

Tavistock Town



2015-2017



Tavistock Town Council

Working for the local community



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A Warm Welcome from the Town Mayor

In my role of Mayor it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the town of Tavistock.

Tavistock is situated on the edge of Dartmoor National Park and is an excellent base for a West Country holiday. We have a diverse range of places to stay in and around town.

Whilst in Tavistock you should take time to look around our superb Pannier Market. Over many years visitors to our Market have been delighted by the variety of goods on sale. We have recently expanded the experience with the addition of stalls on the perimeter of the main building.

Tavistock is lucky in that the main shopping streets have maintained a balance between a variety of independent specialist shops and national outlets. When a short rest from the shopping experience is required we have a range of cafés and restaurants offering a wide choice, with something for everyone.

The Meadows is the largest recreation area in the town and is situated between the Canal and the River Tavy. This extensive area offers the opportunity to sit and relax whilst for the younger visitor we offer a play park with many of its pieces of equipment being upgraded during 2015.

Nearby we have a swimming facility, namely Meadowlands Leisure Pool.

Close to the town centre is an entertainments venue called The Wharf which offers a variety of arts, cinema, theatre and live music events.

Tavistock has many historic buildings one of which is the Town Hall. This building, situated on Bedford Square, plays host to many community events throughout the year. Adjacent to Bedford Square is the town Museum which houses many exhibits and has a variety of specialist displays.

Next to the Museum is the Guildhall which was for some years unoccupied but was recently purchased by the Town Council and will be developed for community use.

Tavistock provides ideal access to Dartmoor National Park which provides an opportunity to walk, cycle, horse ride or simply stop and admire the ever changing views it has to offer.

When in the town you are in the place known as 'The Gateway to Cornwall and West Devon Mining World Heritage Sites'.

The Town Council is very proud of our town and what it has to offer both visitors and locals. As Mayor of the town I do hope you enjoy what we have to offer. I also hope you remember Tavistock as a great place to visit and that you will be back to see us again soon.

Councillor Harry Smith
Mayor of Tavistock

Accessibility

Location

Tavistock stands in the heart of an area of tremendous natural beauty. It is the Western Gateway to Dartmoor and the Eastern Gateway to Cornwall. The river Tamar follows Devon's western boundary and is the heart of the Tamar Valley, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Access

Easily reached from the A30 and A38 trunk roads into Devon, Tavistock sits on the North South bisecting road, the A386, which connects Plymouth in the South with Barnstaple in North Devon. There are 4 buses an hour into Plymouth, and regular services into the surrounding villages. There is a bus that connects Tavistock with Dartmoor, going via Princetown to Yelverton and returning along the same route. In the Summer months the Sunday Rover ticket allows travel around and over the Moor all day on different types of transport for one very reasonable price. Plymouth provides Tavistock with its nearest mainline train station which not only links to the rest of the country, but also provides a link to Bere Alston or Gunnislake to pick up the Tamar Valley rail line, one of the prettiest branch lines in the country. The line follows the Tamar valley and crosses the Tamar at Calstock over an impressive viaduct.



The Town

The Town is a linear town following the route of the River Tavy. The lush valleys surrounding the town have given rise to fame and fortune for the town with it now being renowned for fine produce and markets. Tavistock was voted Best Market Town in 2004, the West Country's Best Food Town in 2006 and Devon's Best Farmers Market in 2006. Tavistock is a 'Fair Trade town' with many outlets and specialised local traders providing quality individual products.

Shopping in the wide range of local and specialist shops in Tavistock is a pleasant change from the usual chain store High Street.

The Area

Apart from Tavistock's own beauty and charm it is also a centre for exploring the jewels of the South West. Within one and a half hours travel one has an abundance of National Trust properties and the Garden House, Paignton Zoo and the world renowned Eden Project. With all this and plenty more on offer Tavistock is the ideal place to base your holiday.

History

It was around 800AD that an Iron Age fort, recorded as Tavy-stoc ("stockade settlement by the Tavy"), and known as The Trendle, was erected on the hill to the north-east of the present town. It was probably inhabited up to but not beyond the Roman period. By about 920AD the settlement had become a Saxon hamlet under the administrative district of Lifton. The present town developed around the Benedictine Abbey founded here in the 10th Century. It is believed work on the Abbey started in 974AD and that it took seven years to build as 981AD is the date of the Charter from King Ethelred when the Abbey was known to be in existence. The founder of the Abbey was Ordulf, son of Ordgar who had been the Earl of Devon and who died in 971AD. Ordulf died in 1010AD. Ordulf's son, also Ordulf,

was reputed to be a huge man who was still alive in 1066 when he held the manor of Lamerton, among others. Tavistock manor went to the Church in 981AD. A stone coffin, or container for re-burial, was dug up in the Abbey Cloister near the corner of Plymouth Road and Abbey Place, and was found to contain the bones of a massive man thought to have been Ordulf, grandson of Ordgar. They have been re-interred in the Parish Church, and an inscribed slab marks the spot. Dedicated to St Mary and St Rumon the Abbey was large enough to contain 1,000 men. It is interesting to note that a monk here was the first printer in Devon, with one of the earliest known presses in England outside London set up in this Abbey. Sailing up the Tamar and then travelling overland, the Vikings raided Tavistock and



Abbey Ruins in the Churchyard

in 997 they razed the Abbey to the ground. Abbot Lyfing, who died in 1027, was able to rebuild the Abbey and bring it even greater prosperity than before. Under the influence of the Abbey the town prospered and spread. After the dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII in 1539 its lands and revenues were granted to John Russell, first Earl of Bedford, whose descendants became the Dukes of Bedford. Tavistock, which had received its Market Charter from Henry I in 1105, developed from its wool trade, enjoying a dispensation to manufacture woollen cloths known as Tavistock Kersies. The wool trade flourished for many years, and the town prospered from its weekly markets, being the centre of a large farming district.

It also had the distinction of being one of the stannary towns where all the mined metal was weighed, stamped and assessed for duty. From the 12th Century considerable quantities of copper were mined and after a gradual decline, the mining industry by 1850 was booming in this area from the famous Devon Great Consuls Mine, which had started in 1844. This was once the richest source of copper in Europe, and the relics of old workings are common, some standing stark and awesome against the sky, some softened by a cloak of ivy, others lost to the sight of all but the most determined searcher.

In 1542 Tavistock's most famous son was born at a farm at Crowndale just downstream on the Tavy – he was

to become Sir Francis Drake. He left home to become apprenticed on a ship trading in the Channel and in 1567 Drake and Hawkins sailed out of Plymouth on a slave-trading voyage to the West Indies, and first tangled with the Spaniards. By 1588 when he helped the Lord High Admiral of England to defeat the Spanish Armada, as immortalised by that famous game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe, he had been knighted by Elizabeth I for his services to the Country (and her Treasury). He made his home at Buckland Abbey close to Tavistock. On Plymouth Road is Edgar Boehm's Statue of Drake, erected by the 9th Duke of Bedford in 1883. Around its granite pedestal are bas reliefs depicting scenes from the life of Drake – the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world. Although more famous than its Tavistock counterpart, the Statue of Drake on Plymouth Hoe is a copy of the original Tavistock model, and does not possess these bas reliefs. Drake died during his West Indies Expedition in 1594, being buried at sea.

William Browne, the poet, was born in Tavistock. He was educated at Tavistock Grammar School around 1600. Although his style of poetry is now unfashionable, Browne undoubtedly influenced other poets, including Milton and Keats. On the exterior wall of the Parish Church may be seen an inscription to this Son of Tavistock; born in Tavistock 1590.

The year 1626 saw an outbreak of the Plague in Tavistock, and 600 died. The west country had



become Puritan by this time, and suspicious of the pro-Catholic King Charles. The Fourth Earl of Bedford was also of Puritan Persuasion, and Tavistock was represented at Parliament by John Pym whose portrait hangs in the Town Hall and who played a large part in the drawing up of the Petition of Rights. During the Civil War Devon was predominantly in support of Parliament, and in November 1642 the Royalist Army from the Duchy of Cornwall captured the town. There was a great deal of skirmishing around Tavistock, as the Royalists tried to capture Plymouth. At one time the town changed hands three times in a month.

In 1644 King Charles himself came to Tavistock, and stayed in the house of the Glanvill family in Pym Street. He left after a week having failed to subdue Plymouth, and his son later visited in 1645. He immortalised the town by declaring in later years whenever anyone mentioned the weather, "if it is raining anywhere in my kingdom it will be raining in Tavistock". In 1646 the siege of Plymouth was raised, and Tavistock was finally recaptured by the Parliamentarian New Model Army.

In 1682, partly to try to curb the power of the Bedfords, Charles II created Tavistock as an incorporated Borough, with Mayor and Corporation. Revoked later by James II, this was the first attempt at some form of self-government for the residents. Later that century the

Earl of Bedford was created Duke of Bedford and the title Marquis of Tavistock was given to the heir. The burgesses and freeholders of the town elected one of their number each year to be the "Portreeve", the highest local government office. The title comes from the Anglo-Saxon "Port" (for Market Town) and "Reeve" (for steward). The Fourth Duke of Bedford presented the Town with a matched pair of silver maces in 1761, and these are carried in procession before the Town Mayor at all civic events.

During the French wars of the 18th and 19th Century Tavistock was a "parole-town", and captured French officers were allowed to be billeted in the town and roam within strict limits. Still to be seen on the Tavistock to Whitchurch road is the "Honour Oak" which marked the boundary in 1814.

A daily mail coach linked Tavistock with London via Exeter. It arrived at the Bedford Hotel at 11am each morning and left for London at 3pm. At this time there was a Methodist revival in the west country, and the Industrial Revolution began to affect the town. Mining increased, a canal to Morwellham was constructed, and in 1859 the Great Western Railway came. A programme of slum clearance and redevelopment began under the control of the Seventh Duke of Bedford which left the town much as it is seen today.



The Present

Tavistock itself is unique for its green stone buildings ("Hurdwick" Stone from a local quarry), which have a subtle charm. Many of them were built with stone taken from the Abbey when it was demolished after the Dissolution.

The town's focal point is Bedford Square, flanked by the parish church (St Eustachius) and the Town Hall, built in 1859 as part of the re-development carried out by Francis, the Seventh Duke of Bedford, whose statue stands outside the Guildhall, erected in 1848. The re-development was paid for largely from the huge royalties the Duke was receiving from mining operations on his Estates.

Nearby are most of the existing remains of the Abbey. All are

scheduled as Ancient Monuments. The most picturesque is the Court Gate, an archway leading from Bedford Square to Guildhall Square. The archway houses the Town Museum, displaying many of the town's Industrial Revolution features and the "Subscription Library" – one of the oldest private libraries in Devon. The Arch stands on the site of the main entrance to the great courtyard of the Abbey.

A ruined Gatehouse in the garden of the Vicarage in Plymouth Road is known as Betsy Grimal's Tower – the traditional story is that a jealous monk or soldier murdered a woman called Betsy Grimal there.

A section of the Abbey's cloister walling still stands in the churchyard across the road and some of the

13th Century foundation work of the Abbey church can also be seen there. A tiled pavement originally from that area is on display in the parish church.

More fragments of the great Abbey can be found in the Police Station and some of the outer wall and the monks' Stillhouse – where medicines were distilled – runs along the bank of the Tavy between Abbey Bridge and the Meadows. The quiet, secluded river path is known as the Abbey Walk.

Inscribed stones preserved in the Vicarage gardens are much older even than the Abbey, dating from the 5th Century, which are also scheduled as Ancient Monuments. A Town Trail leaflet is available from the Tourist Information section in the Post Office, guiding the visitor around 22 historic locations, and about 3 miles in length.

The Parish Church

Dominating the town centre, Tavistock's beautiful parish church is dedicated to St. Eustachius, a Roman Officer who was martyred. It was dedicated in 1318, but most of the building dates from the 15th Century, although the tower is older. The church consists of nave and chancel, north aisle, two south aisles and a western tower which contains eight bells and a mechanical carillon. One of the arches at the base of the 106 feet high tower originally led to the Abbey. The Clothworkers' Aisle in the church was built in 1445 by the widow of

John Wyse, a master clothworker, to serve as a guild chapel for these workers. Its roof has finely carved beams and bosses and the timbers are supported by angels along each wall. A few ancient carved bench ends can still be seen in the church, with excellent reproduction alongside. The stone pulpit and the brass eagle lectern are also copies of medieval designs. The altar table is Elizabethan. The organ is richly carved with Saints in niches.

Outstanding among the monuments and memorials in the church is a handsome tomb with the effigy of Sir John Glanville, Portreeve of Tavistock about 1600, Recorder of Plymouth and Sergeant at Law. He is shown in Judge's Robes resting at the elbow. His wife is shown kneeling at the side of the tomb with their five children – now all headless – one of whom became Speaker of the "Short" Parliament.

The Town Hall

One of the most attractive features of Bedford Square is the Town Hall (see photo page 2). The crenellated and pinnacled building, completed in 1860, has a beautiful vaulted, beamed ceiling and will seat approximately 190 guests for a dinner, 500 people for a show or conference, and has full disabled access. The oak beamed and panelled main function room houses a number of portraits of Tavistock's noted dignitaries, including the Bedford family, Drake and Lord John Russell. There is a fully licenced bar and a separate



Betsy Grimal's Tower – originally the West entrance to Tavistock Abbey

conference room with all facilities for up to 40 people, and a modern kitchen available for any caterer to use with crockery and cutlery at their disposal. The Hall is fully licensed for entertainment and civil ceremonies. Events in the main hall range from weddings, banquets, balls and dances, conferences and dinners. To contact the Town Hall please ring 01822 617232 or e-mail info@tavistocktownhall.co.uk

The Pannier Market

The town's market used to be held in Bank Square, now a car park, but was replaced in 1860 by a stone built covered Pannier Market, situated behind the Town Hall. The Pannier Market bustles with activity on most days of the week, and is

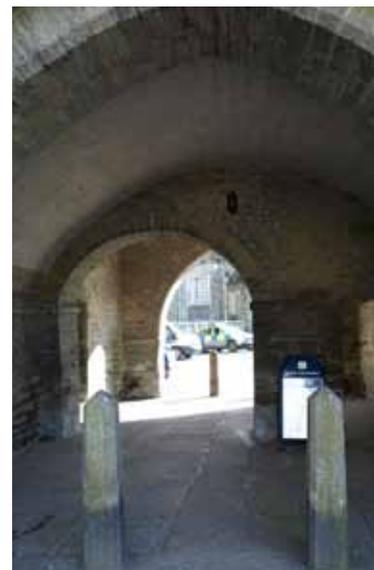
seen as being one of the best in the South West having been voted Best Market Town in Britain in 2004. The main Charter Market is held every Friday, with the day being known locally as 'Market Day', and together with the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday markets adds dimension to the shopping experience available in Tavistock. The town presents itself as a busy Devon Market Town whilst retaining many old customs and traditions. Many small individual shops and cafes occupy the perimeter of the Market and are open every day, these are well worth a visit. The Market is open to the public from 9am – 4.30pm, with various types of market being held on different days, as follows;

Mondays	Mixed Market (open on Mondays summer holidays and Christmas only)
Tuesdays	Antiques & Collectables
Wednesdays	Mixed Market
Thursdays	Mixed Market
Friday	Charter Market
1st Saturday	Aladdin's Cave
2nd Saturday	Craft
3rd Saturday	Mixed
4th Saturday	Victorian Fair
5th Saturday	Extra Mixed Market'

Please see the website for details of additional Monday opening in the summer and Christmas periods
Contact details – 01822 611003
www.tavistockpanniermarket.co.uk



Interior of Pannier Market



Tavistock Museum

Tavistock Museum, situated in Court Gate, is a community museum located within an important group of public buildings built from mining royalties by the Bedford Estate, which includes the Town Hall, old Police Station and Guildhall. The archway under Court Gate has Medieval origins and is accordingly classified as a scheduled ancient monument. The two rooms above the gateway and the cottage are nineteenth century buildings with a Grade II listing.

Towards the end of 2010 the Museum was refurbished, and extended, allowing for a new

welcome area as well as better disabled access.

The museum re-opens for the 2013 season from a new ground level entrance off the Guildhall Square. It now has a new Welcome Area and Interpretation Room. There is a state-of-the-art audio-visual system which will show short films relating to the West Devon and Cornwall Mining World Heritage Site (of which Tavistock is part) and more local short films such as Tavistock Abbey and the Bedford Cottages.

The Museum's principal roles are informing about the history of Tavistock, and being the custodian for important artefacts from the town.

The Museum is staffed by volunteers, and generally holds an exhibition which runs throughout the season. In 2015 the themes are;

'The Challenging Road To Peace Since WW1' (Tavistock Peace Action Group) and 'The Traders of Tavistock.'

The Museum opens daily from 11am – 3pm from Easter to the end of October each year.

Other Buildings of Interest

Historic buildings are marked with blue 'heritage building' plaques by the Town Council.

Many of the town's older houses and cottages were demolished when the town centre was re-planned by the Duke of Bedford. Examples of 19th Century model village grouping are the cottages built at Westbridge in 1850. In total, the Duke built 250 cottages at Tavistock, Gulworthy, Morwellham (the medieval "port" of Tavistock on the River Tamar) and near the mines. The cottages, many of which still stand, were built at an overall cost of £22 each.

In the shadow of the Statue of Drake in Plymouth Road is the restored Fitzford Gatehouse, all that is left of the Fitz's medieval mansion. It is said that King Charles used the old Chevalier House in Market Street as his headquarters at some time during the Civil War, and in this vicinity are most of the period houses of the town.

Occupying a terraced site on the hillside near the Okehampton Road, just beyond the town, is Kelly College, which was founded and endowed by Admiral Kelly in 1877 and has become a well-known public school.

History of the Town Crier

Tavistock has had a number of Town Criers, the earliest traceable back to around 1836.

There had been a series of Town Criers when the office lapsed in

1915, and was not revived for sixty-eight years. Then in 1983 the role was resurrected by Dick Lloyd, landlord of the Tavistock Inn. Mr Lloyd was succeeded by Ron Davies in the 1990s, followed by Bob Rose in 1997. Mr Rose retired from the role in 2009. Tavistock Lions then held a competition to elect a new Town Crier in July 2010, as part of their annual Carnival, which was won by David Turner.

The Town Crier can be seen representing the town at many civic events, as well as being invited to take part in events being held by the many organisations in the area.

For more information regarding the history of the Town Crier role, please visit www.tavistock.gov.uk.

Shopping

The old streets radiating from Bedford Square contain shops for every taste and need. Within easy walking distance of the car parks and bus station is a delicatessen famous throughout the South West, and the casual visitor can easily find tiny specialist and art shops in old mews. Hotels, restaurants and cafés cater for the inner man, and seats around the pedestrianised Square allow rest for tired feet.



Local Interest

Goose Fair

Tavistock is the centre of Devon in October when the famous Tavistock Goose Fair is held in the town. The second Wednesday in the month has become the day when the population is swollen to four or five times the norm with visitors to this ancient Fair, which combines the traditional livestock markets, fancy goods stalls and novelties with all the fun of a modern amusement funfair.

Dickensian Night

Each year on the last Friday in November the town shops and charities host a "Dickensian Evening" when shops open late, traders dress in Victorian clothes and winter delicacies such as

roast chestnuts and mulled wine are available. The traffic stops and crowds through the streets to begin the run-in to Christmas itself.

Dartmoor

Dartmoor, like good food or wine, has to be tasted to be appreciated. Covering 366 square miles, it is the last, still largely unspoilt, great wilderness of Southern England. It has many characteristics but if one tends to predominate above all others, it must surely be isolation, allowing people the ability to escape. Despite its rugged contours it is basically a table land – an island of granite set in a sea of other rock. It is an uncultivated waste in an agricultural county, but by no means bleak or barren. The

moorland granite occupies 248 square miles, of which 118 square miles of the plateau towers above the 1,200 feet contour and 28 square miles above 1,600 feet level.

In prehistoric times it was open country. The Saxons made individual settlements on the borders and in sheltered valleys, but the Celts appeared to have largely ignored it in favour of the sea shores and estuaries. When King John deforested Devon, Dartmoor and Exmoor remained Royal Forests, subject to forest laws.

Since 1336-37 when Edward III created his son Edward Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, and granted him the Castle and Manor of Lydford and the Chase of Dartmoor, whenever there has been a Prince of Wales he has also

been Duke of Cornwall and Lord of Dartmoor.

In the early days, Dartmoor was an important source of tin supply and from the first available records in 1156, the production of tin from the moor was in excess of 70 tons a year. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I the average production was 100 tons a year. Most of the old smelting houses and other mining remains on the moor date apparently from this era.

Man of the Bronze Age left his mark upon the hills and valleys of Dartmoor. Their habitations are represented by the remains of hut circles which vary between 12 and 30 feet in diameter, in places, gathered in clusters within circular enclosures now called "pounds". One of the charms of Dartmoor is that it affords a complete museum of the culture of the Early Bronze Age,

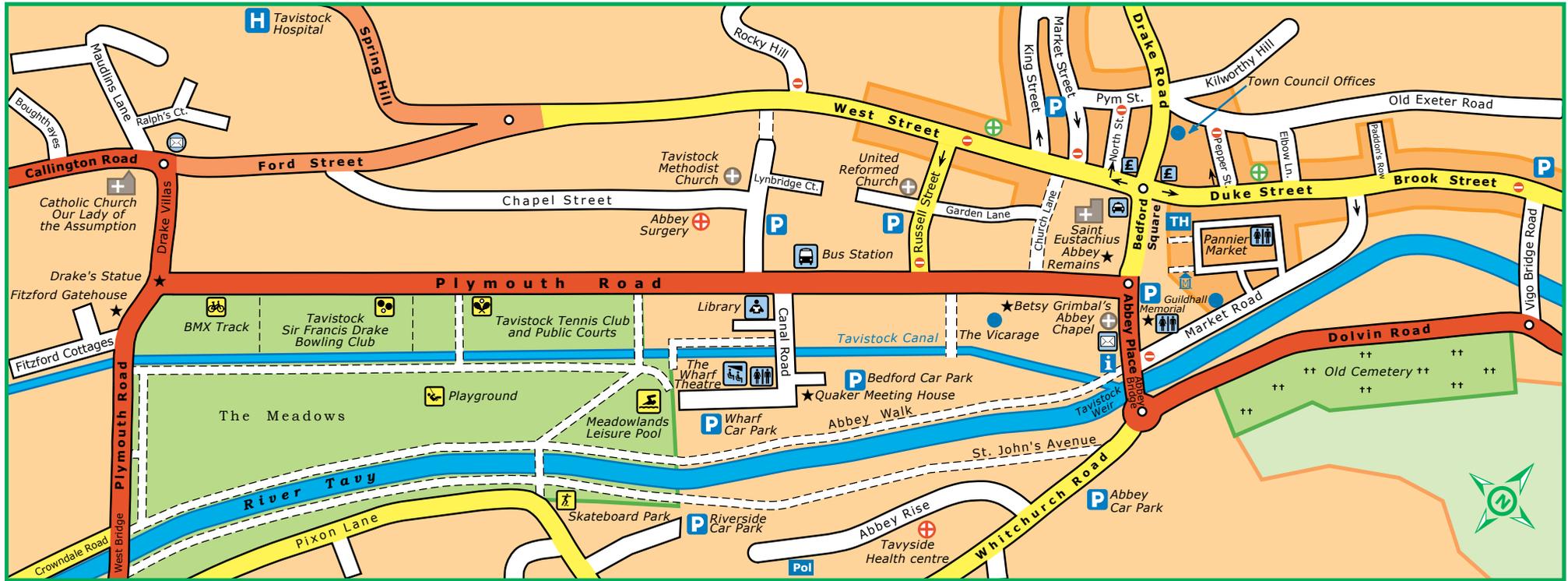
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The Goose Fair



Tavistock Town Centre



ROADS, RIVERS AND PATHS

- A Road
- B Road
- Secondary Route
- Minor Road
- Footpath
- No Entry
- One-Way Street
- River
- Canal

LAND USE

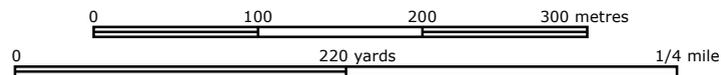
- Urban
- Primary Shopping
- Countryside
- Public Park
- Cemetery

BUILDINGS AND AMENITIES

- Bus Station
- Taxi Rank
- Bank
- Library
- Theatre / Cinema
- Toilets
- Main Post Office
- Sub-Post Office
- Museum
- Statue / Antiquity
- Other Building
- Church with Tower
- Church with Spire
- Church
- Information Centre
- Police Station
- Town Hall
- Car Park
- Hospital
- Surgery / Clinic
- Pharmacy

RECREATION

- Bowls
- Tennis
- Swimming
- BMX
- Playground
- Skateboarding





The Parish Church

a museum whose treasures are well nigh inexhaustible.

Dartmoor is the mother of the great rivers of Devon. In the vast tracts of bog are nurtured the Avon, the Erme, the Yealm, the Tavy, the Teign, the East and West Dart, the Taw and the Plym.

There is nothing grim about Dartmoor, it is a land of magic and enchantment. In 1951, Dartmoor was designated a National Park, and the Dartmoor National Park was formed to preserve its attractions and to ensure that it might be enjoyed by all who wished to visit it. It is best enjoyed on foot or on horseback. There are numerous roads across the moor, and car parks are provided for the many thousands of people who like to motor across the moor and stop to admire the scenery. Dartmoor is still largely unfenced, and animals are

prone to wander on the highways, from the ubiquitous and enquiring Dartmoor ponies to the tough, hardy little Scotch black-faced sheep. It is always advisable to drive carefully across the moor, bearing in mind the possible nearby presence of animals. It is illegal to feed these animals, because it encourages them to congregate near the roadside where they become traffic hazards, and are vulnerable to injury and death.

Just a short drive away from Tavistock lies Dartmoor Prison and "Hound of the Baskervilles" country. A Prison Museum is open to the public and worth a visit. The Dartmoor National Park Authority has provided information centres, manned throughout the tourist season and situated on the moor, the nearest being the old Prison Officer's Mess building in Princetown.

List of Events

January

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square- 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall – 3rd Sunday each month

February

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square- 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall – 3rd Sunday each month

March

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square- 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall – 3rd Sunday each month

April

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square- 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Music & Arts Festival held April/May - annually

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall – 3rd Sunday each month

May

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square- 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall – 3rd Sunday each month

Tavistock Garden Festival – Spring Bank Holiday weekend annually

June

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square- 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Robey Trust Steam Fair – annually (please see www.therobeytrust.co.uk for details)

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall – 3rd Sunday each month

Tavistock Group of Artists Event – annually (please see www.tgartists.co.uk for details)

July

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square- 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall – 3rd Sunday each month

Tavistock Lions Carnival Week and Parade - annually

August

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square- 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall – 3rd Sunday each month

Cheese Fair in Town Hall – bi-annually

September

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square-
2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall –
3rd Sunday each month

October

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square-
2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Goose Fair – 2nd
Wednesday in October annually.

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall –
3rd Sunday each month

November

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square-
2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Lions Club Fireworks Display
- annually

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall –
3rd Sunday each month

Dickensian Evening – last Friday in
November annually

Christmas Tree Festival, St Eustachius
Church - late November/early
December annually

December

Farmers' Market on Bedford Square-
2nd and 4th Saturdays each month

Tavistock Flea Market in Town Hall –
3rd Sunday each month

Tavistock Lions Club Festival of Light
- annually

Please visit www.tavistock.gov.uk
www.tavistocktownhall.co.uk and
www.tavistocklions.org.uk for
exact dates and details of Events, as
relevant.

Other Events

Tavistock Lions Club Hot Air Balloon
Festival periodically (see
www.tavistocklions.org.uk for details)

Regular Book Fairs and other events in
the Town Hall (please visit
www.tavistocktownhall.co.uk to view
Events Diary for exact details
and dates)

Nearby Attractions

The Garden House

The Garden House itself was built
at the turn of the 19th Century as
the new vicarage for Buckland
Monachorum, replacing the
medieval vicarage whose ruins can
be seen in the Walled Garden.

In 1945 it was bought by Lionel
Fortescue, an old Etonian
schoolmaster who was an
obsessive gardener. Lionel made
the Walled Garden into a romantic
terraced garden filled with the very
best plant varieties. Over the past
20 years, the garden has been
extended to include a further 6
acres of naturalistic planting. A
series of themed gardens have
been created including a Cottage
Garden, Quarry Garden, South
African Garden, Acer Glade, wisteria
bridges, and dovecote, linked
together by numerous twisting
pathways.

The Garden House is a horticultural
charity open every day during the
season and offering homemade
refreshments, children's trails and
plants for sale.

Morwellham Quay

Morwellham Quay Historic Port
and Copper Mine, just four miles
from Tavistock off the A390, is a
fascinating preserved village in a
beautiful riverside setting. In the
late 19th Century Tavistock was
linked to Morwellham by a canal
fed by water from the Tavy, and a

major route for ore from the Moor
going down to be processed
and supplies coming up from the
ships moored at Morwellham. The
Wharf in Tavistock was one end
of this link. Now Morwellham is
an open-air museum, depicting
the life of a busy nineteenth-
century community, the highlights
include the restored Tamar ketch
Garlandstone and a riverside
tramway ride into the mine.

Costumed staff give talks and
demonstrations in authentic
cottages and workshops. Quayside
walks, a farm, Victorian inn, wildlife
reserve and nature trails complete a
full day out for the whole family.

The Wharf

Tavistock's newest amenity is built
in the former buildings of the Canal
Wharf. These Victorian buildings
were leased in 1988 by West Devon
Borough Council from The Town
Council, and they were identified
as being particularly suitable for
tourism and leisure facilities. The
area standing beside the Canal now
encompasses the Meadowlands
swimming pool and Arts Centre.

The fully equipped auditorium is
used for theatrical performances by
local, national and travelling theatre
companies, regular film shows,
concerts, cabaret, exhibitions
by local and national artists,
conferences, and private functions.
Facilities include fully equipped



Tavistock Town Hall

rehearsal rooms, a gallery for art exhibitions, a café and licensed bar.

National Trust Properties

Lydford Castle

There have been two castles built in Lydford, the first was built soon after the Norman Conquest in AD 1066 but is no longer visible above ground, and the second one (in the photo) was constructed in 1195 following a wave of law and order problems across England. It included a stone tower with a surrounding bailey, and rapidly became used as a prison and court to administer the laws in the Royal Forest of Dartmoor and was also the Stannary Court, which had jurisdiction over the procedures for tin mining in Devon and over the behaviour of the tin miners in the Devon Stannaries. The tower was rebuilt in the middle of the 13th century, probably in the 1260s by Richard, the Earl of Cornwall. It was redesigned to resemble a motte and bailey castle, an antiquated design for the period, but one that was heavily symbolic of authority and power. In 1342 the castle, still being used as a prison and courtroom, passed to the Duchy of Cornwall, who owned it until the 20th century.

Cotehele

Enchanted and remote, perched high above the wooded banks of the Tamar, Cotehele was owned by the Edgcumbe family for nearly six centuries. One of the least-altered medieval houses in the country, it contains original furniture, armour and tapestries. The large estate has

miles of riverside and woodland walks, linking the steeply terraced garden with pools, dovecote, the Prospect Tower, a working water mill and adjoining estate workshops, industrial ruins and the Quay, with tea room and the restored Tamar sailing barge Shamrock.

Buckland Abbey

Take a voyage of discovery to 13th Century Buckland Abbey, the home of Sir Francis Drake. The story of this Medieval monastery, which was uniquely converted to a Tudor home, unfolds through exhibitions, ancient buildings and furnished rooms. Explore the legendary life of Sir Francis Drake, his circumnavigation and the story of the Armada. See the Drake memorabilia, including his famous Drum and standards. The Great Hall features beautiful Tudor plasterwork, while the kitchen has the atmosphere of four centuries of domestic use. There is the massive stone Great Barn, unusual box-hedged herb garden and walks in the grounds.

Finch Foundry

A fascinating, early 19th Century forge, powered by three water wheels, which produced sickles, scythes and shovels for both agriculture and mining. The power of the massive tilt hammers, heat from the furnace, rumbling water wheels and screeching of the grinding stones make the whole building vibrate during the regular demonstrations, transporting the visitor back into Dartmoor's industrial past.



Lydford Gorge

A beautiful woodland walk along the top to the gorge leads down to the spectacular 90 foot White Lady waterfall. Enchanting riverside walks lead to a deep ravine scooped out by the River Lyd as it plunges into a succession of whirlpools including the thrilling Devil's Cauldron.

This famous gorge on the western edge of Dartmoor is 1½ miles long and provides an exciting and unforgettable adventure for all the family.

Castle Drogo

India tea baron, Julius Drewe's dream house, this granite castle, built between 1910 and 1930, is one of the most remarkable works of Sir Edward Lutyens, combining the grandeur of a medieval castle with the comfort of the 20th Century. It is a great country house with terraced formal garden, woodland spring garden, huge circular croquet lawn and colourful herbaceous borders, standing at more than 900 ft overlooking the wooded gorge of the River Teign with stunning views of Dartmoor and delightful walks.

Saltram

This imposing mansion boasts some exceptional plasterwork by Robert Adam and a virtually intact Georgian painting collection. Also of interest are the Great Kitchen, Chapel Gallery and Orangery. The garden has splendid specimen trees and a number of interesting follies; the landscaped park has many fine walks and the estate was used for filming Sense and Sensibility.

Lanhydrock

The finest house in Cornwall, superbly set in wooded parkland of 450 acres and encircled by a garden of rare shrubs and trees, lovely in all seasons. There are 49 rooms, ranging from the richly-furnished main rooms reflecting Victorian comfort to servants' bedrooms, the great kitchen and the evocative nursery wing. First built in the 17th Century and largely rebuilt after a fire in 1881, the principal rooms all have beautifully worked plaster ceilings. Through the crenellated gatehouse of 1651 is an idyllic walk down to the River Fowey at Respryn Bridge.

Sport & Recreation

The rivers around Tavistock are well stocked, but much of the salmon and trout fishing is preserved although permits can be obtained. There are several fish farms in the local area that allow fishing and hire out rods and equipment to visitors.

Tavistock Golf Club has an 18-hole course on Whitchurch Down, which commands beautiful views of Dartmoor. A second golf course (Hurdwick Golf Club) is to be found on the Brentor Road. A fine cricket pitch is laid out at the Ring on Whitchurch Down.

The "Meadows" is a well-maintained public open space laid out with children's play apparatus, floodlit hard tennis courts and a bowling green. At the northern end of the "Meadows" is a leisure pool, Tavistock's latest water attraction – a tropical paradise pool filled with fun for all the family. Well worth a visit.

The town has private badminton, archery, tennis, bowls, hockey, football, rugby, cricket, squash, athletics and rifle clubs. A wide range of social and cultural interests are provided for by such groups

as the Tavistock Amateur Operatic Society, Tavonians Dramatic Society, Tavistock Group of Artists, Rotary, Round Table, Lions, Women's Institute, Royal British Legion (Tavy Club), West Devon Club, political clubs, Scout and Guide organisations. There are also several riding stables in the district.

Tavistock is on the new Devon Coast to Coast National Cycle Network Route 27 cycle track, and there are cycle routes over the Moors. Cycles are available for hire from shops in Tavistock, see details under 'General Information'.

Tavistock Town Guided Walks

From April through to the end of October guided walks are conducted every Friday afternoon at 2pm until 3.30pm from under Court Gate Arch – looking at the history of this fascinating town. Throughout the year there are also some 'Tavistock by Twilight' evening walks, meeting at 7pm outside of the Bedford Hotel, looking at other points of interest and at the "darker side" of Tavistock. Full details of town walks can be found at www.moorlandguides.co.uk



General Information

Tourist Information

The Tavistock Tourist Information Centre is situated within the Post Office at Abbey Place.

Local Government

The Tavistock Town Council consists of 17 Councillors (including the Mayor) and its meetings are held in the Council Chamber in Drake Road. Dates of all Committee and Town Council Meetings are available from the Town Council **Tel: 01822 613529** or at www.tavistock.gov.uk.

The town forms part of the West Devon Borough Council area which has a Council of 31 Members, with its offices being in Tavistock. West Devon Borough Council now shares services with South Hams District Council, whose offices are in Totnes **Tel: 01822 813600**

The Devon County Council's offices are at County Hall, Exeter. **Tel: 0845 1551015.**

Tavistock is part of the Torridge/West Devon Parliamentary Constituency.

Town Hall

For the Manager call **01822 617232** or go to www.tavistocktownhall.co.uk

Library

The library is situated on Plymouth Road opposite the Bus Station and is backed by the resources of the whole county through the Inter-Book Lending Scheme. Facilities are also available for exhibitions of an educational nature. A mobile library service for the surrounding rural area is also available. A diary of events in and around Tavistock is maintained and operated from the Library.

Opening Times: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am – 6pm.
Closed on Wednesdays
Saturday 9am – 4pm
Tel: 01822 612218

Markets and Fairs

Livestock Market – Published dates (Wednesdays and Fridays)

Tel: 01822 610080

Pannier Market **Tel: 01822 611003**

Or go to www.tavistockpanniermarket.co.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau

Kingdon House, North Street,
Tel: 08444 111 444

Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages

The office is situated in the offices of West Devon Borough Council, Kilworthy Park, Tavistock. Open by appointment Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am-4.00pm (closed Tuesday and Friday) **Tel: 0845 155 1002**

Police Station

Tavistock Police Station, Abbey Rise, Whitchurch Road, Tavistock
Tel: Non-Emergency Number 101 or 999 for Emergencies

Car Parking

Abbey Car Park (63 spaces)
Bank Square Car Park (16 spaces)
Bedford/Wharf Car Park (237 spaces)
Brook Street Car Park (106 spaces)
Guildhall Square Car Park (38 spaces)
Riverside Car Park (120 spaces)
Russell Street Car Park (20 spaces)

Education

Tavistock College (State Comprehensive), Crowndale Road, Tavistock, **Tel: 01822 614231**

Mount Kelly College (Independent), Parkwood Road, Tavistock, **Tel: 01822 813100**

Tavistock Community Primary School and Nursery Unit (State), Crowndale Road, Tavistock, **Tel: 01822 616044**

Tavistock Church Schools Federation:

St Peter's Church of England Junior School (State), Greenlands, Tavistock, **Tel: 01822 614640**

St Rumon's Church of England Infants School (State), Dolvin Road, Tavistock, **Tel: 01822 612085**

Whitchurch Community Primary School (State) School Road, Whitchurch, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 616202**

Mount Kelly Preparatory School (Independent), Mount Tavy Road, Tavistock, **Tel: 01822 612244**

Bambinos Children's Centre, 54 Plymouth Road, Tavistock, **Tel: 01822 613416**

The Old School Children's Centre, Church Hill, Whitchurch, **Tel: 01822 612362**

Whitchurch Montessori Nursery, St Peter's School (see above) **Tel: 01822 613927**

Health Services

Tavistock Hospital, Spring Hill, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 612233**

Community Health Services Tavistock Clinic, 70 Plymouth Road **Tel: 01822 615935**

Doctors' Surgeries

Abbey Surgery, 28 Plymouth Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 612247**

Tavyside Health Centre at Abbey Rise Whitchurch Road, Tavistock **Tel: Tel 01822 613517 or 01822 616131**

Opticians

Angus McPhie, 7 Market Street, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 612863**

Vision Express (formally Batemans) 5 West Street, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 612759**

Specsavers, 3 West Street, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 619910**

Bill Opticians, 77 West Street **Tel: 01822 615223**

Dentists

Abbey Mead Dental Practice 25 Plymouth Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 611121**

Andrew Brown, 9 Plymouth Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 617788**

Harwood Dental Practice, 8 Watts Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 615694**

Lynbridge House Dental Practice Lynbridge House, 26 West Street, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 612828**

R G & J M Parnell, Springhill Dental Practice, 33 West Street, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 613112**

ADP Tavistock, Kilworthy Park **Tel: 01822 610884**

Chiropodists

Alice Hulme, Horndon House, Horndon, Mary Tavy **Tel: 01822 810034**

West Down Podiatry & Chiropodists 9 Plymouth Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 613796**

Amanda Fane de Salis, Abbey Mead Natural Health Clinic, 7 Plymouth Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 610020**

Mary Zimmerman, 2 Birchwood Close, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 617817**

Stannary Surgery, Abbey Rise, Whitchurch Road, Tavistock PL19 9BB **Tel: 0203 322 9884 Ext 53164**

Nursing & Residential Homes

Abbotsfield Hall Nursing Home Orchard Close, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 613973**

Chollacott Nursing Home 61 Whitchurch Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 612811**

Crelake Residential Home 4 Whitchurch Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 616224**

Veterinary Surgeons

Drake Vets, 65 West Street, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 854255**

Westmoor Veterinary Centre Brook Lane, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 612561**

Equest Equine Veterinary Clinic Down Farm **Tel: 01822 613838**

Chemists

Boots The Chemist, 5 Duke Street **Tel: 01822 612609**

Day Lewis Pharmacy, 81 West Street **Tel: 01822 612104**

Morrisons Store, Plymouth Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 610743**

Cycle Hire

Dartmoor Cycles, 8 Atlas House, Brook Lane **Tel: 01822 618178**

Tavistock Cycles, Paddons Row, Brook Street **Tel: 01822 617630**

Banks

Barclays Bank plc, 6 Bedford Square **Tel: 08457 555555**

TSB plc, Bedford Square **Tel: 0845 3000 000**

HSBC, Bedford Square **Tel: 08457 404404**

National Westminster Bank plc Bedford Square, **Tel: 0845 788 8444**

Post Offices

Tavistock Post Office, Abbey Place **Tel: 01822 618539**

Whitchurch Post Office **Tel: 01822 612518**

Churches and Chapels

Parish Church of St Eustachius Bedford Square, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 616673 (office)**

Our Lady of the Assumption and St Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church Callington Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 612645**

Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 611049**

Tavistock United Reformed Church Russell Street, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 614613**

Tavistock Salvation Army Kilworthy Hill, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 615465**

Tavistock Abbey Chapel (Christian Brethren), Abbey Place, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 617691**

Society of Friends, Canal Road, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 614596**

St Andrew's Parish Church, Whitchurch **Tel: 01822 617780**

Kings Community Church Pixon Lane **Tel 01822 610570**

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses Plymouth Road Industrial Estate **Tel: 01822 870590**

The town has a Council of Churches (Tavistock Area Churches Together).

Newspapers

Tavistock Times/Gazette 14, Brook Street, Tavistock **Tel: 01822 613666**

Swimming Pools

Meadowlands Leisure Pool The Wharf. **Tel: 01822 617774**

Kelly Enterprises Kelly College, Parkwood Road **Tel: 01822 813165**



The Wharf hosts a full and varied seven day-a-week programme of events for every taste, from recent cinema releases to live music nights and one-off special events.

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01822 611166 www.tavistockwharf.com

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This year (2015) Tavistock Golf Club will celebrate its 125 anniversary – 125 years since 12 local golf enthusiasts agreed to form a Club for the purposes of playing golf on Whitchurch Down. Permission was granted by the Duke of Bedford at a rent of 1/- per year and, with agreement from the Commoners for a yearly payment of £5-2-0, Tavistock Golf Club came into being.

The Club is now one of the top clubs in Devon renowned for its superb course, the first class facilities of the club, excellent food and the many social activities. The initial membership of 23 gentlemen and 10 ladies would be amazed and delighted that players of all ages – men, women and juniors – now enjoy all that this great club has to offer. They would be especially pleased that this year members have excelled themselves and have won the county's top Trophies.

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