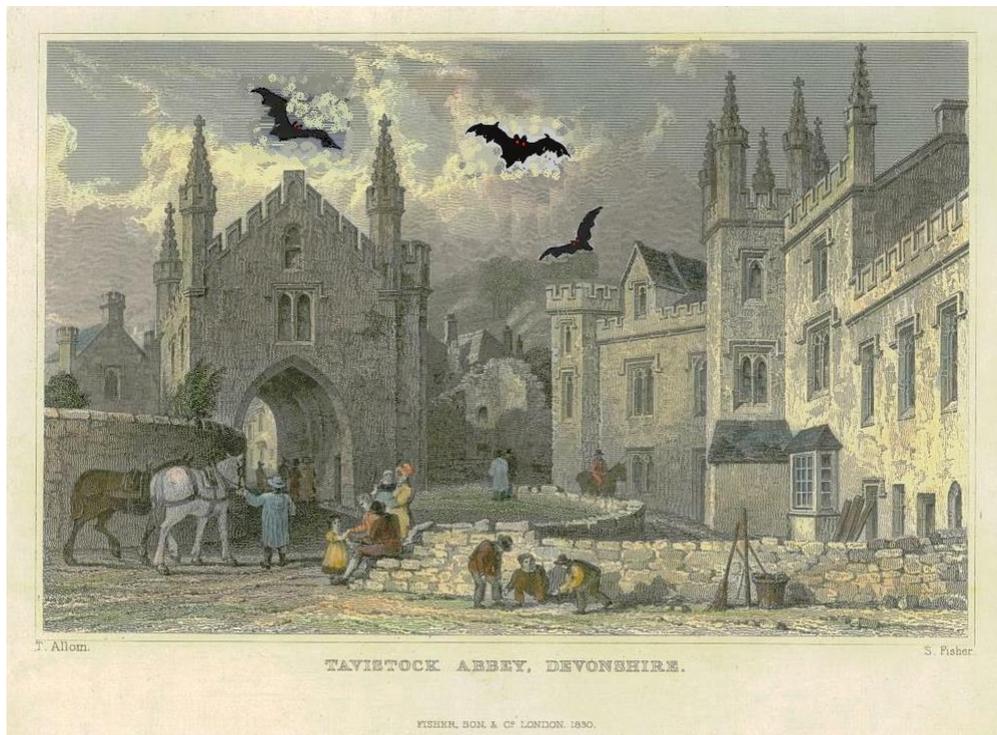


# Go Gothic

The 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of October



## **Tavistock's 1<sup>st</sup> celebration of its Gothic and Mock-Gothic Literary and Architectural Heritage.**

Hosted by Tavistock Library and  
the Friends of Tavistock Library

With the support of The Edge, Tavistock Heritage Trust, Tavistock Subscription  
Library and the voluntary help of many other community groups.

Information and tickets unless otherwise stated available from Tavistock Library,  
Plymouth Road, The Quay, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8AB  
Email: [tavistock.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:tavistock.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk)



## Why Tavistock?

Tavistock is an ancient market town on the edge of Dartmoor and from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of October it is 'Going Gothic'. For fans of Gothic literature, the World Heritage Mining Gateway town of Tavistock might not immediately spring to mind; unlike Whitby in Yorkshire made famous when Bram Stoker used it as a setting for 'Dracula'.

However, both in architecture and literature Tavistock has an undervalued literary and heritage legacy. The remains of the Benedictine Abbey, which fell into disrepair after the dissolution (1539) are still dotted throughout the town and include the sarcophagus of one of the founders of the Abbey, Abbey walls and gatehouses.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Duke of Bedford constructed a Neo-Gothic (or Mock-Gothic) style Town Hall and a Guildhall, which almost blend into the Abbey remains. The Bedford Hotel even has parts of the old Abbey incorporated in its building.

Kelly College (Mount Kelly) was founded by Admiral Benedictus Marwood Kelly and opened in 1877. The building was designed by the architect Charles Francis Hansom (1817-1888), who primarily designed in the Gothic Revival style.

The Alexander Centre was the local Grammar School between 1895 and 1932. It was built in the Gothic revival style by the architect F. Bligh Bond, who in 1908 was appointed by the Church of England director of excavations at Glastonbury Abbey. The Alexander Centre is now an adult educational centre that now occupies the building.



Even more tantalising to the creative mind is the restored gatehouse, which is all that remains of the seat from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards of the Fitz family and the infamous Ghost of Lady Howard, her black hound and her carriage made from the bones of her husbands.



Tavistock and its surrounding area are rich in legends and folklore from the Gubbinesses, the Blessed Grimbald's (Betsy Grimbald's) tower to the tales of the ghosts of miners.

From a literary perspective Tavistock's treasures have been hidden on dusty library stacks waiting to step out of the shadows. Two Victorian writers, who displayed Gothic flair and were both best-selling authors during their lifetimes are associated with Tavistock and its surrounding area.

The first is Mrs Anna Eliza Bray, who lived in the vicarage in the town. She was inspired by the area's heritage to write a series of novels including *Fitz of Fitz Ford: A Tale of Destiny* (1830). Mrs Bray's *A Peep at the Pixies, or Legends of the West* (1854) was used by her cousin Christina Rossetti as source material for her most famous poem, 'Goblin Market'.



The second is author Sabine Baring-Gould, who was Vicar of Lewtrenchard. His chilling Gothic tale 'Margery of Quether' (1884) is set near Heathfield close to Tavistock. It opens on Christmas Eve when the main character has to ring the church bells at St Michael de Rupe, Brentor (first mentioned in 1193) and described by Dr James Younge, in c. 1680 as "*Brent Tarr is a church on a very High hill I believe nearest heaven of any church in England...*". Some academics now believe that 'Margery of Quether' was the inspiration for Bram Stoker's novel 'Dracula' (1897).



**St. Michael de Rupe, Brentor**

## What's on, where and when

Tavistock Library have lined up a week of distinctly different events, with Tavistock's first Gothic and Neo-Gothic Celebration of literature, architecture, theatre and creative fun.

**Children's events will be held over the summer as a part of the Go Gothic project at Tavistock Library – Gothic mask making and Gothic style Garden Gnome, (Pixies, Fairies, Steampunk etc.) workshops for details please contact Tavistock Library.**

- Gothic Mask making drop in session with Margaret Stenning of the Edge on Saturday August the 17th from 10am to 12.30pm.

At the Scrap Store:

- Garden Gnome and Pixie making free workshops:

July 30th (Adults) 10 am to 1pm.

July 30th (Children) 2pm to 4pm

September 12th (Children) 2pm to 4pm

This exciting new project, is run volunteers and self-funded by Tavistock Library, the Friends of Tavistock Library and the donations of other community groups.



# The Events

## Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of October:

- The Gothic Garden Gnome (Pixies, Fairies, Steampunk etc.) children's and adult's competition models will appear in the windows of Mainly Stationery, I love Candy. Lambert's Emporium, the Tavistock Visitor Information Centre and at Tavistock Library
- **'A Gathering of Gargoyles and Grotesques'** created by Year 9 students from Mount Kelly (and their Art Club) on display at Tavistock Library from Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of October until Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October (inclusive). The exhibition will showcase the Artwork they have produced during the term on Gothic-style Gargoyles and Grotesques and organised by the Head of Art and Photography Netty Holwill.

### 3pm Tavistock Library



Photographs of Professor Nick Groom of Exeter University by Chris Chapman

- **'Soundbites: A Question-and-Answer Session on Vampires, Gothic Monsters, Terror, and Horror with the "Prof. of Goth", Prof. Nick Groom of Exeter University.'** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NickGroom> (The session will be chaired by Aaron Wilkins). Presentation of the short film prize by Professor Nick Groom at the end of the session. Tickets available from the Library for this free event.

#### Publications include:

*The Vampire: A New History* published by Yale University Press, *Frankenstein* published by Oxford University Press, *The Italian*, *The Monk*, *The Castle of Otranto*, and *The Gothic: A Very Short Introduction* are published by Oxford University Press.

## Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>

### 6.30 pm Staring at the Bedford Hotel (<https://www.bedford-hotel.co.uk/whats-on/>)

- **'Gothic Ghost Walk' including a visit to Tavistock's Subscription Library and a Cream tea at the Bedford Hotel (The Edge and Simon Dell of Tavistock's Subscription Library)**

Phone Hilary on (01822) 614179 to book a place on the walk and for the tea. It will not be possible to buy tickets on the day. Booking is essential. Tickets are £12 each including the cream tea.

## Monday the 14<sup>th</sup>



7pm at Tavistock Library, Tickets £3.50 (a glass of wine or juice included in the ticket price).

**'Novels and Short stories with a Gothic Edge'**, The session with Catriona Ward will be chaired by Aaron Wilkins. Catriona's is the author of the prize-winning novel 'Rawblood' and 'Little Eve' (Weidenfeld and Nicolson). Her work also appears in anthologies published by Titan Books and 'This Dreaming Isle' (Unsung)

<https://www.rcwlitagency.com/authors/ward-catriona/>

## Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup>

11 am Tavistock Library

Dr James Fox will be giving an illustrated talk entitled **'Edward Bray, Vicar of Tavistock and the Druids'**. Tickets £3.00 to include tea, coffee and biscuits.

2pm Tavistock Library

Four of Swords presents a Gothic Drama Workshop for young people aged 11-15.

<http://four-of-swords.com/>

Booking is essential for this free workshop.



## 7 pm at the Bedford Hotel - **The Dartmoor Highwayman – The Edge**



Evening performance by the Edge Players, with two course supper and coffee. £23 per person.

Booking is essential: <https://www.bedford-hotel.co.uk/whats-on/>

“Many of us remember Alfred Noyse’s well-loved poem, ‘The Highwayman’, with its evocative description of the eponymous hero taking his leave of Bess, the Landlord’s daughter on that dark and windy night so long ago. But what takes place at the Inn while he is away? The Tavistock Edge Players have given their imagination full rein, and will portray the whole story in three acts, during which a delicious two-course supper will be served.”

- If you are unable to get a ticket for the Edge’s performance, then why not try: The Renaissance Choir of St. Petersburg, St. Eustachius’ Church, Tavistock, 7.30pm.  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/mountkelly](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mountkelly)

## **Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>**

**11am at the Bedford Hotel - Andrew Thompson (Heritage consultant) will be talking about ‘The Making of the Gothic Landscape’ (Dartmoor, Tavistock and Cotehele).** Booking is strongly advised for this event by a well-respected professional in the field of national and local heritage consultancy work.

<https://www.andrewthompsonheritage.co.uk/>



Tickets available from Tavistock Library - £.3.00 or on the day at the Bedford Hotel.



**2pm at the Bedford Hotel - Rebecca Tope - Best-selling murder mystery novelist with novels set in the West Country and the Lake District. She is also an expert on the novels of the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould including 'Margery of Quether' and she has also written the definitive new biography of Sabine-Baring Gould.** She will be in conversation and discussing the Gothic novels of Sabine Gould and her own writing as a novelist. Rebecca Tope's own publishing house Praxis Books founded in 1992 specialises in reprinting the writing of Sabine-Baring Gould including *Margery of Quether*  
<https://www.rebeccatope.com/>

Tickets available from Tavistock Library - £.3.00 or on the day at the Bedford Hotel. (Space is limited for this event and booking is advisable.)



Photo credit to 'Two Cats in the Yard Photography'

**7pm, Tavistock Library "Folklore, History and the Gothic: Katherine Stansfield on her crime novels set in nineteenth century Cornwall".** Dr Katherine Stansfield (novelist and poet), Royal Literary Fellow, Creative writing tutor School of Journalism, Media and Culture at Cardiff University. Katherine Stansfield's talk will be introduced by Jackie Waddle Associate University Lecturer. <http://katherinestansfield.blogspot.com/>

Tickets available from Tavistock Library: £3.50 (including a glass of wine or juice)

**Please note that a special ticket price of £8.00 is available to those who would like to attend all three sessions on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October.**

# Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>

## Go Gothic Market

**9.30 am till 4.30pm – The Butcher’s Hall Tavistock – Go Gothic (and Steampunk) market** <https://www.facebook.com/ButchersHallTavistock/>

### What’s happening on the day?

A host of creative and innovative Gothic and Steampunk stallholders, authors to talk to, and the prize giving for all Gothic creative writing competitions.

### The Events

**Councillor Jeff Moody, West Devon Councillor will present the creative writing prizes (all categories) at 11 am.**

The Edge will perform the winning monologues and a selection of poems. Their choir will also be singing a selection of songs throughout the day.

- Flute Cocktail will also be playing to add to the enchantment.

**At 2pm Debo Sellis, Devon County Councillor for Tavistock and Gulworthy will present the prizes for the ‘Gothic Style Gnome and Pixie Model Making Competition.’**

- The Tapestry choir will be creating their own kind of vocal magic during the afternoon.
- The community knitted Gothic bunting project on display.

**Free events for children: Clay gargoyle and grotesque style making (and adults), Gothic book project (for adults and children).**

Prizes for the best dressed visitors in either Gothic style (Zombies don’t count) or Steampunk costume to be judged by Aaron Wilkins.

Novelists and non-fiction writers will be there to discuss their work.

**There will also be a prize of 2 bottles of wine for the most appropriately dressed trader in the adjacent Pannier market.**

There are a host of amazing creative stall holders (see the photos below), who will be there including Gill (dolls) and Melody (Gothic craft items of Wheel Crafts), and Feather Gauge (Steam punk hats and other interesting items!)





Tavistock Subscription Library is next door to Tavistock Museum.

**10am - 4pm Tavistock Subscription Library (founded in 1799) will be open for visitors and will be selling a range of local books both old and new.** The Subscription Library is next to Tavistock Museum and Guildhall.

<https://tavistocksubscriptionlibrary.co.uk/>



**2pm Chris Willsher, Tavistock Library, storyteller will tell a ghostly tale or two to children at the Library. He will be dressed in costume suited to the occasion. Free event**

“Whilst studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre and performance at the University of Plymouth. He received a commendation award as the Xcel Performing Arts Student of 2008. Since graduating in 2010, he is now a visiting lecturer.”

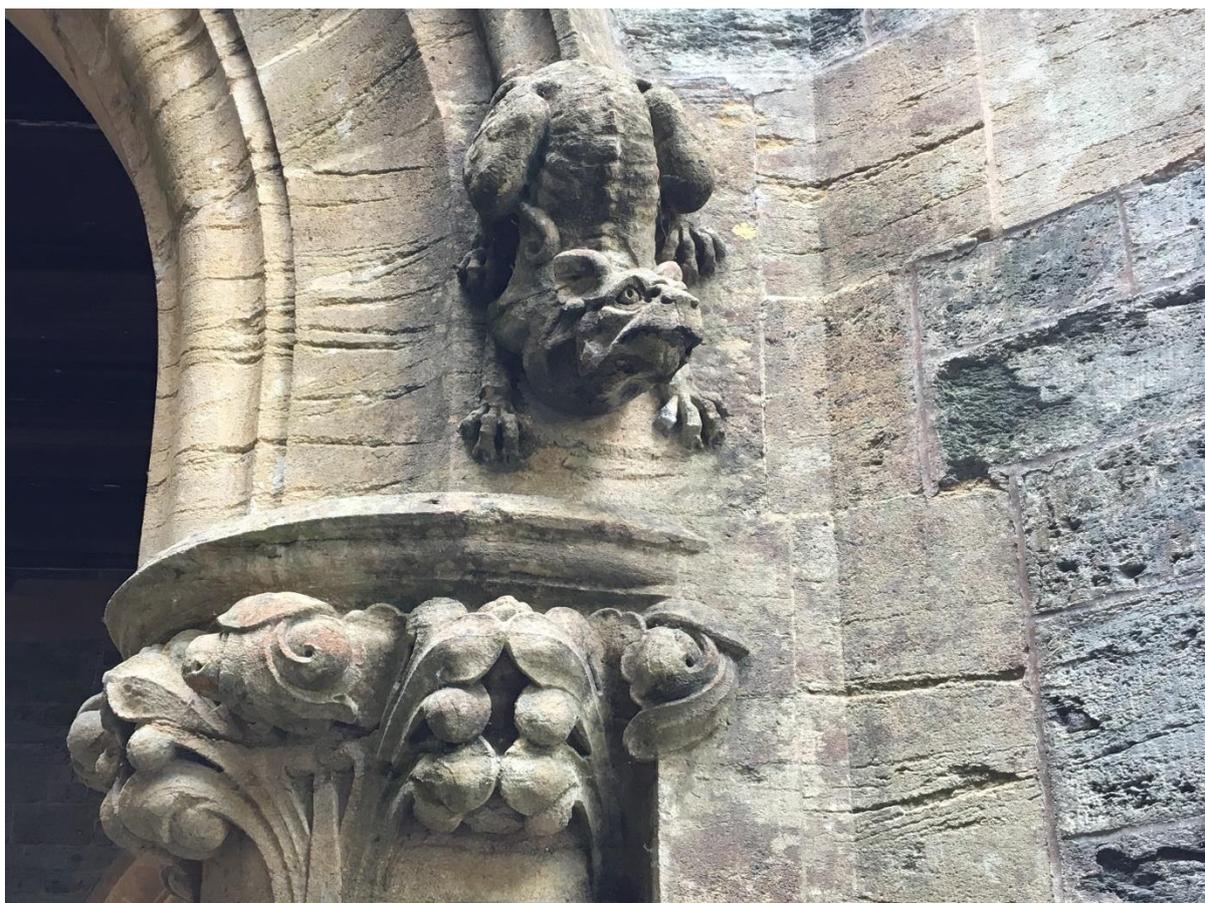


Photo of a grotesque courtesy of Mount Kelly

***Our thanks to the following who have given their support to this project.***



We would also like to thank Tavistock's Scrap Store, TASS, Book Stop, The Tapestry Choir, Flute Cocktail, The Bedford Hotel, The Sew with Sally Group, Andrew Thompson, Kate Glew (Plymouth University) Jane George, the Authors, Competition Judges and Performers who have donated their services and all the amazing knitters (and one 'super' knitter, who wishes to remain anonymous as does the 'bunting' co-ordinator) who have knitted the triangles for the Gothic Bunting.

This exciting new project, has been organized and run volunteers and self-funded by Tavistock Library, the Friends of Tavistock Library and the donations of other community groups.

**Below is a timeline of some of the landmark works in 19<sup>th</sup> century Gothic literature highlighting Tavistock's literary contribution:**

1818 'Northanger Abbey' Jane Austen (written in 1798 and published after her death)

1818 'Frankenstein' Mary Shelly (originally published anonymously)

1819 'The Vampyre' John William Polidori (7 September 1795 – 24 August 1821 (Inspired by the life of Lord Byron.)

**1830 'Fitz of Fitz Ford: A Tale of Destiny' Anna Eliza Bray (Mrs Bray)**

1840 'Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque' (including 'The Black Cat') Edgar Allan Poe

1845-1847 'Varney the Vampire; or, the Feast of Blood', Victorian era serialized Gothic horror story attributed to James Malcolm Rymer and Thomas Peckett Prest.

1847 'Wuthering Heights' Emily Brontë and Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

**1854 'A Peep at the Pixies, or Legends of the West' Anna Eliza Bray (Mrs Bray), which is thought to have inspired 'Goblin Market' by Christina Rossetti, because they were cousins.**

1859 'The Woman in White' Wilkie Collins Gothic elements – First 'sensation' (These play on the 'nerves' of the reader.) novel.

1862 Goblin Market (composed in **April 1859**) a narrative poem by Christina Rossetti.

1872 'Carmilla', a Gothic novella by Irish author Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu.

**1884 'Margery of Quether', Sabine Baring-Gould. First published in serial form in 'The Cornhill Magazine'.**

1886 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' Robert Louis Stevenson

1890 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' by Oscar Wilde.

1897 'Dracula' Bram Stoker.