



# BRENTOR NEWS

March 2009 - Issue 353

## **Funding the Improvement of the Village Hall**

In January 2009 the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee agreed to go ahead with the replacement of the toilets, kitchen and store in the village hall. The existing ones are in a poor condition and will be demolished and rebuilt, along with a new entrance hall. The new building will be properly constructed, insulated and equipped to modern standards.

- New toilets will include a disabled person's toilet and nappy changing facility.
- There will be a much larger store so that our chairs and tables can be stored away from the main hall.
- The new entrance hall will provide easy access into the building for everyone. It will also be a useful place to hang coats and park baby buggies
- There will be a catering-quality kitchen, about 1-1/2 times the size of the current one.

All this will be built as a self-supporting structure, so that if the main hall has to be replaced in the future the new parts will be kept and incorporated into the new design.

Other work will be carried out on the main hall to slow down its deterioration and the whole building will be re-wired and painted.

All this work will cost in the region of £150,000, so how will this be financed?

- West Devon Borough Council has agreed to provide £30,000 towards the project.
- The village hall committee already has £10,000 of its own funds set aside for the work
- Several other applications for large grants towards the work have been made
- Local fund raising will continue
- The Parish Council has decided to make a contribution of up to £45,000 towards the work, provided that this is supported through a referendum

The support of the parish council is seen as critical by some potential funders. Should the Parish Council's proposal to support the improvement of the hall be rejected this will rule out most funding sources as they all are keen to see evidence of local support. We will then be faced with the hall having only a limited future.

If you want to find out more about the proposals then come along to the village hall on 7 March between 10.30 and 12.00 when plans will be on display and committee members will be happy to discuss them with you.

**Tim Beavon - 810564**

## **Brentorians Farce** - Ticket Office Open!



Brentor's own amateur theatrical group - The Brentorians - proudly presents:

## **- Cash on Delivery -** by Michael Cooney

**Thursday March 19th, Friday March 20th  
& Saturday March 21st**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Samuel French Limited

The action starts when Eric Swan attempts to untangle himself from some very questionable claims with the Department of Social Security. He soon finds his web of intrigue testing the sanity of all he encounters. Add a relationship councillor determined to discover some sexual peccadillo, a suspicious wife and you have an outstanding and hilarious night's entertainment.

The characterisations are superbly interpreted by the cast, all of whom are from Brentor. The script is very funny and the production is first class. This is a great opportunity to see some of your fellow parishioners in a new and revealing light.

The play will be staged at The Brentor Village Hall, March 19th - 21st. Tickets went on sale on March 1st so you are advised to book your seats as soon as possible.

The curtain rises each night at 7:30 pm but be there in good time for pre-performance drinks.

The play is probably not suitable for the under 7's. Tickets are priced at £5 per adult, £2.50 per child or £12.50 for a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children), and are available from:

**Helen de Carles at the Box Office on 810412**

This edition of the Brentor News should contain an insert about a referendum on the Village Hall. If, for any reason, that insert is missing please contact Brian Bird, Clerk to Brentor Parish Council on 07789 9655962.

**Robin Burdfield for Brentor Parish Council**

# Brentor Garden Club



## Gubbins ghosts and gramarye!

Adrian Shaw, who is in his twelfth year as the National Trust Head Warden at Lydford Gorge, gave an absorbing communication on the flora fauna, history, spooks, sprites and spectres of Lydford Gorge to a well attended Brentor Garden Club meeting.

Adrian told us that Lydford Gorge is known as a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI) because of the geology formation, lichens, bryophyte (mosses), fungi, wild orchid and other flora. Many of us have walked through the Gorge accompanied by the smell of wild garlic, seen the invasive skunk cabbage and admired the bluebells, but to collect some intimate details about the gorge, from such a knowledgeable person, is surely a bonus.

The Head Wardens' main management objectives are to preserve the Sessile Oak and remove non indigenous shrubs and plants. Checking the handrails, footpaths, signs, rock face, tree and branch damage is part and parcel of the Head Warden's job.

With the recent snow this year the footpaths were littered with fallen trees and branches and that has meant a lot of hard work for the Wardens and their volunteers looking after 116 acres - all useful tools/equipment have to be manually carried into the gorge. The river Lyd can rise quickly with severe rainfall and occasionally a section of the three mile circular walk has to be closed because of bridge damage and flooded footpaths.

Regular maintenance is mandatory in order to provide

the safest possible public access to 63,000 to 65,000 visitors per year.

Lydford Gorge was given to the National Trust by Squire Radford in 1943 and opened for the public to enjoy in 1947. The gorge has been etched out and sculptured by a constant pounding of escaping boulders and stones flowing along the river over a 450,000 year period; one of its' main features being the Devil's Cauldron carved out over a period of 10,000 years. The White Lady waterfall that at one time was called the 'Cascade' is an attractive feature. Air Ambulance and the Fire Brigade are important to the gorge and they have had very occasional access, over the years, to assist with visitor accidents.

Wildlife is in abundance in the gorge - badger, fox, deer (roe and red), bats, otters and many other mammals. A well managed bird hide, where a variety of birds can be viewed, has been erected along an old railway line that used to run along the edge of the gorge. Tawny owl has been heard, dipper has been seen and buzzard, woodpecker, raven and many other birds can be easily sighted by the visitor.

The gorge has, in the past, provided important historical defensive positions and acted as a fortification when the Vikings attacked; at one time there was a Norman castle and in 1195 a medieval castle was built. The Gubbins - a peculiar race of people and said to be able to outrun a horse - were early inhabitants of Lydford Gorge and their crimes were rife! The Lydford (castle) prison has many ghosts - the jailer of the prison haunts the doorways, Judge Jeffries (the hanging judge) has taken the form of a black pig - only to be seen on a dark night, Lady Howard (questionable number of deceased husbands) haunts the road between Lydford to Okehampton and Captain Jack, an infamous highwayman (hanged on nearby Gibbet Hill) are just a few. What are the 'orbs' (small opalescent spheres) that can occasionally be seen on digital photographs - spirits? Adrian admits to seeing them for real!

Anne Clarke - 810035

## Garden Club - next Meeting:

*"The Art of Making Walking Sticks"*  
- Keith Symons

Thursday March 26th  
(note this is the FOURTH Thursday of the month!)

### Coffee Morning

We thought a regular coffee morning, held in the Village Hall, once a month, would be a good way of keeping in touch. So come along on Saturday 7th March 10.30-12. We will have tea/coffee available and biscuits.

We would like to offer a 'gluttony' table, so bring along excess jams, marmalade, eggs, cakes, pies etc. A 10% donation to Hall funds would be welcome.

Any other info please contact either

Sheryl 870554 or  
Kate Kelly 810287

## Brentor Wine Evening

Another enjoyable and noisy evening in the Village Hall with a capacity audience! We had great presentations and tastings from Sara Walker-Smith, John Burrows and Martin Kent - and Robin's blind tasting competition foxed everyone, save for one wine connoisseur who won the Champagne. Kind donations and a good take-up of raffle tickets helped significantly toward the sum of £160 (plus) we are able to contribute to the Village Hall fund.

Very many thanks to all involved.

John Wheeler 810083

## QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 24th April  
8pm at Village Hall

A fun evening to raise funds for the hall.

£6.00 for entry of a team of 4.

Bring a bottle.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Dave Williams 810375



## **PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE DAY**

Sunday 29th March, 2009 at 10.30a.m.

Our playing field is wanting care  
And D.I.Y. is needed.  
There is no time to stand and stare –  
Your garden tools are wanted!  
The 'Willow Walk' has wandered,  
Her curves no longer trim,  
Her flexures now quite cloistered  
With Springs' indulgent claim!  
Come! Shift, shear, lop, pull, trim and tuck  
With lots of fun included!  
Clip, crop, mow and make compact –  
No-one will be excluded!  
Feb. is gone and March is here;  
Spring season just begun.  
Do YOU have some time to spare  
To be there - rain or sun?

**Anne Clarke - 810035**

## **"Riding Adventure"**

Mexico to Canada, New Zealand and Ireland  
- by Horseback

A Lecture by Tracey Elliot-Reep  
at

The Nicholls Hall Lydford  
Saturday 18th April 7.30pm

Tickets £6 from  
Felicity Darwell, Hall Farm, Lydford - 820252

In aid of St Petrocs Parish Church, Lydford  
Light refreshments and raffle

## **Thank You...**

May we, through the column of the Brentor News, thank villagers and parishioners for their kindness and best wishes on Alan's retirement from the Parish of Brentor. We thank you for the card, cake flowers and gifts. They are appreciated.

Best Wishes

**Alan & Susan Sykes**

## **LAMERTON POINT-TO-POINT STEEPLECHASE**

**SUNDAY 24TH MARCH**

**KILWORTHY, NR TAVISTOCK**

**FIRST RACE 12.30 AM**

- Bar - Bookmakers - Refreshments -

Car and driver £10 / Other passengers + £5

## *Church News*



### **Workshop in preparation for Mothering Sunday.**

We are planning to hold our annual workshop on Thursday 19th March at the Coronation Hall in Mary Tavy, between 3.30 & 5.00p.m.. Designed for primary school age, we will be giving our time and talents to create gifts for our mothers, in celebration of Mothering Sunday.

The workshop starts with refreshments and quiet time during which we explore God's gift of our parents, and in particular our mothers. In groups we then create gifts to offer on Mothering Sunday. This time because Brentor village hall is unavailable we will be in Mary Tavy so we hope we can welcome new children to our workshop.

To help us prepare, please book in with one of us beforehand. A nominal donation of £1 to cover costs is requested.

**Mary 810849 Jackie 810683 Sally 810285**

### **Prayer Group**

During Lent we will meet every Wednesday at 7.30p.m. at Station House where we will discuss the special Lent course prepared by the Diocese designed to help reflect and respond to the changing world we are part of. The concluding part will follow our annual parish meeting on 1st April.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The churches equivalent to an AGM takes place on Wednesday 1st April at 7.30p.m. in Christchurch to which everybody is welcome to attend.

### **Womens World Day of Prayer**

The annual service will be held at Mary Tavy Methodist chapel on Friday 6th March at 6.00p.m.

**Eric Rhodes 810403**

### **Services Brentor March**

1st March 9.45am Christchurch

8th March 6.30pm Christchurch

15th March 9.45am Christchurch

22nd March 4.30pm Mothering Sunday Service Christchurch

29th March Benefice Service 10.30am Christchurch

On 22nd February Ian Sykes officiated at the 9.45am service for the final time on his retirement as Curate in Brentor. There was a leaving coffee morning and special presentation after the service in the village hall to say goodbye and Thank you for his dedication to the community of the village.

After that during the month of March the services will be taken by Tony Wilds – priest in charge and John Higman Assistant Curate.

From April Brentor will come under the wing of Tavistock, and we will have the opportunity to have some of our services, including the services at St Michaels on the hill, taken by Rev Michael Brierly, Priest in charge.

Your support would be most welcome during this period of change. Many Thanks

**Sheila Downs 820382**



## Auction of Promises

### Village Hall and Playing Field fund-raiser

We last had an auction of promises in 2007. It proved to be a great success in both raising funds and providing an entertaining evening out. We will be holding another auction on 8th May. In addition to the usual running costs, this year we have been paying for costs associated with developing proposals for replacing the toilets and kitchen and providing more storage space.

The auction works like this:

People donate for auction things with a value to others, but which doesn't cost the donor anything other than time, eg 3 hours of gardening or DIY, cooking a special meal, offering a taxi service for an evening. Last time we had around 30 very varied lots. Once you start thinking about what people in the village could offer it gets quite exciting! These items are put up for auction with a reserve or guide price and all successful bids are donated to the fund.

So we'd love to hear from you with what you are able to promise for the auction! If you have a promise to donate or an idea you'd like to talk through please get in touch.

**John and Angela Evans - 810629**  
**jalevans@gotadsl.co.uk**

## Our Road

It was with much gratitude to Nick Bowles in the Barnstaple office of the Public Highways Department that we had a new tarmac surface on the majority of our road in late 2008.

I have also received confirmation that that the road is public to its full extent.

**Kim Claridge 810192**

## Wildlife painting and drawing course with Jennie Hale.

An exciting new course for those interested in drawing wildlife in the field.

Using a sketch book, keeping a nature journal - Jennie will demonstrate and talk about her approach to wildlife drawing and painting.

- The dates, the times and the places where you will stand a good chance of encountering wildlife.
- The materials and equipment she uses to draw and paint while working outside.
- Our classroom will be a yurt in the garden at Longham pottery with its woodstove for the colder days
- There will be feeding stations for wild birds around the garden, so that you will have an opportunity to draw from life. Live small mammals will be available to draw in tanks.
- Leaves, nuts, berries, plants feathers and flowers, can all be collected to study.
- At suitable times of year Jennie will moth trap in her garden to give an opportunity for you to paint and draw these beautiful insects.

Materials: Pencil and watercolour, this will be the starting point. If you can, bring your own. Or ask Jennie for a starting list. Other materials will be available for you to try.

Dates: March 27th, 28th - May 8th, 9th - July 17th, 18th - Sept 18th, 19th

Times: 10am to 4pm Arrive 9.45 Coffee tea.

£45 per day - bring packed lunch. Tea, coffee biscuits available all day.

**Jennie Hale, Longham Pottery, Coryton - 860287**



## Parish Council News

The following is a copy of the notice currently on display in the village concerning the PCC vacancy.

### PARISH COUNCIL OF

BRENTON

WARD

## VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

1. There is a vacancy on the above Council caused by

RESIGNATION OF A COUNCILLOR

2. A bye-election to fill the vacancy will be held if within 14 days (not counting a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or a Bank Holiday) from the date below ten electors for the ward/parish give notice in writing claiming such an election to the Returning Officer.

3. The Address of the Returning Officer is: WEST DEVON BOROUGH

COUNCIL, KILWORTHY PARK, TAVISTOCK

4. If no such notice is given the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.

Dated: 02/03/09

By

Signed

[Signature]

Clerk

Address: THE OLDE COTTAGE, DIPPERTOWN

LEWDONAL, DEVON, EX20 4PT

Note: Strike out paragraphs 2 and 3 if the vacancy occurs within six months before the fourth day after the ordinary day of elections for the council.

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**NALC**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

**Villages in Action  
at the Nicholls Hall, Lydford**

**Alex Horne's One Man Show**

**'BIRDWATCHING'**

7.30 on Wednesday 1st April

"A first class comedy show" - The Stage

"The most inventive show I have seen all year" -  
The Observer

"Gloriously Inventive Stuff" - The Times

"A joyful, brilliant blend of the playfully random  
and meticulously planned"  
- The Independent on Sunday

**Adrian Hepworth 820345**

### **Village Website - an Update**

When you get this issue of Brentor News <http://www.brentorvillage.org/> will still carry that discouraging message "*Sorry - site is offline for maintenance*", but behind the scenes the editors who have provided information about village activities will shortly be given user names and passwords and will be able to update their original contributions, which will have been laid out for them in 'Article Manager'. By the time the April issue is published, we expect the website to be live, and the 'offline' message gone.

The other good news is that the BCT, whose project this is, have decided that the current Brentor News will be put on the site each month, as Mike says in his article in the next column. So the editors won't have to replicate information already in BN, and if you mislay your copy of BN temporarily, you'll be able to find it on the website instead.

**Alan Ray-Jones 810606**

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### **Brentor Playing Field Tidy-up - Sunday Morning 29th March - All Welcome!**

Please come and help with the gardening and other jobs needed at the play area on Sunday 29th March 10.30 to 12.30. All ages welcome..... strimmers welcome .... loppers welcome.... coffee and cake provided for you hard workers!! Half an hour very acceptable. Just turn up any time to help with maintenance of this important area. Thank you.

**John Evans - 810629**

*(there is a POEM about this event on another page....)*

### **The Brentor Village website - your permission required**

The construction of the first draft of the Brentor Village website is nearing completion, thanks to the magnificent efforts of Alan Ray-Jones and John Wheeler, and the dedication of a small group of editors. The Brentor Community Trust, which is sponsoring the website, has agreed that no personal material should appear without the explicit permission of those most closely involved. We are taking these precautions to meet the worries that people may have about identity theft and unwanted phone calls. There is a useful website giving details of how to keep safe online at <http://www.getsafeonline.org/>. In practical terms, this initially concerns the publication of pictures and contact details.

#### **Pictures.**

All pictures used to illustrate the website must have the permission of the copyright holders, and of any individuals who are recognisable in them. The website editors will obtain these permissions, where possible by exchange of emails (not verbally), and Alan Ray-Jones will record them.

#### **Contact details**

Contact details (e.g. e-mail addresses, phone numbers) will only be included in the website with the permission of the individuals concerned. All email addresses are disguised ('obfuscated') automatically.

#### **Directory of Permissions**

For contact details we are keeping a 'Directory of Permissions' given to the editors of web pages and Brentor News. We will assume that permissions given will stand until they are specifically withdrawn. Remember - this is an 'opt in' system and it is up to you to keep it up-to-date!

#### **Pages on the Brentor Village website**

The editors of the individual pages have already obtained the permission for the publication of pictures and contact details of those involved in the draft website. They will continue to do this as the pages are updated in the future.

#### **Brentor News**

Each month the current Brentor News will be available for download from the website. Contact details will be included in this web version only if you give your permission to the editor when submitting an article or a diary date, unless you are already in the 'Directory of Permissions'.

The paper copy of the Brentor News (with full contact details) will continue to be delivered to every household free of charge each month.

Please contact me if you have any questions to raise about this approach.

**Mike Whitfield 810209**

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### **Big Brentor Brunch report**

Just to report that the BBB made a profit of approximately £250, which will all go towards Village Hall funds.

Thanks to all who helped.

**Pat Blower**

## 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](mailto: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.

### Your property's helping hand.

[www.jswilson.co.uk](http://www.jswilson.co.uk)

I can help with your indoor or outdoor jobs whether it is gardening, decorating, carpentry or simply another pair of hands on a larger job. *Everything considered, just ask!*

*I have skills in the following: Stone walling ~ Strawbale construction ~ Lime Mortar/ Plaster ~ Cob Building/ repairs ~ Hedge laying (Dartmoor National Park trained) ~ Coppicing ~ Green Oak woodwork ~ All types of property improvement undertaken.*

I am a trustworthy, hardworking, reliable and cheerful chap. Please drop me a line to discuss your needs. Fully Insured.

**Contact Jamie. 01822 810637 ~ 07799416210 or [jamie.wilson78@yahoo.com](mailto:jamie.wilson78@yahoo.com)**

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

Mondays	2.00pm	Unfinished Business	Sue Stephens	860374
Tuesdays	7.30pm	Yoga	Jennifer Heyworth	810137
March				
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee Morning & Village Hall Plans	Sheryl Burroughs	870554
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Robin Burdfield	810412
<b>Sat 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00am to 12.00 noon</b>	<b>Village Hall Referendum</b>	Brian Bird	07789 965 5962
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 for 7.30pm	curtain up - "Cash on Delivery" - Brentorians	Helen de Carles	810412
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	"	"	"	"
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	"	"	"	"
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Village Hall Meeting	Tim Beavon	810564
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Garden Club - 'Walking Sticks'	Alan Henbest	810088
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Playing Field Maintenance Day	John Evans	810629
April				
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting, Christchurch	Eric Rhodes	810403
" "	7.30pm	'Birdwatching' - VIA Nicholls Hall, Lydford	Adrian Hepworth	820345
Thu 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Garden Club - Willow Weaving	Alan Henbest	810088
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	'Riding Adventure' - Nicholls Hall, Lydford	Felicity Darwell	820252
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Quiz Night	Dave Williams	810375

For all hall bookings & enquiries:

Liz Wheeler

810083

**FINAL COPY DATE - for the April Edition**

**Monday 23rd March - to Mike Whitfield: [mikewhit@btinternet.com](mailto:mikewhit@btinternet.com)**