

BRENTOR NEWS

No 3. January 1980.

Editorial...

This third issue of BRENTOR NEWS was produced at the end of one decade and will hopefully be read at the beginning of another. We look back to bygone Brentor with the first part of a contribution from Stella Claringbold on her childhood in Brentor. Looking to the future we report the results of the parish meeting held in December to discuss the boundary proposals from West Devon District Council. The outcome of the meeting was the Brentor proposals outlined below. The proposals will be put forward to a special hearing to be held in Tavistock on February 15th. Brentor News intends to keep the village informed of developments in the boundary discussions.

.....ooOoo.....

News from the Parish Council...

The most important business of the month for the Parish Council was a Parish Meeting called to discuss the proposed amalgamation of Brentor Parish with Coryton, Lydford Town and parts of Bridestowe parishes.

In spite of appalling weather there was good attendance at the meeting which was held in Brentor Village Hall on 12th December.

Mr Ireland, our local District Councillor, explained the reasons and possible implications of such an amalgamation. Following this there was a general discussion by the parishioners. A vote was then taken in which the meeting unanimously rejected the changes as set out by the West Devon District Council.

During the discussion it became apparent that many of those present at the meeting felt that if changes were to be made to the boundary then West Blackdown, together with the remaining railway cottages at Lydford Station should become part of Brentor Parish.

Accordingly a resolution was passed by a large majority (22 to 2) that:

"We the parishioners of Brentor propose that the existing parish boundary should be redrawn to include the area known as West Blackdown together with the remaining Railway Cottages at Lydford Station, and that the northern limit of Brentor parish should be formed by the stream which leads to the White Lady waterfall."

a map showing the proposed new boundary line will be on display at Brentor Post Office or can be seen by appointment with any of your Parish Councillors.

Edwin Blowey: Vice Chairman, Parish Council.

Parish Boundary proposals....

Following preliminary consultations with parishes West Devon District Council has established a date for a a meeting the Parish Boundary Review Sub-Committee. The meeting will be at the Council's Offices in Tavistock on Friday 15th February at 10.30a.m. Individuals or organisations are entitled to make observations either in person at the meeting or by letter to Mr G.E.G.Cotton, Chief Executive and Secretary, West Devon District Council, Kilworthy Hill, Tavistock.

Mr.V.F. Ireland, Mawingo, Brentor Road, Mary Tavy (Phone Mary Tavy 430) is our West Devon District Councillor, and is very willing to advise people on procedures and rights.

W.I. News

The festive season got off to a good start when the W.I. entertained some 50 members and friends from the village and neighbouring institutes to a Christmas Ploughman's Lunch in the Village Hall. After lunch Mr Peter Thurley showed a delightful collection of slides entitled All Things Bright and Beautiful and the afternoon ended in true festive spirit with the singing of carols and Auld Land Syne. Special thanks should go to Mrs Purvis and her hard working band of helpers for providing such an excellent lunch. Next meeting: Wednesday 2nd January: Speaker Mr Penna (Water Bailiff)
Wednesday 6th Feb.... Mrs Lethbridge (Supper Dishes)

Marion Pritchard.

BRENTOR COMMUNITY SHOP continues to open every Wednesday in the Church Hall from 10am to 12 noon. We carry about 100 lines of handy groceries and provisions and there is usually a good selection of Brentor made fare on the mini-market. You can buy a cup of tea or coffee and have a chat with friends. Everybody is welcome.

PLAYGROUP..... The Brentor Playgroup is very grateful for all those who bought tickets for the Christmas Raffle. The money will go towards further much needed equipment for the children.

The Playgroup has a very happy end of term when Father Christmas (arrived at the Church Hall with the kind aid of Ali Hayes driving pony and trap. Thanks to John Weston for arranging the personal appearance of Santa.

Playgroup meets again on Tuesday January 8th at 10.30pm as usual.

Gill Gorbett

Brentor Church notes...

The Christmas Festival has passed and we look forward to the New Year with fresh hopes for Brentor, its church and its community of parishioners. We also think of those communities less fortunate than ourselves in the hope that by prayer and practical help their lot may be improved.

The first meeting of the Parochial Council will be on Tuesday 22nd January in the Church Hall when it is hoped that it will be possible to consider the pattern of services for the future, taking into account the replies received to the questionnaire which has been circulated recently. Hopefully this will result in the sort of services which will be most helpful to those who at present attend church and at the same time encourage others to come along too.

The two churches in the village have just their five yearly architects inspection. Inevitably there are matters needing attention and we have to dip again heavily into parish church funds if specialist reports prove to be unsatisfactory.

Historical note.... that on March 27th 1823 the Rural Dean reported that "This Church (St Michaels on the Tor) needs no repairs, neither does the fence around the churchyard." But on December 29th 1874 the then Archdeacon of Totness the Church records

"Visited this church this day, it requires a thorough restoration and from its isolated position and the fact that it is still used by very good congregations in most weathers the greater number being of the poorer classes it is hoped that some external aid may be given to carry out a very thorough restoration which it is beyond the power of the parishioners and neighbourhood to undertake. There are many points of interest/which ought to be carefully preserved."

On that occasion "the external aid" came from the ninth Duke of Bedford who came to rescue a few years later in 1839/90 when St Michael had become delapidated. He replaced the roof and generally restored the old church to roughly its present condition at a cost of £728 - an enormous sum of money in those days.

Unfortunately there are fears about the condition of the woodwork installed then and this has to be investigated. However on this occasion we shall have to find the money from our own resources!

JOHN WESTON

Secretary to Brentor Parochial
Church Council.

It has been suggested that I write about Brentor as I can recall it between fifty five and sixty years ago, so I will endeavour to record village life as I remember it then.

Come with me to the school then, where there were between forty and fifty pupils and two teachers-- a headmistress and an infants teacher. When I was between five and six years I remember vividly being told to instruct the little girl who shared my desk in the art of knitting (She is now Mrs Elsie Downing) We had thick wooden needles and thick wool and my instructions were "In, out, through, off."

Being a Church of England school the vicar was a regular visitor. I recall one such gentleman being at our annual Christmas party when a 'Question and answers game' was in progress. To the question "How old am I?" a pupil had written 92!! Not complimentary to the vicar -- I don't suppose he was more than fifty years of age!

What a lovely aroma comes from the bakery as we skip along on our way home from school. There saffron cake and bread in vast quantities were baked, not only for our village but delivered to many villages around. This was a family business run by Mr Alf Brimacombe and Sons. On a summer's day large sieves of sultanas, raisins and currants were to be seen drying on the walls of the approach to the shop. Occasionally we'd run in for a pennyworth of sweets. What a decision we'd have to make! Shall it be sweets from gleaming glass jars of 'lambs tails, those gaily coloured sugar-coated sweets, raspberry or lemon drops, green gob-stoppers or shining yellow sweets with sherbert in the middle? With a deft twist of the fingers a piece of paper is miraculously turned into a cone-shaped bag and is safely tucked into the pocket of one's apron -- or 'pinny'.

A dozen or so turkeys were kept by the postmistress' mother, a Mrs Minhinnick at the smallholding adjoining the post office. These gave much pleasure to the children as they trotted from the yard across the road into the field opposite. The chant of "Turkey, turkey show your pride" often resulted in these creatures fanning their beautiful tails.

The Southern Railway was of course our transport, fare to Tavistock then being 7½d. return and about 2 shillings return to Plymouth -- a great adventure this, to spend a day at Plymouth. If trains coming from the Tavistock direction could be heard more clearly than when they were going in the direction of Lydford, we knew rain was on the way, the wind was 'back'. But the sound from trains being more pronounced on the 'upward track' meant the wind was 'up' and colder, drier weather was imminent.

Mail for the Post Office arrived and was despatched by train and

was carried to and fro by various people over the years. I think the 'mail trains' were the 7.10 am and 8.20pm. I well remember a character of sterling worth, a Mrs Polly Medland, carrying the mail bags over her shoulder. All letters were sorted here and outgoing mail was franked at the post office. The only public telephone was in the corner of the Post Office and was probably only used in cases of extreme urgency. One postman, a Mr Daniel Cooke, was also the village cobbler. What a collection of footwear on his bench in his tiny shop near the Methodist Chapel. Boots of all sizes lie there and a few ladies shoes, maybe some leggings which needed a new strap or a buckle stitched on. Even with a mouthful of tacks the cobbler could carry on a conversation with anyone who cared to call, a childish mind after wondered what disaster would befall if he sneezed and tacks slid into his throat instead of outwards! Mr Cooke had a fine voice and sang many a solo at Christian Endeavour meetings held next door. A connection between soles and souls perhaps? Many years before he proudly led the Village Band in a procession around the village- before my time alas!

(to be continued...Ed.)

Youth Club Report....

Brentor Youth Club has now been running successfully for 6 months. We had our Christmas party on the 18th December which was well supported. Our thanks to Andy Davenport and his friend who provided the Disco. The 21st December was our Carol singing which raised £10.10. Thanks to all who turned up and especially to Mike Marrish, John and Jenny Venning and Mrs and Mr Ormsby.

Youth Club start again on January 3rd 1980.

Our 4th football match was won once again by Brentor which makes the result 2 all.

Happy New Year to all from the Youth Club. Ali and Paula.

UGANDA REFUGEE APPEAL FUND....

In answer to an appeal from the above organisation two films "Return to Uganda" and "Gods Harambee" are being shown in the Church Hall, Brentor on Monday 4th February 1980 at 7.30pm.

No charge will be made but a collection will be taken, by which means it is hoped that all expenses will be met and it will be possible to send a substantial amount to the Fund.

Uganda, although now policed by the Tanzanian troops is comparatively peaceful, is still suffering both materially and morally from the ravages of Idi Amin's reign of terror when over 200,000 were slaughtered. Funds are urgently needed for the reconstruction of the country.

Noel Blanchford.

A CHILDREN'S STORY...

It was a cold December morning.
Mrs Robin was busy looking for food.
Her favourite tree was a hawthorn which had been lovely and green in the summer but now was covered in little red egglets. But she heard her friend Bobby Blackbird twittering away trying to tell her something. He was making a very loud noise perched on top of the clothes line. I wonder what he was trying to tell Mrs Robin?
Mrs Robin flew backwards and forwards, her little heart beating so her feathers were all ruffled up with fright but Bobby Blackbird was still making a very loud noise.
Mrs Robin thought she would fly back in the Christmas Tree and wait to see what was going on. She stayed ever so quiet, her little head looking from one tree to another.
Then Bobby Blackbird spied a piece of bread on the grass so he thought he would fly down to eat it. And suddenly there was a great big furry shape coming towards him.
Mrs Robin saw this from the Christmas tree and swooped down on the furry shape, right on his back. It was the Ginger Tom cat from next door. He spat and he spat and he ran as fast as his legs could carry him.
Then Bobby Blackbird went back to the clothes post to sing a lovely song. He sang "thank you" to Mrs Robin, "you've saved my life."
..... by Dorothy Brooks.

BRENTOR DIARY January 1980

2nd. W.I.

7th. Village Hall Committee 7.30pm

14th Parish Council 7.30pm.

16th Brentor Community Centre 8p.m.

19th BCC Film now cancelled.

22nd Parochial Church Council.

February.

4th Films on Uganda Church Hall 7.30pm.

Brentor News would like to thank the Brentor Ladies Group for organising the Annual Children's Christmas Party on the 15th December. Every body (and not least the children!) enjoyed themselves and appreciated your efforts.

COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE... will be 20th January. Please keep it all rolling in. With apologies for the late delivery of this issue.

This issue of BRENTOR NEWS was produced by David and Gill Gorbutt with the help of Edwin Blowey, Marion Pritchard, John Weston, Stella Claringbold, Ali Hayes, Paula Marsh, Dorothy Brooks and Noel Blanchford.