

No. 50 December 1983

BRENTOR NEWS.....the first 50 issues!

I have just finished leafing through the first 50 issues of Brentor News and can't really believe it. Every issue since Nov. 1979 is packed with news of Brentor activities. The first thing that strikes you is that the village is a continuous hive of activity and it continues to renew itself like a self-winding watch.

It all began in September 1978, with a Community Centre Newsletter - a one page affair, distributed round the village. The Community Shop opened in April 1978 (after the Great Snow) and by October a Play Group was being established. In December 1978, Lisa Minelli opened in 'Cabaret' (the film) in the Village Hall and in Jan. 1979 the famous First Aid Course started, under Supt. Chumbley. How time flies!

In March 1979, the Parish Council agreed to make a donation towards purchasing a duplicator for a village Newsletter, open to all organisations. By November 1979 we had launched Brentor News. I offered to help with the first three issues since when my ability to count has diminished!

The First Issue included Parish Council notes written by Laurence Lefevre; W.I. notes (M. Pritchard) Parish Church notes (J. Weston) Brentor Ladies Group (M. Prescott) Village Hall and Playing Field notes (D. Young) a poem by Stella Claringbould and News of the Youth Club started by Ali Hayes and D. Marsh; the Play Group and our regular feature Diary Dates. The first issue of six pages was a success and No: 2 ran to eight pages, containing letters, prose and poetry.

In issue No. 3, (Jan 1980) Stella Claringbould started a 3 part article on Brentor 60 years ago: a time when Brentor had a school, a baker, post office, railway station, coal merchant, blacksmith, butcher, vicar, carpenter, undertaker and Dr. Postlethwaite. The village Hall was a Reading Room, with facilities for darts and billiards. Stella's articles aroused much interest and in due course other items of historical interest occurred.

In February 1979 the news broke that Brentor might be made to amalgamate with Lydford, but the village rallied to oppose the proposal and succeeded in getting West Devon to propose instead that Brentor should take in Blackdown and cede parts of our northern territory to Lydford.

In July 1979 Brentor News reported that the Parish Council had to have a War Emergency Plan - an issue that has rumbled on since and a grim reminder that we cannot set ourselves apart from the wider world.

The Brentor News rolled on, month by month, with variations in colour of the paper, which I never realised before I spread them out, from yellow to brown, to pink and a bright green in April 1982 (a sign of Spring?) The main events within the village are faithfully recorded - a tragic road death of a six year old by the Tor car park (Sept. 1980) Brentor Community Shop on T.V. Nov. 1980 and burgled, Dec. 1980. Improvements to the Village Hall, (the Jubilee) were well in hand in Feb. 1981 and completed in Oct. 1981 at a cost of £4,500. In Nov. 1981 we broke the Official Secrets Act by naming the Brentor Inn as the official command post for post nuclear holocaust Brentor. In early 1982 we reported a collection for the Penlee Lifeboat Disaster Fund and a plan for road safety improvements at the Tor car park, (18 months after the event) In 1982 feathers were ruffled by talk of meals on wheels, classes started in yoga and Languages and Brentor Cricket Club were champions in the Launceston and District League. And in 1983 the Peace Group was formed.

Of course I am picking my selection of events and there were many others. Also recorded are the regular events which don't make the headlines, such as A.G.M.'s and Committees, the activities of the W.I. faithfully reported every month by Marian Pritchard, Jumble Sales, Brownies, summer and Michaelmas Fairs, the meetings of the Fellowship and Lenten Discussion Groups, Community Shop, Play Group and Toddlers Groups, Brentorians and Cricket Club, not to mention the Village Hall, Church Hall, Eastcott Field, Playing Field, Sports Days and Family nights. And Nobody is paid to do any of this - isn't it marvellous?

My final thoughts are with the people who have helped in the last four years - those who have typed, written poetry and prose, duplicated, cursed (mostly me, seldom Gill) delivered, distributed and read. It represents, in the end, probably ALL of our village. My hope for the future is that Brentor News will continue to foster the spirit of co-operation within our community and that you enjoy reading it.

DAVID GORBUTT.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS.

Bank Holiday Dustbin collection: No sight of a solution to this. Mr. Holt, our District Councillor reported that a collection on a previous Friday would cost an extra £4,500 and the provision of plastic bags an extra £2,000 for the Council.

The matter was left with Mr. Holt to see if anything might develop out of the next full W. Devon council meeting.

LANGSTON Footpath: The public footpath gates have now been unlocked. People are asked to take care to close them in future. The gates were locked for a month as a warning, after they had been left open allowing some horses to escape.

W.I. Notice Board: Anyone wishing to put a notice on this Board can contact either Mrs. Weston, Mrs. Venning or Mrs. Hallam who all hold keys.

Life Saver evening: There has been little response to the idea of Brentor having a two hour life saver talk and practical provided free by combined services.

Do we all know what we would do if someone had a heart attack, was electricuted, severed an artery, stopped breathing, was badly burnt or was drowning? Perhaps a short session is not adequate, so how many would be interested in a set of classes in First Aid, as was successful some years ago?

Please contact either Gill Gorbutt (Mary Tavy 403) or Elizabeth Blowey, (Clerk to Parish Council) if you would be more interested in the extended course or still prefer the shorter session.

DATE FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: January 9th, 1984. Village Hall, 7.30

GILL GORBUTT.

THE BLUE PETER WEATHER BEATER APPEAL.

A Bring and Buy for this Appeal is to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday December 10th at 2.30 pm.

The money made will go towards helping the people in many areas of the world who have suffered extreme weather conditions, such as flood and drought.

Any items you might have to contribute to the sale, would be gratefully received.

. PEGGY BIGGS.

CHURCH NEWS

This Sunday (November 29th) marks the beginning of Advent and the approach to the great and wonderful Church festival of Christmas which marks the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a period of great joy and thanksgiving and the Church festivities will commence with the Sunday School Christmas Presentation on Sunday, 18th December (details are given below).

On the following Wednesday, 21st December there will be the usual Carols by Candlelight in the Church Hall at 7.00 p.m. - an occasion for all the families in the village. There will be mince pies to keep the singing going - and contributions towards the supply of these will be most welcome!

The Christmas Festival itself will commence with a Midnight Service (Holy Communion - Prayer Book version) at 11.45 p.m. on Christmas Eve in Christ Church.

On Christmas Day there will be a Family Service (with a shortened Holy Communion, Rite A) at 10.30 a.m. and this will be followed by Evensong at St Michael's Church on the Tor at 3.30 p.m.

We do hope that everyone will try and come to one or more of these events so that we can then wish all a Happy Christmas in person.

Brentor Sunday School

At the recent "Get to know your Sunday School Event", when parents and friends were invited along to the Church Hall, the grand total of £55.48 was raised. This will go towards providing materials in the coming year. Our grateful thanks to everyone who supported us. We now look forward to welcoming you to the Christmas Presentation which will be held again this year at Christ Church, Brentor on Sunday 18th December at 3.00 p.m. Afterwards there will be a Christmas Party for the children and their parents in the Church Hall.

Lydford Sunday School have invited children from Brentor and their parents to attend their Christingle Service on Christmas Eve in Lydford Church at 4.30 p.m. If there is anyone who would like to attend but has transport difficulties, please contact Gill Still, Diana Orsmy or myself.

Sally Wetherbee.

CHURCH UNITY

Arrangements are in hand to hold a "Songs of Praise" type of service (with plenty of favourite hymn) each month during the period immediately after Christmas. The first service of this kind will take place on the third Sunday in January in Christ Church, Brentor. There will be similar services on the 3rd Sunday in February and in March. This is to be planned as an ecumenical event which, it is hoped, everyone - whatever their persuasion - will feel happy to come along to.

Because of the dark winter evenings, the service will be held in the afternoon - so please make a note in your new 1984 diary - 3.30 p.m. in Christ Church, Sunday 15th January, 1984.

J. W.

DIARY DATES

Dec 1st W.I. Films with Mrs Hodge of Saltash.

" 10th Blue Peter Weather Beater Appeal 2.30pm Village Hall.

" 17th Children's Christmas Party 3.00pm Village Hall.

" 18th Sunday School Christmas Presentation, Christchurch 3.00pm.

" 21st Community Shop and Grand Draw (with Christmas Punch) 10-12pm Church Hall.

" 21st Carols by Candlelight, Church Hall 7.00pm.

Jan 9th Parish Council meeting, Village Hall 7.30pm.

SHOP NEWS.

Having had a very successful first 6 months, I would like to pass my sincere thanks to the following people, without whose help the shop would certainly be nowhere near as bouyant.

Pat Blower. Pat & Rob. Burns. Roz Catlow. Stella Claringbold Margaret Doncaster. Vera Downing. Mandy French. Pam Gibbs. Gill Gorbutt. Joan Hallam. Jeanne Hulme. Gaye Martin. Gill Sibley. Marilyn Thistlethwaite. Jackie Watson. Hugh & Sally Weatherbee. Barbara Weeks. John & Sheila Weston, and Monica Saunders.

If anyone else would like to take part in this venture, which is there to serve the whole community, please contact me on Mary Tavy 777. All we ask is about 2 hours of your time occasionally.

Sandra Johnson.

The Christmas draw will take place on 21st December. We have received many generous gift for this. (to date 25). This will be the last shop of 1983.

Until Christmas there will be a toy and fancy goods stall.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year.

Mums. & Dads.

There is now s Baby Sitting Group in Brentor. This will be run on a voucher system. Anyone wishing to join contact Mrs. S. Johnson, St. Michaels Mead. M/T777.

BARTER.

If anyone finds cash exceedingly hard to come by, as I do, let's get together for a cashless exchange. I can do most practical things and I require fuel, food and other exchangeable commodity, as barter.

FRED STILL Lydford 216.

JOKES

1. Why do bees hum?... Because they don't know the words.
2. 'To be is to do' Lao Tzu
'To do is to be' I-Ching
'To do be do be do' Frank Sinatra.
3. Where does the Pope go for his holidays?.....
Pontiffs.
4. The God of War rode forth one day
Upon his favourite filly,
'I'm Thor' he cried: his horse replied,
'You forgot your thaddle, thilly'.
5. What's an Irishman, who's been dead for three hundred years called?..
...Peat.
6. What's written on the bottom of a bottle of Guinness?
Open other end.

FRED STILL

Brentor Ladies Group

We shall be holding our childrens Christmas Party on Saturday 17th December at 3 p.m. in the village hall. All children between the age of 5 and 11 will be welcome, but please put your name on the list in the Community Shop.

Donations of food will be gratefully received.

Maureen Prestcott - Chairman

Michaelmas Fayre

This was held on October 1st and raised the grand sum of £100. Many thanks to all who supported this event, and my sincere apologies for the delay in publishing the results. As you know, the money raised will go to the village hall fund to enable us to make further improvements for all who use the hall to enjoy. Further to this end, Bingo is held every other Tuesday evening from 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. Entrance fee is 20p and an enjoyable evening is had by all, you can't win a quick fortune, but you can win a bit; there is also a raffle. If more people supported this event, we could have bigger and better prizes and the funds for the village hall would also gain a bit, and there are lots of improvements still needed, at the moment. Very few Brentorians actually support the bingo, most of the regular members come from outside the village and some come quite a way, which seems to be a pity when the hall is primarily meant to be used by the people of Brentor. So, how about it? Come and give it a try. Next eyes down 29th November, see you??

Pat Burns - Hon. Secretary

Pat and Robbie Burns would like to take this opportunity to thank all those kind people who have supported them in their mobile van business and wish you all a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Pat and Robbie

The Earl Haig Poppy Appeal

I would like to thank all the people of Brentor and District for their generosity in raising the grand sum of £87.20p for this worthy cause.

Special thanks to Brentor Inn and those who made house to house collections. If anyone would like to help next year please contact me.

Gill Sibley - Chillaton 259
Hon. Poppy Appeal Organiser

The Brentorians

Thank you to everyone who supported us in our last production "A Month of Sundays". We raised £69 for the Leukaemia Fund.

We could still do with some more members, so if you think you would like to join us either to act or stage manage please contact Maureen Prestcott on Mary Tavy 1737.

Maureen Prestcott - Chairman

(Thank-you, Brentorians for a most entertaining evening. It takes a lot of effort to learn all the lines, rehearse all the scenes, plan the scenery etc. and then give the performance, but it is clearly worthwhile. - Gill Gorbitt - on behalf, I am sure of all the audiences).

W.I. News

The Annual Meeting of the W.I. was held earlier this month. President, Mrs. Weston welcomed members and Mrs. Steadman, V.C.O. who spoke about the promotion campaign and the Exhibition at Olympia next year. After thanking members for their continued support throughout the year Mrs. Weston concluded her presidential address with a quotation "Because $\frac{1}{2}$ a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field noisy with their importunate chink - do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field", Mrs. Weston suggested that perhaps the W.I. should begin to join in the chorus!

The cup for the highest points for the monthly competitions was won by Mrs. Blowey, with Mrs. Pritchard the runner-up. Mrs. Pritchard also won the award for the highest flower of the month points.

Four new members were welcomed to the committee for the coming year - Mrs. Brew, Mrs. Ann Davey, Miss Hanglin and Mrs. Preston. Other committee members are Mrs. Sibley and Mrs. Venning. Mrs. Weston Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Hallam were re-elected, President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Arrangements were made for the Coffee Morning on 19th November and from the proceeds of this the Institute will be giving a donation to the Eastcott Memorial Field. The meeting on 1st December at which Mrs. Hodge of Saltash will be showing some more of her superb films, is an open meeting and visitors will be welcome.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU.... to all those who have helped to type out the duplicating skins for the past 50 issues. Jeanette Emmett, Jenny Radford, Gill Barge, John Weston, Pat Blower, Margaret Doncaster and David Gorbitt. Without you there could not have been a Brentor News.

(January copy, before Christmas please.) Gill Gorbitt.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.