

News from the Parish Council

VILLAGE ACTION COURSE FOR BRENTOR? At its meeting on Monday 5th January, the Parish Council was addressed by Alastair Tinto from the Plymouth and South Devon Co-op Education Department. He told the Council that as a follow up to the successful Westward TV Village Action Programmes on the TV before Christmas, the National Extension College and the WEA are sponsoring Village Action Courses, through the Co-op Education Department. Brentor has been chosen as a possible centre for the course which will be looking at ways in which people can get together and find ways of "improving, enhancing and protecting village life". People from surrounding villages will be invited to join the course which will consist of six sessions and will cost you £3. The Parish Council was asked if this was a good idea for Brentor and agreed that it should be welcomed. The course will be self financing. Further details of the course will be available later but the general idea is to look at ways in which other villages have tackled their pressing problems through co-operative self help. Incidentally, other courses in other centres throughout the south west are likely to be hearing about Brentor Community Shop as an example.

WAR EMERGENCY PLANS REVEALED... the Parish Council has been asked by the County Emergency Officer to update the Parish War Emergency Plan. It was last updated in 1973, and was discussed in some detail last May at the Parish Council. Parishes may have to exist in isolation after a nuclear attack, according to the official view, and will have to prepare themselves for this eventuality. As part of the preparations the Parish Council is being asked to nominate a person who can act as a Home Defence Adviser and be trained for this post at County level. The whole matter is to be discussed again at the Parish Council AGM on the 23rd February. BRENTOR NEWS hopes to bring more details to the public in the next issue.

NEWS IN BRIEF.....

Community Shop Burgled! Before Christmas somebody broke into the Church Hall and then unlocked the Community Shop stock cupboards to help themselves to groceries valued at almost £40. The Community Centre will be holding a fund raiser on 14th February to make up the loss. It will include an auction so please start digging out unwanted tiara etc.

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BRENTOR VILLAGE HALL

The preparation stage for the hall improvements is now well in hand. Tenders from local builders have now been received and West Devon District Council approached for possible Grant Aid. We are anxiously awaiting news from the District Council's direction on the outcome of this. Other sources of aid are being looked into.

We were recently questioned on a Dancing and Music Licence. Apparently the whole area has been checked on this point. Application has now been made to the Magistrates' Court in Tavistock. Following our application, both the Police and Fire Brigade have visited the premises and checked the hall. We should know in February if we have been cleared or not.

DENNIS YOUNG

VILLAGE HALL BINGO

Our bingo evenings, held every fortnight, are going great guns and provide a steady, though small, income towards the hall funds. Our last session, held on the 16th December, was a great success. Apart from the normal prizes purchased, eight other prizes were donated, including a bottle of drink, a tin of biscuits and a lovely iced Christmas cake. Thirty-three people sat down to play bingo and the top prize was £3 for a house. Thanks to everybody for coming along and helping to swell our funds; we hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

We could do with a few more people from the village area coming along to play so why not come along? Remember, the more books sold the higher the prize money. (All book money received is paid out in prizes.) Our next bingo is due on 6th January.

DENNIS YOUNG

BRENTOR W.I.

The speaker at the December meeting of the Brentor W.I. was Sgt. German. Introduced by President, Mrs Weston, Sgt. German, who has lived all his life on Dartmoor, showed members some of his vast collection of coloured slides of the Moor. Members were fascinated by the way in which Sgt. German had captured all the various moods of the moor and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs Davey for a very enjoyable afternoon.

The presentation of the annual competition cup was made, this year to Mrs Davey and the prize for the highest number of points for the flower of the month competitions went to Mrs Dunnage. Mrs Weston then presented Mrs Sibley with a plant as a token of members' appreciation for her work during the past two years as President, and the previous eight as Secretary. The afternoon concluded with tea and mince pies.

Instead of their usual Christmas party, members this year paid a visit to Cotehole House where they were able to spend an enjoyable afternoon seeing the traditional decorations in the Great Hall and doing last minute Christmas shopping. This was followed by tea in the Barn.

On Thursday members attended the Tavonians production of 'Ring Round the Moon', an enjoyable evening which was marred by Miss Dunn's unfortunate accident after the performance. The good wishes of all her fellow members go to her for a speedy recovery.

MARION PRITCHARD

CHURCH NEWS

The Christmas celebrations went well in a beautifully decorated church, for which we have to thank all those who gave money, flowers, the lovely Christmas tree and all the greenery and of course all those who worked so hard both at Christ Church and at St Michael's to achieve the wonderful results.

Parishioners and many of their Christmas visitors came along to the services to remember and celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

The candlelit Carol Evening in the Church Hall on the Monday before holiday was also a great success and enjoyed by a good cross section of the Brentor community, including lots of younger folk. How splendid the Church Hall looked with its decorations - particularly as the dim lighting did not show up the things which still need to be done to complete its renovation!

In particular, the chairs in the Hall need attention and the Committee are planning a 'paint-in' for Thursday 15 January when it is hoped to get as many of them as possible refurbished. Please come along and help from 7 p.m. that evening.

Incidentally, many thanks to the Brentorians for donating most of their profits from their performances of 'Busybody' to the Church Hall fund. This is much appreciated - and we enjoyed the show too!

JOHN WESTON

RECIPE FOR THE MONTH...

GERMAN SOUP

The German name for this is Lesentopf. You need a LARGE casserole. Fill it with $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups of washed European lentils (not the orange ones) and 6 cups of cold water. Add a wooden spoon flat measure of salt. I use sea salt because it's less bitter and seems fairly cheap. They tell me it's got interesting bits of nutrition in it while the commercial one in a fancy pack has got chemicals added. Anyway, you bring the lentils, water and salt to the boil and let them simmer either on top or in the oven.

Meanwhile, chop and slice lots of onions (and garlic if you like) and fry them in a couple of tablespoons of olive oil. Chop a bunch of fresh parsley and fry this with the onion. Vera's parsley on the minnmarket at the Community Shop is just the right amount. Then scrub and chop some potatoes into small to medium chunks, three really nice-sized potatoes will do.

Are the lentils thickening nicely? Have they simmered for about one hour? Add the raw, chopped potatoes and the gently fried onions and parsley to the lentil casserole.

Stir it all together.

Measure $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of either vinegar or fresh lemon juice. I use lemon juice and it tastes O.K. Mix it in.

Measure 5 wooden spoonfuls - a flat measure - of dark brown sugar. Mix it in.

Stir it all. You will have to hover over it at this point and have little tastes to make sure it isn't too bitter, too sweet or too bland. You add dashes of sugar, lemon, or salt accordingly.

GERMAN SOUP continued...

Leave it to simmer for as long as you like but certainly until the potato pieces are soft.

This is very filling: as a hot evening meal, as a first course for guests if the main meal went wrong (they'll be too full to want any more) or cold for a packed lunch.

You can serve it with hot crusty rolls. It makes a good cold spread on doorstep sandwiches and is very more-ish.

JEAN WHITFIELD

(Jean also sent us the Spanish Rice receipe)

DIARY DATES

JANUARY 1981

1 6th 7.30 Bingo

20th 7.30 Bingo

February - 3rd 7.30 Bingo

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Contributors to this month's magazine were David and Gill Gorbett, Dennis Young, John Weston, Jean Whitfield, and the typing by Jeanette Emmett and Gill Barge. Marion Pritchard also contributed.

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All contributions for next month's issue to be in by 22nd January, 1981.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

MORE News in Brief...

The DUSTBIN has also been stolen from the Village Hall.

The mystery about the location of the proposed new home in Brentor for Tavistock Rugby Club has been solved. Apparently it is on the road to Week and probably in Milton Abbot. Further details from Jean Whitfield.

1981 look like being an even busier year for local mums... at the last count no fewer than five babies are expected from four mums-to-be. We'll keep you posted. (when do we re-open a school?)

The Brentor Youth Club will be starting up again on Wednesday 14th January.

At a recent seminar on Community Energy Schemes at Dartington Hall, Brentor was taken as a possible (ie hypothetical) site for a scheme. The ~~xxx~~ planners reckoned that Brentor could become self sufficient in energy within 15 years. We hope to bring you more details in a future issue.