

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS.

Villages in Action.

After the success of the Public Parts' performance in November, Brentor Community Centre have organised another theatre event for the village. Claire Hughes and Helen Chadwick will be performing the "Singing Bones". The "Singing Bones" is a re-creation through storytelling, song and music of the ancient Finnish Epic the Kalevala, which tells the wild adventure story of the world created through song. It is a highly entertaining show, sometimes disturbing often hauntingly beautiful. Suitable for adults and children over twelve. The show lasts about an hour and a half, plus interval. This show has recently played to full houses in the Festival Hall in London. Tickets available from Rick Blower, Peggy Biggs and Jane Osborne. Adults £3.50, children £2.50. Date, February 11th at the Brentor Village Hall. 7.30pm. For more information contact Rick Blower on 810600.

Parish Draw Winner. This month's winner is Mrs.R.Cole. Ticket No93.

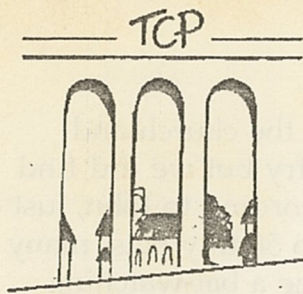
Church News.

Christingle Service. This was very well attended on Sunday 19th December and £27 was raised for the Children's Society.

Carols by Candlelight. Denys Hutchings led us through an enjoyable evening which included delightful entertainment by the Lydford Handbell Ringers. Attendance from Brentor was not as good as usual but £31 was raised for the charity "outreach" which is concerned with drink and drug addiction in the Plymouth area. Thanks are due to the Brentor Inn for the gift of £30 to the Church from their Harvest Festival Fund.

Mrs.Betty Raine. We were all very sad to hear of Betty's death. She had been, before she became ill, very active in Brentor, both in the Church and in other village organisations. She was for many years secretary to Brent Tor Parochial Church Council and later became churchwarden, a post which she held until her health began to fail. She also led the Women's Fellowship which at one time was very well supported.

Betty will be remembered especially for the parts she played on the Church Hall stage as a prominent member of the Brentorians Dramatic Society. She and her husband George, who died some years ago, did a great deal to help the society in many ways, particularly in its earlier years. They also assisted with other village activities, including 'meals on wheels' and the distribution of Red Cross food to elderly and ailing villagers at Christmas. Indeed, if anything needed doing in the form of charity or church work, the Raines were always there.



Tavistock & District Conservation Project

BRENTOR CONSERVATION NEWS

Sally and Chris's Wood, Burn Lane; The Tavistock & District Conservation Project with volunteers from the village have been doing some management work over the last year supervised by Ian Brooker and Paul Glanville who is now the DNP Ranger for our area. Such a wood as this would have been managed up to 50 or 60 years ago when tree would have been coppiced for thatching spars, fencing and basket weaving or thinned out for building timber, firewood or for many other uses. Much woodland has disappeared due to pressure from agriculture and building and the demand for broad-leafed timber decreased. As we know, much of remaining forests now consist largely of non-indigenous, fast-growing evergreen trees most of which is pulped for building and industry while good quality timber is imported. There have been recent moves to restore or reclaim some of our ancient woodlands which are valuable nature reserves by planting some of the trees like oak, ash, elm and beech which once flourished throughout the country. The maintenance of such a wood as this has never been more important for the benefit of flora, fauna, the atmosphere and humans. Visitors will see how paths have been widened and diseased or dying trees cut back with habitat piles being formed of similar sized thinnings. Too thick a canopy of leaves and flowers or trees can not grow and many animals, birds and insects need varying heights of branch or tree for food and shelter. One oak tree can harbour over 100 different species of insect alone. We studied the remains of hazel nut shells in the wood and found evidence of squirrels, mice, bank voles and possible dormice. Sally and Chris would appreciate a warning from anybody wishing to visit the wood - there is a potentially dangerous quarry.

Blackdown Railway Line; The new owners of Hawthorns, the Higgs family, have kindly allowed the stretch of railway line running north from Burn Lane bridge to remain as a wildlife corridor. We have been spending the occasional day at critical times of the year clearing brambles and some of the many young ash and sycamore trees which were threatening to choke some of the 113 different species of plants that have been recorded on the site. This has become a sheltered haven for butterflies, dragonflies, insects, animals and birds as well as a fine example of a wildlife corridor linking one habitat to the next. Trees have been planted to improve shelter and continuing maintenance will ensure a natural balance. By walking along the moor above the railway line one can see how things are progressing.

Bats; John Kaczanow, our local bat expert, has been studying the church and surrounding buildings. He found little sign of bats in the belfry but we did find some promising-looking, tiny droppings around the hall. According to John, just one small gap above a window can be an entrance point for up to 50 tiny bats, many of which will be hibernating at this time of year. We will arrange a bat-watching session during the spring when we can record type and number from a nearby vantage point. He has a record of many of the local roosts but he and English Nature would be grateful for any information about new sites. It is against the law to seal up or spray areas, usually lofts, where bats are in evidence. John will be pleased to advise.

Barn Owls; We are always on the look-out for suitable sites for next boxes which are very simple to construct from old tea chests but need care in situating. The TCP along with the Barn Owl Trust would be pleased to help.

Trees; Paul Glanville, our friendly neighbourhood ranger is preparing a map and list of species of trees that people wish to plant in the area. Call me if you wish to be included. Somebody can visit to offer advice or even practical help subject.

The TCP is always looking for new members to become involved in practical work or training. We have established a reputation for our disabled access work, involving people of varying ability and developing practical projects around the district. We will shortly be completing the Wildlife Study Area off Drakes Road in Tavistock after which we will be concentrating on a conservation area at Mary Tavy School and a Sensory Garden in Tavistock. Please fill in the form if you would like to become a member of this important community conservation group, post it or drop it in to me.

OZ OSBORNE , BLUEBELLS.

TEL 810606

To The Membership Secretary,
TCP,
4, Vigo Bridge Rd,
Tavistock PL19 0EY

Name.....

Address.....

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Telephone..... Date.....

I/ We wish to become members of the TCP for a year.

I enclose £1.00 for individual membership

or

£1.50 for a family (please tick)