

COUNCIL HOUSES: RENTS & REPAIRS

So read the item on the Parish Council Agenda as a result of the tenants' request that these matters should be discussed. Consequently the Chairman arranged that the tenants and the W.D.D.C. Housing representatives should meet in the Village Hall on November 24th.

Ms. Hawkins - Chairperson of the Housing Committee - Ms. Pinder and a Treasury official were closely questioned by tenants and parish councillors: first about the 70p portion of next April's rent increase - the full extent of which is not yet known - supposed to pay for maintenance and repair of the houses. Much of this maintenance is undertaken by private contractor as the Council can't afford to employ the labour force needed. Ms. Hawkins explained that a 6 year rolling programme of continuous maintenance has been established. The irony of this was not lost on Council tenants some of whom live in houses built 40 years ago that have never been modernised and for which they pay over £17 rent a week. Others live in houses that haven't been painted for 20 years - and must now wait until 1982 - and the rents go on increasing just the same!

Notes were made by W.D.D. Councillors of tenants' very real complaints. These were that glass panes - for which the tenant is financially responsible - break because the rusted steel window frames expand and contract with air temperature, that tiles hanging dangerously by a chimney had not been fixed although reported twice and although an official had claimed that the work was done, that pipes loosened for a painting job had never been fixed back but banged against the wall of the house, that front doors facing the full force of wind and rain had been fitted but had never been primed or painted so they were too swollen to open or shut properly, that sewer pipes had not been lain deeply enough but only 3 inches below the gardens' surface and that an electric power pole had never been moved even though the Parish Council had also asked over 2 years ago that the space should be made for lorries to turn safely.

The Parish Council members present supported the Council tenants in their request that these matters should be attended to and that inspections of maintenance work should take place regularly.

Ms. Hawkins said that she would report on all the difficulties. "I would agree with you that things haven't been good" she said. She gave the assurance that all the complaints would be followed up. Ms. Pinder suggested that complaints should be sent in, in writing, and that tenants should phone the Maintenance Officer at Tavistock 5911. It was also suggested that a tenants' association should be formed.

Did the meeting do any good? Undoubtedly it was useful to clear the air and meet the Councillors. Will it make any difference? Some shrugged philosophically. After all as Ms. Hawkins had said it was a question of money, which brings us back to the policies of central Government.

JEAN WHITFIELD

METHODIST CHURCH

A Carol Evening will be held at 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 21st. Do come along and join in singing your favourite carols.

STELLA CLARINGBOLD

CHARITY PARTY AT 'BONNAFORD', IN AID OF TIBETAN REFUGEES IN TASHI JONG,
INDIAN HIMALAYAS

Through the medium of your newsletter, may we thank all of our friends who gave their kind support to our Appeal on the 16th October? To those who managed to get here for the Stainless-Steel Party, a very warm thank you for your generous support - to those who were unable to come but who either supported one of our raffles or sent donations, a very special thank you for your caring concern. The actual evening of the 16th raised a total of £78.00, a truly wonderful sum for such a small gathering - this amount added to other funds raised by activities of members of the family, and friends, during the preceding 3 weeks, brought our grand total to £480.00! This sum was spent in paying the (specially reduced) Air Fare of a 'practical' handyman volunteer, and to help with the fare and expenses (and some very basic medicines) of the young S.R.N. - (a victim of Multiple Sclerosis) who had offered 6 months of her precious life freely, to help the people in Tashi Jong.

These two selfless volunteers left London on the 23rd of October for New Delhi, and arrived after a series of small mishaps! in the Dharamsala region (nr. Tashi-Jong) almost one week later!

News has been regular ever since, both pleasant and not so pleasant. Life in Tashi Jong, whilst happy is far from healthy and both volunteers testify to their first 'distressing' tastes of local 'Tummy-Bug'! Our 'practical' volunteer writes of the total lack of sanitation, running water etc. There is one tap in the village and a nearby stream ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile away) which is used for all purposes! His job is going to be multifaceted - first, major cleansing operations, then finding ways of piping water, so that all families may have a tap and a toilet - next the planting of seeds for desperately needed food, and trees for equally desperately needed shelter in the broiling summers. These are just a few of the grim tasks immediately facing him, and without tools of any kind! Our young Nurse Jane writes in similar vein, but from a different angle, her needs are very basic - She tells us that a cupboard for the one-room dispensary/surgery would be useful, and that a fridge for storing medicines, a God-send! Also funds for buying medicines and simple items like gauze and disinfectant, antiseptic and plasters, etc., would give her at least a fighting chance to help the village. She also needs a plastic box (1) for storing cotton wool! All available on the Indian market but money is something Tashi-Jong does not have. Jane tells us as does Peter, that the Tibetans are lovely happy people, and so thrilled to have English friends who care for them enough to actually help - but that they sorely need educating in simple matters. The children are delightful, but says Jane, 'few are clean, in fact most are filthy, with running sores and lice and continuous outbreaks of fevers, T.B. being fairly common'.

We have had letters of thanks from the President for the Community, also from the young Tibetan teacher who has devoted his life to Tashi-Jong, and a letter from the students of the Tashi Jong Junior School, who ask if our village has any school-age children who would write to them? They are very keen to learn of English life and to have pen-friends? All letters can be seen here, or copies can be seen at Station House and the Post Office.

Our next fund-raising event will be held in the Church Hall on Thursday the 4th of December at 7.30 p.m. This will be a slide-show and talk, hopefully by Jane Osborne-Fellows, the teacher from Truro who pioneered this wonderful work and who's enthusiasm gave us the inspiration to carry on where she through ill-health had had to leave off. The slides will be followed by refreshments, raffles with many prizes, (donations warmly welcome!) and a Christmas Bazaar with stalls (lots of inexpensive stocking fillers).

Melita Baker.

Entrance is free! Do please help us to make Christmas a little brighter for others, as well as ourselves. What better way can there be to celebrate the beginning of the Season of the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace and Love, than by extending a Christian hand across the world to some of His more 'forgotten' little ones?

We should like to extend our warm thanks to Mary Booker for her donation and interest, and to wish her a rapid and full return to good health.

John and Melita Baker,
'Bonnaford',
Brentor.

RED CROSS MONTHLY DRAW...

Brentor continues to participate in the Devon County "Little Endeavour" scheme, and the number of contributors remains fairly constant at about eighty.

Although the first prize of over £100 has yet to come our way we have appeared in the list of consolation prize-winners (approximately £7.50) every few months or so.

It may be that some comparative newcomers to our community are not aware of this opportunity to help the British Red Cross Society, whose work through the world is well enough known to merit no advertisement here. If anyone would like to become a regular contributor (10p a month) they should get in touch with me, or one of our four Collectors - Mrs Blanchford (Broadmead Barn), Miss Dunn (Rose Cottage, The Court), Mrs Jasper (3 Hammer Park), Mrs K Lashbrook (1 Station View), who will arrange for the necessary Contributor's Card to be issued.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank most warmly, on behalf of all our contributors, those ladies for the faithful service they have rendered in this cause over the years past.

LAURENCE LEFEVRE

BRENTOR W.I.

At the Annual Meeting of the W.I. the following officers and committee were elected. President - Mrs Weston; Secretary - Mrs Pritchard; Treasurer - Mrs Durrage; Vice-Presidents - Mrs Hallam and Mrs Purvis; Committee: Mrs Blowy, Mrs Davey, Miss Dunn, Mrs Goodman and Mrs Sibley.

Retiring President, Mrs Sibley, thanks member for all their help and support during the past year, and Mrs Emberson, V.C.O. then gave a short talk on programme planning.

The programme for the coming year was agreed and arrangements made for a pre-Christmas visit to Cotehele.

The competition - Wales - Was won by Mrs Pritchard, joint 2nd Mrs Daly and Mrs Sibley, 3rd Mrs. Frost.

Wed. 7th Jan. Members' Favourite Recipes.

MARION PRITCHARD

YOUNG LADIES GROUP...

On Saturday, December 20th, there will be a children's Christmas party in the Village Hall at 3.00 p.m. All children aged 11 and under are invited. There will be a film show and plenty of refreshments and Father Christmas will undoubtedly make an appearance! Due to the tremendous turnout last year, any donation of biscuits, etc. would be most welcome. - MORE FROM THE LADIES GROUP ON PAGE 4.

CHURCH NEWS

This issue of the News appears just as we are entering Advent, the period in the Church year leading up to the greatest of the Christian festivals, the celebration of the birth of Christ.

This year we are planning the usual Carol Evening in the Church Hall to which everyone in the village is invited; it will be at 7 p.m. on Monday 22 December so please come along and enjoy the singing and the mince pies!

On Tuesday 23 December at 2 p.m. there will be the usual 'get together' to decorate Christ Church for Christmas; holly and the usual foliage and flowers will all be very welcome if you have any. St Michael's will also be decorated and anyone who can help with decorating materials for the little church on the Tor should contact Miss Betty Gilbert.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Midnight Communion service (the more modern version - Series 3) at 11.45 p.m. in the village at Christ Church. On Christmas Day there will be a short Family Service at 10.30 a.m. followed by Communion at 11 a.m. (Prayer Book version). At 3.00 p.m. there will be Evensong at St Michael's Church for those who feel like a walk up to the Tor after partaking of the traditional turkey and Christmas pudding!

To round off the Christmas festival there will be a service of 9 lessons and carols at 6.30 p.m. on 28 December, the last Sunday in the old year; this will be in Christ Church as usual.

Incidentally, for those who have not recently climbed the Tor, we now have a handsome stone path which circles the outside of the little church. For the construction of this we are all grateful for the help given by the staff of the Dartmoor National Park - not to mention the stone-heaving gangs of volunteers from the Parish.

The evening of Favourite Hymns, to celebrate the Centenary of the Parish of Brentor was enjoyed by a large number of friends. Many thanks to those who organised the occasion and contributed in any way.

++++++

JOHN WESTON

YOUNG LADIES GROUP continued... We will be decorating the Hall that Saturday morning at 11.00 a.m. and any donations of spare ornaments or decorations would be appreciated. We will be Carol singing on the evening of December 23rd and anyone wishing to join us please meet at the War Memorial at 7.00 p.m. We will end up at the Brentor Inn for mince pies and sausage rolls.

++++++

DIARY DATES... DECEMBER

4th	Thurs.	7.30 p.m.	Church Hall	- Slide-Show, talk & Christmas Bazaar in aid of Tashi Jone.
20th	Sat.		Village Hall, Young Ladies Group	- Christmas Party
21st	Sun.	8.00 p.m.	Methodist Church	Carol Evening
22nd	Mon.	7.00 p.m.	Church Hall	Carol Evening
23rd	Tues.	2.00 p.m.	Christ Church	Decorate Church
23rd	Tues.	7.00 p.m.	Young Ladies Group	Carol Singing Evening
24th	Wed.		Christ Church	Midnight Communion
25th	Thurs.			Christmas Day Church Services 10.30 a.m. & 3.00 p.m. see above
28th	Sun.	6.30 p.m.	Christ Church	Carols & Lessons

++++++

Many thanks to the five people who kindly offered to help with the typing of the magazine. We hope to start a rotor system. This month's issue was typed by Honor Wood and myself.

JEANETTE EMMETT

SORRY WE HAVE NO SPACE FOR CONTRIBUTORS. All contributions for next month's issue to be in by 22nd December, 1980.