

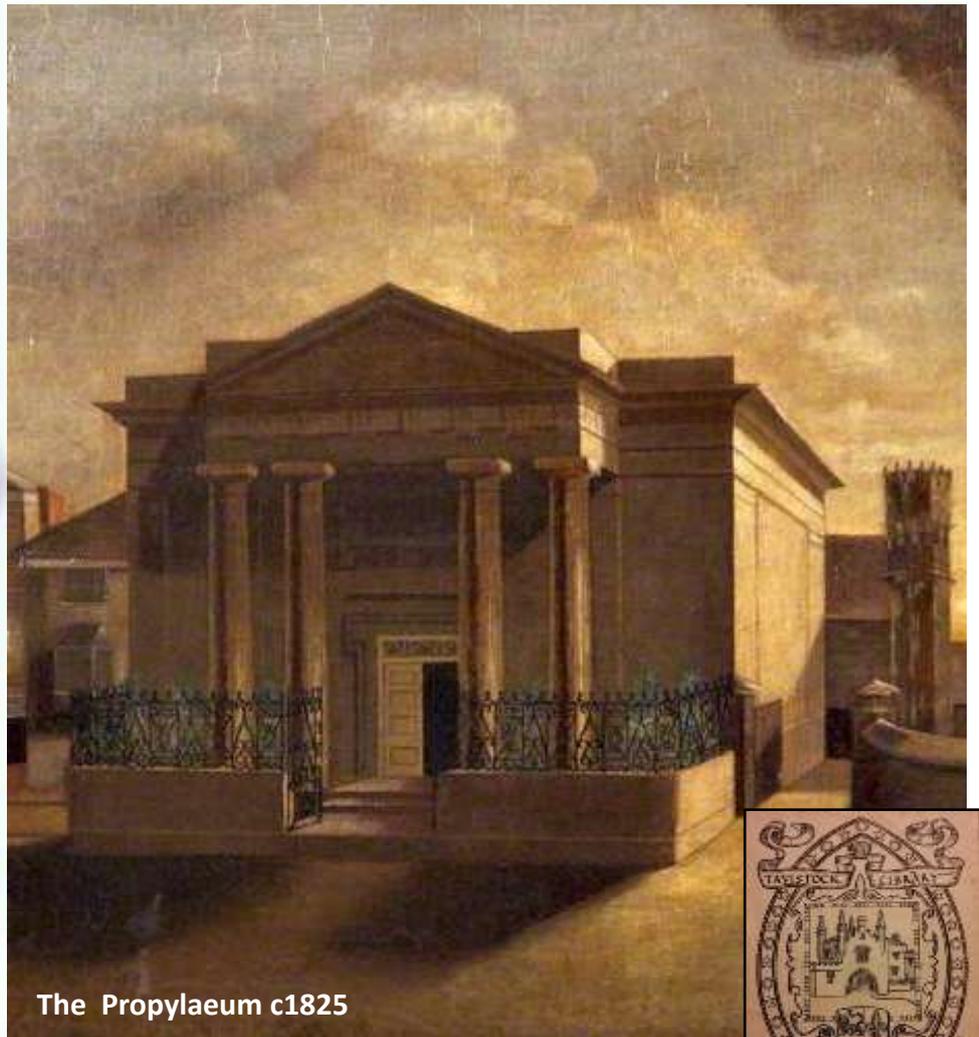
Tavistock

SUBSCRIPTION

LIBRARY

Established
1799

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2019

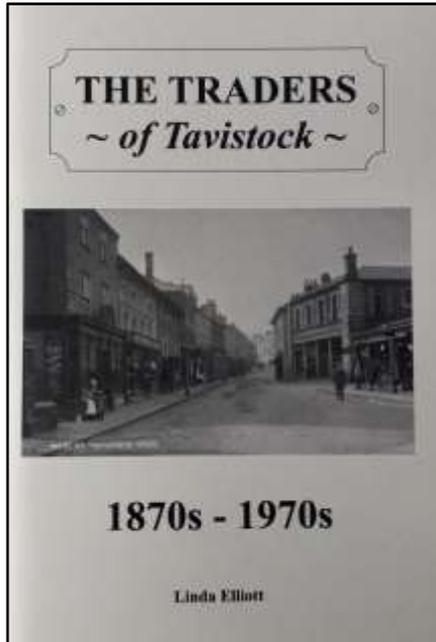


The Propylaeum c1825



New Acquisitions in the Library.

We have been generously donated new books recently

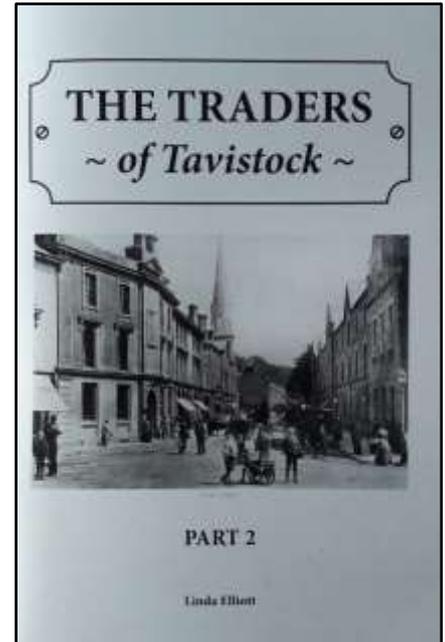


The Traders of Tavistock are two volumes from Museum volunteer Linda Elliott.

Ted Sherrell of the Tavistock Times Gazette has kindly allowed his review of these two volumes to be reproduced for the benefit of Library members.

Both books can be purchased direct from Tavistock Museum or alternatively from "Book Stop" in Market Street, Tavistock.

Priced at £2 and £5.99 respectively and published in 2012 and 2018.



Volume 1 1870s – 1970s The Traders of Tavistock - Reviews by Ted Sherrell

SOME people of more mature years might recollect an accomplished pianist — Semprini — who was often on the radio some 50 plus years ago, playing what he termed 'Old ones, new ones, loved ones and neglected ones'. Such a description (with the exception of course, of 'new ones'), could be ascribed to Linda Elliott's fascinating and minutely researched 'The Traders of Tavistock, 1870s to 1970s'. A local lady, the author of this publication combines a deep knowledge and understanding of the subject with an economical, focused yet attractive style of writing which eschews surmise and opinion, rather giving readers what they want — the history, relevance and impact of some 30 diverse shops trading in Tavistock during the century mentioned in the title. The format is both straightforward and reflective, with each business having a two page spread — one devoted to a photograph, usually of the premises with owners and staff standing before it, the facing page containing Mrs Elliott's succinct, but invariably informative history and description of the nature of the shop and of those who founded and ran them.

The vast majority of the names have moved from over shop windows into memory, with only the rightly famed 'Crebers' remaining in the hands of the family which founded it. The shoe shop 'Wilkins' is still to be found in Brook Street, but it moved from the Wilkins family in 1963, while 'Carrs Garage', though still in the Carr family, is now located at Lamerton.

When readers peruse the traders listed alphabetically very early in the book, there are many they will remember — 'old ones' and, in numerous instances, 'loved ones' also. Sweets: ladies and gents tailors and drapers, also barbers, hairdressers and confectioners, was a shop which fulfilled everything, right up to the time the family business was sold in 1972.

The long remembered Tommy was a charming, warm-hearted man ever, in keeping with his name, in charge of a bag of sweets which he kept on the counter and offered freely.

Perraton's Café (now the NatWest bank) was another well-known name, along with grocers such as Sargents and Underwoods, and Friends, pork butchers — whose sausages were famed far and wide. Many other shops and stores — covering the wide range of wares and products necessary to supply a vibrant, growing community — are featured, some which will be remembered, others, the 'neglected ones', which possibly will not.

All though, get from Linda Elliott, equal coverage — an illuminating synopsis which brings them to life, and does so in such a way that those in the area who have memories of some of the businesses will be able to picture them once again, while those who do not, will be captivated by her vivid illustration of a thriving commercial world of locally owned and run shops, sadly, rarely to be found in modern life.

Yet, not all things change, for the author includes a letter written for publication in the Tavistock Gazette, complaining about folk going to Plymouth to buy, causing the closure of many town shops — it was penned by a local trader in 1932.

'The Traders of Tavistock, 1870s to 1970s' by Linda Elliott, priced at £5.99 — available from Book Stop, Tavistock and from the author on 01822 615211.

Part 2 The Traders of Tavistock

FOR those folk, both local and far beyond, who enjoyed her deceptive, deeply researched and evocatively written book on *Traders of Tavistock*, published a few years ago, the news is good – a second book recording 25 further shops and businesses in the town has been produced by Linda Elliott.

As with the first, she covers a longish period of the commercial history of the old stannary town, running from the latter years of the 19th century right up until the millennium – although a small number of the businesses mentioned are still in existence.

Mrs Elliott writes with sympathy, but without sentiment, and covers in admirably descriptive yet concise fashion the nature of the shops and so forth, the stories of their owners and proprietors and, where they cease to exist, the background to them closing down. With a well-judged selection of photos plus reproduction of posters and advertising slogans to complement the fascinating articles, the author has created a work which will surely be required reading for those with a thirst for local history and also the wider number of people in the area who are just looking for an enjoyable, very informative read.

Simon would welcome any pictures, book reviews on recent acquisitions in the library, articles, stories etc for the next Spring newsletter so do please get in touch with him if you would like to get involved at either simondell1958@yahoo.co.uk or mobile 07845 176870



News from the Reading Room

Annual General Meeting 2019

The 2019 AGM was held on Monday 18th March 2019 at the Library at 7.30pm and all members were warmly invited to attend. Ten members attended and we are pleased to say that we now have a very dedicated committee. Simon Dell remains as Chairman / Secretary while Terry Faull has been appointed as Vice Chairman again. Ruth Blowey our new Librarian from last year remains in her post as Librarian but adds the Membership Secretary to her responsibilities.

Bill Lane, our long-standing Treasurer is now assisted by Penny Gardiner as Assistant Treasurer to provide some support to Bill with a view to eventually taking over the reins. Juliet, the former Membership Secretary remains on the committee as do Brian Fyfield-Shayler BEM, Christopher Pancheri and John Davies. Jane Robinson and Felicity Luckman have also been voted onto the committee to represent the two writers' groups based in the Library. Jess Maslen also joins the committee as a new face. Next year's AGM will be held on Monday 3rd February 2020

Subscription Library Wharf Talk 18th March 2019



On the same day as the Library AGM - Monday 18th March 2019 - the Chairman gave a talk on Tavistock Subscription Library, its founding and history, at the Wharf Arts Theatre in Tavistock at 2pm. It was very well attended and a number of new members were recruited as a result which is wonderful news and completely justified doing a presentation on the Library. A number of our new History pamphlets were also sold to those attending. The front cover of this season's newsletter shows the Propylaeum which was naturally included in Simon's talk.

Subscriptions for 2019 and the Door Code!

A reminder that 2019 Subscriptions are now overdue. They remain at £12 for individual members and £18 for joint members. These fees will be reviewed in December 2019 for the following year 2020. If you wish to pay your subscriptions by Standing Order do please contact the Treasurer Bill Lane or Penny Gardiner and this can be arranged for you. New membership application and renewal forms are available for 2019. If you are paying subscriptions then a cheque made out to Tavistock Subscription Library left for Ruth Blowey the Membership Secretary, would be kind. We prefer a cheque rather than leaving cash in the Library for security reasons.

The door code for the entry was also changed as usual at the AGM. Members will be notified by email or letter. If you are having a problem knowing what the new code is give Simon a call on 07845 176870 and for the price of knowing what the old code was you can get the new code!!

Visit to the new Plymouth Proprietary Library

Friday 17th May at 1pm

Members are warmly invited to join in a visit and guided tour of the newly-opened Plymouth Proprietary Library which is now located in Stoke in Plymouth. We can take ten members in total on the visit so book your place by putting your name on the list in the library. Full details from Simon the Chairman. Book early to avoid disappointment in missing out on one of our popular visits.



Refurbishments have been taking place this year in the Library. Bill Blowey has repaired the front door drip moulding which was rotting away! The door has also been repainted. Christopher Pancheri is busy painting the fireplace in the Reading Room while Bill has repaired the curtains which can now be drawn together and opened using the refurbished draw-cord to the right. A new electrical extension is available for Coffee Mornings which are being held on every Friday morning at 10am until noon.

We have also designed and printed new 2019 subscription renewal forms and also a new potted history of the Library based on Mary Freeman and Jean Wann's little history paper.

Ruth has now completed a year of cataloguing the book collection and this refreshed huge list will soon be on the website available for searching titles that we might have. We are also in the process of rationalising our book collection to what we really wish to have in the library pertinent to the geographic area that we wish to concentrate on.

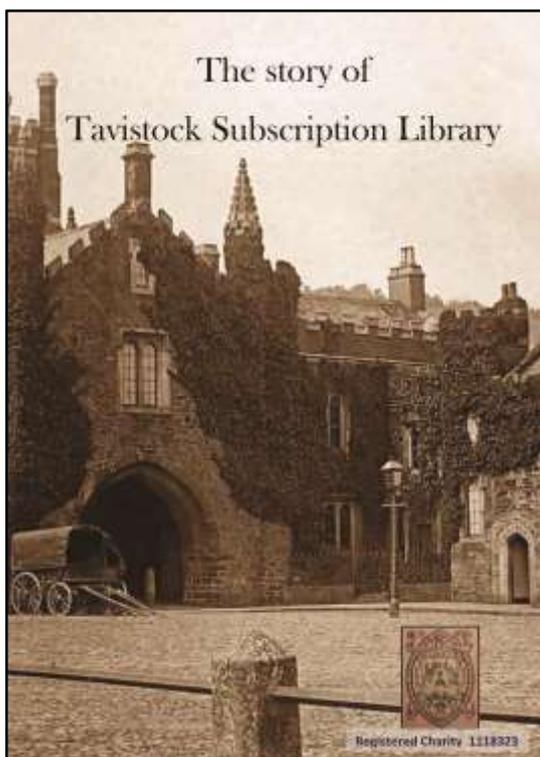




Art UK Sculpture Project

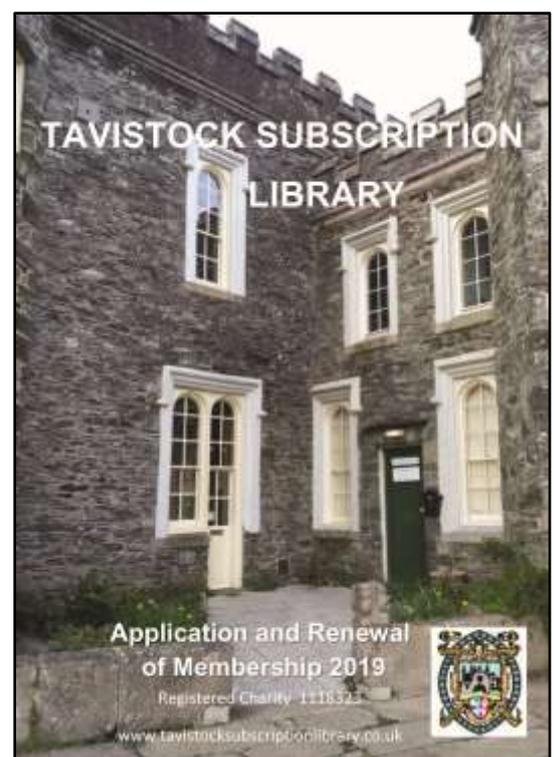
The Sculpture Project is a nationwide project using digital and physical engagement to transform the way people access and learn about sculpture. It will create a comprehensive record of the UK's publicly owned sculptures, making images and information available on the Art UK (Public Catalogue Foundation) website (www.artuk.org). As you will appreciate, the project is a considerable undertaking, with an estimated 170,000 plus sculptures in public ownership in the UK.

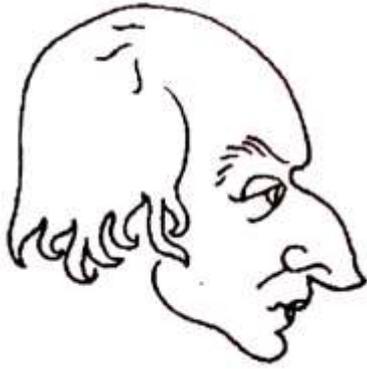
The Library has been asked to supply details of our busts on display for the project which will record them for posterity nationally. Our collection comprises busts of (left to right) John The Sixth Duke of Bedford, Sir Walter Scott, Richard Cobden (economist and politician) and Lord Byron.



Left: The new Library history booklet which can be purchased for a £1 donation. Available on the mantelpiece in the Library. Please put your coin in the book sales tin on the shelves in the window.

Right. Our new style 2019 Membership and renewal application form. These are now available on the Library mantelpiece.





**A CLUSTERED CLUMP OF
MUSHROOMS IN WISTMAN'S
WOOD GIVES WILLIAM
WORDSWORTH A MOMENT OF
EPIPHANY**

By Barry M Wilson

And oh I was of course much younger then
When through the woods and valleys of my home
With rucksack packed and stout shoes I would roam
Far from the company of other men.

The company of woodlands made me wise
To the natural world: a clustered mushroom clump
Half-hid behind a something grassy hump
Obscuring the view at first to casual eyes

Lighted on so unexpectedly:
A magic kingdom thrust up overnight
That set a bright flame burning that would be
A Beacon to all nature set alight
Here at my feet, in front of me
In this secluded place, an awesome sight!

When first I made my way to Wistmans Wood
Not knowing either what it was or where,
A voice unheard guided my footsteps there
Until, entranced upon a ridge, I stood
Above a tinkling leat that cleft the moor,
And down whose hillside crept an ancient grove
Where strange misshapen druid oak trees strove
To root from rock and fill my soul with awe.

The world I carried with me at that time
Was born in those woods, nourished by its trees,
Nurtured by its rocks, which I would climb
To spy out from my summit distant seas
Which brought me, all untutored, to my prime.
Fed on its silences, its mysteries.

The smallest cobweb, acorn, leaf and fern
Scorched such reality into my soul
That fired my unquiet heart and made me whole,
Entire, complete, and able to discern
In that one blinding instant all the truth
Of majesty in miniature; oh, that day
Lives with me still though I am far away
In time and distance from my greening youth.
 Its crisp carpet crackled under my feet,
 It was early winter, leaves littering the ground
 Hid holes where little animals could sleep,
 Where shades of ancient worshippers once found
 A sense of something far more vast and deep,
 With mystery and magic all around.
That fire still burns at threescore years and ten,
Although I was of course much younger then

Go Gothic – In Tavistock, Devon, October 2019 Celebration Saturday 12th of October - Saturday 19th of October 2019.

Hosted by Tavistock Town Library and supported by Tavistock Heritage Trust as part of “Tavistock’s 1st Gothic and Neo-Gothic Celebration – Literature, Art, Architecture, Theatre, Film and Creative Fun”, it runs from Saturday the 12th of October to culminate in a market and author event on Saturday the 19th of October 2019.

This event is an exciting new project which will be run by volunteers and self-funded by Tavistock Library, the Friends of Tavistock Library and other community groups.

Tavistock Subscription Library are also getting involved in the evening Ghost Walk being performed by Tavistock Edge with our own Roger Crosson playing the role of William Merrifield our long-past Librarian! The events also feature the work of Mrs Bray, whose books we have on our shelves. More details can be found on Vanni Cook’s website at:

www.myfanwycook.com

