

**PRESS RELEASE: Tavistock Jubilee Celebrations**

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**For immediate release**

**TAVISTOCK IS SET FOR A WEEKEND OF SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS TO MARK QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PLATINUM JUBILEE IN JUNE**

The bank holiday weekend will kick off with the Jubilee Gala Day throughout town on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and it is set to be a delightfully nostalgic, fun-packed day for all the family.

The day will begin with the 'River of Hope' pageant featuring children from 10 local schools all carrying flags they have designed on the Platinum Jubilee theme of the natural world and hopes for the future. The flags will be paraded through town and then installed in St. Eustachius Churchyard for the weekend.

Throughout town, there will be nostalgia zones to celebrate Queen Elizabeth through the ages: a 1950's beach scene in Guildhall Car Park with striped deckchairs, ice-cream and Punch & Judy; cream teas and live performances on Bedford Square to get you jiving to sounds from the 1950s to the 1970s; a KidsZone in St. Eustachius Churchyard with traditional games for all the family, a magical bubble-show and face-painting; a Carnaby Street scene in Bank Square Car Park with a resident disc-jockey waiting to play your very own favourite vinyls.

In the Town Hall, you can drop in for a Tea-Dance with a Twist. Plymouth Dance will be on hand to lead you through the dance steps as you glide across the floor to the sounds of a bygone age.

And in the evening, the Tavistock Town Council invites the local community to join them for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Ceremony. There is a longstanding tradition in our country of celebrating royal jubilees, weddings and coronations by lighting beacons, and so the beacon will be lit at 9.45pm, near what locals refer to fondly as 'The Pimple' on Whitchurch Down. The beacon was last lit on Whitchurch Down as part of a chain of 1,000 beacons for Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016. On 2nd June, Tavistock will be joining communities across the commonwealth with one of more than 1,500 beacons across the world.

Over the weekend, you can watch television coverage of the events in London in the Guildhall Gateway Centre as well as vintage films on Friday and Saturday evenings. Sunday will see the much-loved Robey Trust Steam Fair returning to Bedford Car Park and Tavistock Lions will be taking part in the Jubilee celebrations with their 'Jubilee Picnic In The Park'.

These celebrations, celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> year as our monarch and Head of the Commonwealth, mark a unique milestone and one which no previous monarch has achieved before.

Funding for these events has been achieved from the Art Council's *Let's Create Jubilee Fund*, Tavistock BID, Tavistock Town Council and the *European Regional Development Fund*. All events are free to take part but the Tea Dance and evening films will be ticketed sessions.

For more information, go to [www.visit-tavistock.co.uk/jubilee](http://www.visit-tavistock.co.uk/jubilee)

Janna Sanders, Manager of Tavistock BID, explained 'We are all absolutely thrilled that we have managed to achieve funding for the town's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We can now be certain that locals and visitors alike will have a very special day to remember. With this funding, we can ensure all events are free, meaning that everyone can be part of the day. We are extremely lucky to have been awarded £7,700 from the Arts Council's 'Let's Create Jubilee Fund' – just one of 16 successful applications out of 90 in total. The day will very much be a community event, with the involvement of local artists and community groups. A number of partners have also come together to make this happen – Tavistock BID, Tavistock Chamber of

Commerce, Tavistock Town Council, Tavistock Lions Club, Miss Ivy Events, West Devon Art Workshops and Just Sewn Stories. We are really lucky to have such a strong community in Tavistock.'

For further information:

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