



BRENTOR NEWS

August 2009 - Issue 358
www.brentorvillage.org

Restoration Work at St Michael's on The Tor

The photographs of St Michael's in this edition were taken on the 27th July and show something of the ongoing work to renew much of the pointing on the south and west walls, as well as some work on the roof.

Since the scaffolding has been erected, the architect has been able to carry out a more detailed inspection and has found that further work needs to be done to the bell tower; that the South Door needs significant repairs, and that some of the merlons have split.

The work is expected to be completed in September, but contributions towards funding for this work are urgently needed - please contact Sheila Downs on 820382.

Services - and weddings - have been taking place normally during the renovations and are expected to continue.

COFFEE MORNING

1st Aug 10.30-12

This may be the last coffee morning for a while as September's first Saturday is the Village Show day. (Cream Teas on that day!).

If building hasn't started on the hall by October 3rd we will of course be making Bacon Rolls and coffee as usual.

Thank you for all the support and help. It has been good to hear such positive things said about it.

Please bring excess produce, plants etc to sell.

Rhona will be there this month with her bags.
Sheryl 870554

BRENTOR SHOW

2pm Saturday 5th September

We look forward to seeing everyone enjoying themselves at this year's Brentor Show.

A few final reminders to assist a smooth running:

- Please could all last year's cup holders return their trophies, if not already done so to either: Judy, Kate or Sue (numbers below)
- Please note that this year's closing date for all entries is Wednesday 2nd September.
- All exhibits must be in place between 8 am & 10am Saturday 5th ready for judging.

Fingers crossed for a fine sunny day.

Judy Baxter 810375

Kate Kelly 810287

Sue Stephens 860374

Your Village Show Needs You!

Hello again!

My name is Danny, I am 16 and live in Brentor. Last year, with your help, I raised over £100 at the Brentor Show on the TOMBOLA stand. Please, please, please clear out your cupboards and donate any non-perishable items.

I will leave 2 boxes one outside the village hall and the other at the top of my drive.

Let's make it over £100 again!!!!

Danny at Wortha Farm 810711

Editorial Thanks...

... and congratulations to The Garden Club for submitting reports on no less than three interesting recent events - and for providing very welcome copy for this edition!



Brentor Garden Club



25 Members' Visited Highgrove House on 23 June 2009 – "A Right Royal Occasion!"

Highgrove '... I hope, has gradually become a garden which delights the eye, warms the heart and feeds the soul.' On the introductory video in the Orchard Room these words, spoken by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, welcomed us with warmth, cordiality and sincerity to view his gardens.

From the cool Orchard Room our dedicated volunteer garden guide gave a brief history of the property. The Duchy of Cornwall purchased Highgrove, a late 18th century property in Gloucestershire, twenty seven years ago and the Prince of Wales has made the house his private home. With the arrival of the Prince the house and the surrounding acres occupied little more than a neglected walled garden, a coppice and some pastureland that over the years the Prince has personalised into inspiring tableaux reflecting his interest in the environment, passion for planting and devotion to nature.

We were taken through part of a four and a half acre wild flower meadow, home to some of the National Beech Collection, past three large slate pots (built using a technique akin to dry stonewalling) to the grotto-like Buttress Garden. Architectural rescue pieces of redundant ecclesiastical stone were overlooked by tall laural stripped of foliage – except for their canopy! Our guide then led us past a replica of a stately sculptured bronze Roman gladiator to a garden centrally enhanced by a cool, translucent lily pond where we could view the thyme paved approach to the house, bordered by an avenue of eccentrically fun-shaped yews. Beyond two huge sentinel peepers we entered a Mediterranean style plantation enjoying full sun all day.

Feelings of mystery and magic accompanied us into the Woodland Garden where a wonderful water feature crowned with a canopy of Gunnera has two life-like foraging herons in attendance, superbly forged from old car parts! The Temple of Worthies had been created from sandblasted green oak to give the impression of being 'rusticated' stone. Showing his great affection for his grandmother the Prince requested a bronze relief of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to be placed in its midst. At the southern end of the garden the 'Wall of Gifts' contained varying architectural pieces of stone that had been given to the Prince as well as collected by him. A thatched holly tree-house "Hollyrood House" where the young Princes played as children had been re-erected on a platform of oak after the demise of its original tree site. The Woodland Garden contains a National Collection of hostas – one of the Prince's favourite plants. An exciting assortment of tree stumps house a variety of ferns in The Stumpery; at its heart, facing each other in a circular glade, two small temples appear to lovingly caress a marbled stone sculpture of the Goddess of the Wood.

Our guide led us to a one time abandoned area, well protected

from harsh elements, just outside the Walled Garden that had been successfully planted with majestic tree ferns. From there we advanced along the Azalea Walk which incorporated a stone doorway inscribed with welcoming words in Egyptian hieroglyphics.; the Prince wanted the walk to be a special place and chose to surmount that opening with the busts of scholars whom he admired. A memorial to the Prince's much loved 'Tigga' his Jack Russell terrier is carved in the stonework.

The Walled Garden, marked out with box hedges in the shape of the crosses of St George and St Andrew, was a joy to perceive and entered via a small pink gate. The vegetable and fruit tress that are planted in the garden are entirely organic and supply the catering needs of the house, and more. A flowing moss covered fountain, a central feature in the garden, had been brought from Italy by the Prince and had been placed within a remnant of an old neglected pool.

Approaching the Arboretum and Sanctuary was like entering an area of cathedral quietness. Our presence seemed almost an intrusion on the silence and solitude of that place of contemplation based on the principles of sacred geometry and used often by the Prince for writing, studying speeches and painting his delightful watercolours. Within the Arboretum stands a small quietly beautiful, bronze sculpture of three nymph-like maidens "The Daughters of Odessa: Martyrs of Modernism". We then had the opportunity to amble through the beautifully planted sun terraces immediately surrounding the house, and the Cottage Garden

The Carpet Garden, exhibited at the 2001 Chelsea Flower Show where it won a Silver Medal, was captivating and colourful; it's Eastern style is echoed by the ceramics placed by plantings of scented orange blossom, perfumed roses, olive trees, cork oaks and vines. Our guide returned us to the Orchard Room where we were able to pause and reflect on the delights of the gardens at Highgrove over delicious tea and cake, and then spend money in the shop!

The Prince has worked with people whose professional skills exhibit more than just a sublime naturalistic planting style; the gardens at Highgrove are also designed to maximise their value to wild life. The Brentor Garden Club much appreciated the opportunity to share with the Prince his beautiful private gardens.

Anne Clark 810035

Members' Meeting held on 18 June 2009

We were very fortunate that Ruth Binney comes to Devon from Dorset every year to stay with Mike and Anne Malleon, and needed little persuasion to come and give the Garden Club a talk.

Ruth has been editing books about gardening for the Reader's Digest, and others for many years. But when she so-called 'retired' she wanted to write her own books, and so "The Wise Words and Country Ways" series was born. There's one for cooks but it was the 'Gardeners' version from which she quoted several of the old sayings and useful hints, many causing much amusement. To name just a few:-

- Gardening is all trial and error
- Spring is recognised by plants rather than men

- The strange saying that you should plant potatoes on Good Friday, is odd considering that Easter is on a different date every year. Go by the weather!
- Where parsley grows faster, the mistress is boss
- Cauliflower is cabbage with a college education
- The popular belief that spinach is high in iron is not quite true because someone originally put the decimal point in the wrong place!
- Eating 3 cloves of garlic will improve your fertility

Some suggestions of the medicinal variety were obviously more palatable than others, but to learn about them all you must read Ruth's book.

Jill Lamerton

Visit to "Wildside" Thursday 16th August

Thirty brave souls withstood the rain and cool conditions for a guided tour by Keith Wiley of his wonderful garden "Wildside".

Keith and his wife Ros spent 25 years creating the gardens at The Garden House nearby. In 2004 they bought a 4 acre slightly sloping field and have transformed it into a stunning garden that twists and undulates.

Keith's passion is very evident: he never works from plans but goes with the feel of the land and the vision he has in his mind. The result is an area of interesting pathways, banks and ponds. The slopes have been constructed to face in all weather directions thereby allowing him to use a vast variety of plants. There are over 3,000 different types of plants in the garden. Keith likes 'community' planting and tolerates no 'prima donnas', although the Crocosmia Lucifer was stunning and the Daphne Purity perched on a pathway was quite beautiful.

Honeysuckles at Wildside are grown as shrubs and trimmed with the hedge trimmer; they apparently flower well this way. There is also a Wisteria Wood with about 20 Wisteria growing as shrubs quite informally. No plants are staked, all are left to grow in a semi wild state: the effect is quite stunning.

Keith's aim is to eventually have flower colour in his garden all the year round and it was very evident that this will be possible very soon.

Between the two gardens is an area of pergolas and adobe effect walls planted as a semi arid area. It was very effective and even on such a dull wet day one could get the feel of warmer climes!

In all Keith feels he has moved in excess of 25,000 tons of soil in his 5 years at Wildside. This sums the man up - passionate about what he is doing and totally focused. If you haven't visited Wildside do try to go - it is outstanding what two people can do with loads of enthusiasm and very little money!

In the Autumn the garden is to feature on Grand Designs - a programme on Channel 4, I understand, which should be worth watching!

Rona Baker 820308

There will be no Garden Club meeting in August.

END OF TERM BBQ

The weather was kind and we had a lovely evening. It was wonderful to see the children playing (I think the stream had some appeal). It was commented on that people didn't realise there were so many children in Brentor.

The food seemed to go well. We made a conscious decision to reduce prices this year as we want it to be a family occasion not a fund raising day. We still covered our costs and had £71 over. Thank you to everyone who helped and also for all the lovely salads.

Sheryl

Church News



Church services - August.

Christ Church

2nd	09.45a.m.	Family service, plus pets & other animals.
16th	09.45a.m.	Holy Communion

St. Michaels

Every Sunday 6.30p.m. On Sunday 30th. there will be a "pastie picnic" from 5.30p.m. on the grass in front of St. Michaels to which all are welcome.

Prayer group:

Thursday 20th. 8.00p.m. at Thorn Cottage, Burn Lane.

Eric Rhodes Churchwarden 810403



Brentor News Distribution & Advertising

If you are outside the parish and would like The Brentor News to be sent to you on-line as a PDF, send your request via email to johnw@brentor.net. A small donation to the BCT would be appreciated. All advertising copy and payment of £5 per insertion should be sent to Mike Whitfield in advance of publication, cheques payable to 'Brentor Community Trust'.

Brentor Sports Trophies

Alan Doidge, a former Brentor resident and Parish Councillor, has asked me what has happened to four silver trophies which were presented for sporting achievements in the seventies and eighties. They included:

- *Postlethwaite Cup*
- *Williams Cup*
- *Tom Brown Cup - and one other.*

The sports secretary at the time was a Mr Raine who had a daughter in the village - Judy Raine. These trophies were valuable and solid silver. If anyone has any information about these items - please contact me.

Brian Bird, Clerk to the Council

Hello!

My name is Sarah Long and I am the Organiser for Home-start West Devon. We are a national charity who recruits and trains volunteers who provide support to families in crisis.

We are currently recruiting new volunteers for West Devon for a training course which begins in September. As you can appreciate to cover such a wide area is not easy and our families very often are in the isolated areas. I do hope you can help. Please contact me by e-mail: homestart.wesdevon@btopenworld.com or phone.

Karen Scott, my administrator is also able to assist. Thanking you in anticipation.

Sarah Long - Organiser, Home-Start West Devon - 614232

For sale

Cabanon Frame Tent

- Approx 11'6" x 6'6"
- Advertised as a 3 person tent - v. comfortable for 2 adults.
- Inner tent with sewn in groundsheet provides sleeping space.
- Sun canopy.
- Easy to erect

Good condition - £100. **Tim Beavon 810564**

Diary Dates - All events at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

August

Sat	1 st	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Sheryl Burroughs	870554
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September

Sat	5 th	2.00pm	The Brentor Show!	Judy Baxter	810375
Thur	17 th	7.30pm	Garden Club "The Daffodil Project at Cotehele"	Alan Henbest	810088
Mon	21 st	7.30pm	PCC Meeting		

October

Sat	3 rd	10.30am	Coffee Morning (provisional - see below)	Sheryl Burroughs	870554
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For all hall bookings & enquiries:				Liz Wheeler	810083
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*NB Firm bookings only accepted up to the end of September, owing to likely restoration work on the hall.
More news next month.*

FINAL COPY DATE - for the September Edition

Monday 24rd August - to Mike Whitfield: mikewhit@btinternet.com