soon called her off.

Maud and Ethel, finding themselves out of their lea, had to stop and go squat in the old turf ties.

"What do we do now?" Ethel finally blurted out. Maud was silently assessing things.

"Well it's no good going back," she said, "we'll go on to where they'll least expect to find us next time, over the other side on that tor bordering the river."

"But that's where the gunfire comes from, Maud, we'll get shot..."

"Oh, don't panic Ethel!" retorted Maud, "The bullets don't come that far - but first we'll have to find our way over the rattling brook, across the stones."

So off they went in the grey, following the old tracks and forever listening out for threatening signals; but finally they got to the other side and made their way back to Tavy Cleave and the comparative safety of the valley rocks.

For a few days, despite the rain and wind which had set in with a vengeance, they were content, they had been left alone. However, one Sunday afternoon in late November after the heavens had opened up yet again, their peace was shattered by a commanding voice above them and a figure straddling two big rocks.

"Come bye, Rose", they heard. They looked up and there, making her way towards their flank was their Nemesis. "Maud, we're trapped", bleated Ethel, "there's no escape!" But Maud had read the situation and had lead them to a rocky promontory overlooking the whirling torrent below.

“Oh yes there is,” bleated Maud, through the deafening noise.

“You can't be serious, Maud, neither one of us can swim!”

“Trust me, Ethel, we're sheep, remember - we don't have to!” shouted out Maud and with that launched herself into the raging Tavy. Ethel closed her eyes and instinctively followed.

When she opened them, she was being swept along the brown and foaming waters. Even dipping was a doddle compared with this. When the river widened out she could just make out Maud's bobbing head down river. Could it be that they might survive, thought Ethel. The sight ahead of the river narrowing into a ravine of rock and chaotic white water dispelled that confidence, and she could only trust that the Fates, which Maud had often tried to tell her about, would spare them.

The nightmare of the swirling waters of the Tavy propelling them onwards, submerged for most of the time and barely afloat the rest, could not go on forever. Ethel was spent and only the faint glimpse of Maud's horns gave her any heart at all.

Then, some way along the river bank, a small field came in to view next to some woodland. In the briefest of moments, Maud appeared to have manoeuvred to the side where a tree had fallen in to the river, which now prevented her from being rushed forwards. Ethel followed her lead with a weak sideways thrust of her back legs and somehow miraculously ended up wedged between the tree limb and the bank.

The two ewes edged their way little by little to the uprooted moat on the eddies of current, and by sheer determination, born of centuries of survival of their species, staggered on to the grass. They lay there exhausted for a few minutes, choking and gasping for breath, when finally Maud got up and shook herself off and beckoned to Ethel to do the same.

“We've survived our ordeal, Ethel, we have been spared. We'll be safe here in this Elysian field for a while,” she assured her cousin. Ethel felt her blood returning and was about to speak when out of the woods someone of their own kind appeared, uttering some deep and resonant calls.

“Isn't that that old Herdwick ram who escaped from the newtake last winter?” she spluttered.

Maud peered across. Sure enough it was ‘old Zeus’, as they called him.

“I believe you're right, Ethel,” she replied, “we'll have to go over and make his acquaintance I suppose, for Nature's sake - but don't get too settled. This is just a short break before we make our way back again. Back to the high ground where we belong.”

Anyone else get the feeling that Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis should be cast in the leading roles in any future film version of this tale, reprising earlier roles, but with a happier ending?





TOR AND TAVY W.I.

2024 seems to be spinning away quickly and it doesn't seem long since our Christmas dinner in December at the Mary Tavy Inn. January saw us painting a set of mugs for use at our meetings and there were some very interesting and creative ideas.

Our annual quiz for local WI's has just been held for the 11th year. With new teams from North Tawton and Lewtrenchard we had a good number of tables, with refreshments served at the interval.

So now to upcoming events: March will be an Easter craft evening, and April our AGM. Following the business of the AGM, we will be having a light-hearted bingo session.

Tor & Tavy belong to a wider Group of WI's who take it in turns to organise a larger meeting for everyone. We are hosting this year, and we have a Taxi Driver Poet coming to entertain us from Taunton - he sounds very amusing.

The following month we have a Medical Detection Dogs evening and are looking forward to hearing about these amazing animals.

Summer trips are now being decided and we look forward to them in the better weather.

We meet at 7.30 in the Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy on the 4th Thursday of the month. Please email us at torandtavy@devonwi.org.uk - Corrie Grice

Farewell to Peter Tavy's Mobile Library

Sadly, the mobile library service, which has visited the village for many years, came to an end in February. An end of an era! The service has been used by many over the years, dropping back in frequency, but remaining a welcome service for those who used it. Some of us were able to wish farewell to our librarian, Heidi, (*centre right*) on her final visit.

Mobile library services have been withdrawn by Devon County Council. The library in Tavistock remains open – it is located in Plymouth Road, opposite the bus station. Details of other options available to those who are unable to get to the library - including a home service run by volunteers - are available on the Libraries Unlimited website or from Tavistock library. Some items are also available digitally for those who are able to subscribe and download.

www.devonlibraries.org.uk Tel. 0345 155 1001.

Tavistock Library – Tel. 01822 612218.





Would you be interested in setting up a "Men's Shed" group in the village?

Join us for an exploratory meeting on Thursday 18th April at 7.30pm, Village Hall.

The aims of a "Men's Shed" would be - Connection, conversation and creation.

If you cannot attend but have ideas, please speak to David Dodd (810776)



Peter Tavy Bellringers

The Ringers enjoyed touring some other local church towers on "Deanery Day" in October last year. We visited Meavy, Buckland Monachorum (where we also had a lunch stop at the Drake Manor Inn) and Sheepstor (*right*), before returning to Meavy for the special Bellringers' service and "slap-up tea" in their Parish Hall.



If you've ever wondered about bell ringing and would like to find out more - or even have a try and learn yourself - then you'd be very welcome to come along to one of our weekly Monday evening practices - from 7.30 to 9.00pm in St Peter's church (generally followed by our essential "de-briefing" session in the Peter Tavy Inn...!)



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 15th April; 20th May; 17th June. For more information, contact Ruth Boswell on 810687.

...And there's just enough room for this...



A man was driving along the road when a policeman stopped him. The officer looked in the back of the man's truck and said, "Why are these penguins in your vehicle, sir?" The man replied, "These are my penguins, officer. They belong to me." "Well, you need to take them to the zoo," the policeman said. The next day, the policeman saw the same man driving down the road. He stopped him again. He saw the penguins were still in the truck, but this time they were wearing sunglasses. "I thought I told you to take these penguins to the zoo yesterday!", the officer said. "I did," the man replied. "And today I'm taking them to the seaside."

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



CIRCUIT *fitness* TRAINING

Every Monday Evening
6.00pm Peter Tavy Village Hall



Find out more from Dave Chanter on 07815 318145

PETER TAVY INN

Just a quick reminder that our

Opening Hours are:

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

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

Over the *Easter School Holidays*

(Friday 29th March until Sunday 14th April):

We will be open daily from 12noon until 11pm (10.30pm Sunday)

Food served Daily 12noon until 2pm and 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

We have a good selection of Colin's card for sale in the pub. The cards include a mixture of local wildlife and local scenery and are blank for your own message.

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

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.10.30am Ring and Ride Bus to Tavistock* (returns from Tavistock 12.15pm). Older & disabled passengers - must book in advance on 07939 093232

6.00-7.00pm Peter Tavy Dance Group, Village Hall (see p.6)

WEDNESDAY

Mornings West Dartmoor Art Group, Village Hall

7.30pm (2nd Wednesday each month) Parish Council Meeting. See notice board / website for info

THURSDAY

1.30pm (2nd & 4th Thursday in month) 3 C's Coffee & chat group, Peter Tavy Inn (see p.15)

2.00pm (2nd Thursday each month) Wheal Betsy Ladies - Mary Tavy Coronation Hall (see p.6)

7.30pm (4th Thursday in month) Tor & Tavy WI, Mary Tavy Coronation Hall (see p.19)

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)

2.00 - 4.00pm Craft Group, Methodist Church (p.16)

***Bus Notes:** Don't forget that about 9 buses a day (Service Number 118 Okehampton - Tavistock) 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

Robert Oxborough 01822 810955

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

Women's Aid helpline 0808 2000 247

Trading Standards 01392 381381

Alcoholics Anonymous 0800 9177 650

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

Peter Tavy Village Fayre

Last year's Village Fayre was a great success, raising over £3,900.

It's an important fundraiser for the village hall, church and chapel - put

this year's date in your diary - **Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August 2024.**

There will be a **First Planning Meeting** soon, so look out for notices (and on the parish facebook page), and come along with any ideas for 2024, or to offer to help.



There were a great number of entries for the competitions last year, and lots of fun House Signs around the village in the run-up to fayre day.

Congratulations go to **Jess Ball** who won the prize for most points gained overall.

Details of this year's competitions will be available later in the year, so keep an eye for poster and flyers, and on the parish facebook page.

Meanwhile here's one of the Poetry Competition entries from 2023, by **Mike Pidsley**.

COUNTRY LIVING

I need to go to town today, I'll have to go by car,
I'm running out of petrol, but it isn't very far.
I have some fuel in a can, I think that I'm in luck -
Oh no, it's 2 stroke for the mower, if I use that I'll get stuck.

I guess I'll have to risk it, so down the lane I go;
Watch out, here comes a horse, I'll go past very slow.
With hedges looking wonderful and campions galore,
Bluebells and daffs are over but we still have treats in store.

The gentle green of young beech leaves are beginning to look faded
and the giant oak and sycamore mean the garden's getting shaded.
New spuds are up and eaten, the beans have reached the sky;
Tomatoes will not ripen and the carrots have got the fly.

It's autumn now and market time at Widecombe and Tavi.
But if you're looking for some fun and feeling pretty savvy,
Then the fayre at Peter Tavy is the place to try your luck -
With coconuts and ice cream, you might even win a duck.

A tractor with a trailer is speeding down the road.
I think he's going spreading, it's a very smelly load,
Oh! now a *grockle's* coming, I bet he can't reverse -
I think that I'll get out the light before it all gets worse.

The cows are in the meadow, but the sheep are on the lawn,
I shall have to chase them out again, they look rough now they're shorn.
Then I must tidy up the grass to make things spick and span,
So I need to go to town again for fuel in a can!



EASTER 2024:

Sunday 24th March - PALM SUNDAY

9.30am - Communion Service,
St Peter's. Meet at Village Hall at 9.15am
to process up to St Peter's

3.30pm - Service in Peter Tavy Chapel

Thursday 28th March - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.00pm - Joint service at St Peter's

Friday 29th March - GOOD FRIDAY

2.00pm - Joint service in Peter Tavy Chapel
followed at 3.00pm by carrying of the cross
from the Village Square up to Smeardon Down -
everyone is welcomed to help,
or just walk alongside.

Sunday 31st March - EASTER DAY

8.00am - Sunrise (- ish!) Service and
breakfast, Smeardon Down, (in Chapel if wet)

9.30am - Communion Service, St Peter's



Photos by Anna Dodd.
Inset: Carrying the cross to the
top of Smeardon, Easter 2023