

No. 96 October 1987

South Devon Birdlife - "The Changing Scene"

This event which is FREE to all comers will be held in the Village Hall from 4.30 p.m. on Saturday 31st October and will suit all ages.

Come and join us and increase your enjoyment of the birdlife around you.

Mike Whitfield

Brentor Walks

Sunday 27th September saw yet another group of sturdy villagers willing to brave the elements (thankfully there were very few of those asiit turned out). We met at Bowden Down and set off down the footpath to the right of the common. There was a definite tinge of autumn everywhere, the hedges full of rosehips, blackberries and sloes. Various gates gave us breathtaking views across the Lyd valley. Further on, the path took on the appearance of dense jungle rather than gentle english countryside. The children became quite excited at the delights of the unknown with the adults however giving silent thanks that although Mike Whitfield was never a Boy Scout he'd picked up the "Be Prepared" motto from somewhere and remembered the secateurs! So with Ben Whitfield in the lead, bravely going where, quite obviously, not many people had gone for sometime a walkable path was cut and we ambled along quite happily. We passed some strange fungi on the way, Fly Agaric and four other variations on a toadstool theme, not having a fungi book we were not able to identify them. We went down to the ford and then back up through the forest towards Langstone. The forest path was well populated with dung beetles. Jessica picked one up to show everyone and it was really rather beautiful, it's underside a lovely metallic blue. The last lap took us through a herd of Jersey calves which although renowned for their curiosity kept their distance eying us rather suspiciously with their lovely doe-like eyes.

We reached home ground just before five, tired but happy. As the weather will be a bit unpredictable we thought another walk in three weeks time would be a good idea, the route has yet to be arranged. We usually walk about four miles at a gentle pace with frequent stops either to look, listen, eat or drink! We start at 2 p.m. and are always finished by 5 p.m. If you would like to join us please contact Mike Whitfield, Roz Catlow or Dennis Young.

NEXT WALK OCTOBER 18TH

Roz Catlow

Brentor Inn

There will be a Harvest Festival at the Brentor Inn on Thursday October 8th at 8 p.m. All contributions welcome. Proceeds will go to Rowans Unit (for the chronically ill and disabled patients), Brentor Church, Chapel and Local Amenities. Everyone invited.

Clothes Sale.

There will be another "special" at the coffee morning and mini-market on Wednesday 28th October. Gerry Traynor from Lydford will be bringing his range of new, quality mens and womens clothing. Knitwear, denim jeans, track-suits and shirts will be among his selection of items on sale.

Coffee and cakes as usual, so if you're planning a visit to the Library come on down to the Church Hall. It could be a good opportunity to purchase some early Christmas gifts.

Because of Goose Fair there will be no mini-market and coffee on October 14th.

Roz Catlow.

Car Parking in the Village Centre

At the last Parish Council Meeting concern was expressed over the parking of cars in the middle of the Village.

The Council felt it might be a good idea to bring this problem to the attention of the residents requesting them to park their cars more thoughtfully in the centre of the Village.

There is danger of a serious accident if the cars are parked too near the blind corners - especially by the War Memorial - and left with no side lights on at night. The WI notice board is becoming increasingly difficult to approach because of the cars and other vehicles parked in the way.

E. Blöwey

Methodist News

The Harvest Festival services were well attended and many people remarked on the happy fellowship that prevailed during the thanksgiving celebrations. Sincere thanks to all for their valued support, not least to our friends from Christ Church who helped in various ways.

Proceeds amounted to £250.

Stella Claringbold

Brentor Horticultural Show

There was a record entry for this years flowershow. Due to the tremendous efforts made by Jennifer Venning and members of her family, the entries were 50 up on last year. The auction afterwards of donated produce raised £130 which goes to Church Hall Funds. Congratulations go to local residents Vera Downing, Jennifer Venning, Mollie Bickell and Jean Carter. Thanks to all who attended and made the show such a success.

Baby Congratulations

Congratulations go to Janet and her husband Steve on the birth of their second daughter, Laura Kate, a sister for Sarah.

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Save and Re-cycle

This year has been designated European Year of The Environment - EYE for short. The U.K. patron is HRH Prince Charles. One of the areas EYE is focusing on is re-cycling.

During this year the average family in Britain will throw away six trees worth of paper, 11 1/2 lbs of metal and 90 lbs of plastics. This represents an appalling waste of resources, many items however can be re-cycled. Here are some ideas:

Jumble - various good causes in the village always welcome jumble.

Stamps - used postage stamps (foreign and British) can be passed to Mick and Peggy Biggs who in turn pass them on to Christian Aid.

Paper Bags - The womens institute plant stall in the Friday market are always on the lookout for both paper and plastic bags and carriers. As a regular customer I'd be willing to pass them on. They also take egg boxes. (Roz Catlow)

Foil - clean tin foil, milk bottle tops and foil containers can be passed to Mick and Peggy who will in turn pass them on to Oxfam.

Clothing - Good quality clothes will be welcomed by Oxfam. Also Age Concern will take any warm clothing suitable for the elderly.

Glass - The bottle bank in Tavistock's Bedford car park has been a great success. Obviously it is better to buy returnable bottles if at all possible, failing that recycling is the next best thing. If you cannot get your excess glass to Tavistock please contact Mike Whitfield who will be pleased to help.

Wool - Leftover yarn is used by lots of charities. Both Oxfam and the WRVS in West Street use it for knitting up squares which are then sewn into blankets.

Coins and Postcards — both foreign and British coins and any postcards are useful moneyspinners for Oxfam.

Misc. -- Blankets, fires and any other useful items can go to Age Concern who will pass them onto elderly people in need.

Paper - finally paper. I haven't been able to locate anyone who will actually pay for waste paper but Tavistock Waste Savers will take newspapers and cardboard (no glossy magazines) for re-cycling. Anyone having trouble getting waste paper to Tavistock please contact Mike Whitfield who will arrange to collect it from you.

Contacts in the village

Mick and Peggy Biggs. The old Post Office Mary Tavy 247

Gill Gorbutt. The Old Station House, Mary Tavy 403

Peta Humphries. Station View

Roz Catlow. Park Cottage, Mary Tavy 209

Mike Whitfield. Park House, Mary Tavy 209

R. Catlow

History of Brentor Project

As well as the more general history of Brentor, we thought it would be interesting to find out about the individual dwellings of the area. Attached to this edition of the Brentor News is a questionnaire, the filling of which is entirely voluntary, though any information will obviously be of immense help in building up an accurate picture of the village and surrounding area.

Completed forms please to Roz Catlow, Park Cottage or the person who delivers your Brentor News.

Diary Dates

Thursday October 1st - Cookery Demonstration - Mrs. Yeo

Thursday October 8th - Harvest Festival, Brentor Inn 8 p.m.

Weds. October 14th - Coffee Morning in Church Hall Cancelled - Goose Fair

Sunday October 18th - Brentor Ramblers Walk

Weds. October 28th - Clothes Sales Church Hall 10.30 a.m.

A FACET OF BRENTOR HISTORY

With the coming changes of ownership of both the Tor, part of the Westcott lands and the Burnville estate, another piece of Brentor history will have been written. The parish of Brentor, as we know it today, is a fusion of two parishes, Brentor and part of Lamerton. The Tor stands on Brentor land. This land was held by Geoffrrey (Goisfrid), from the Abbot of Tavistock in 1086, a Norman who ruled over 5 villagers, 2 smallholders and 3 slaves. The Domesday entry for the land is Liddaton (Lideltona). Before 1241, Liddaton had passed from the Abbot into other hands. In 1288 however, a certain L'Archediakne granted the land back to the Abbey.

In early times it formed part of Lifton (Listone) Hundred, but between 1114 and 1120 it became part of the newly formed Hundred of Tavistock (Tavistoke), created by Henry I to cover the estates held by the Abbey. This part of modern Brentor, the original part, stretched three miles and was a strip of land between Liddaton and Brinsabach; which strip effectively divided the parish of Lamerton into two parts. The outlier of this parish (or outlying northern part) later became known as North Brentor.

At the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539, Liddaton was granted, subject to a rent charge, to John Russell, Knight, along with all the other Abbey lands, plus many other estates; all later to be known collectively as the Bedford estates.

The land now for sale, i.e. the Tor, has been in the same family for many years. Our parish church, St. Michaels, crowning the Tor, which is not included in the sale, was built by one Robert Gifford, in about 1130, who was Lord of the Manor of Lamerton, and who gave it to the Abbey, along with some 30 acres of surrounding land. St. Michaels became a chapelry of Tavistock. Around the church are the remains of a massive triple earthwork defence system, belonging to the Iron Age. Nearby, on Week farm (itself a very interesting Saxon settlement) are a range of burial mounds, surveyed by the writer some years ago and apparently undisturbed. These mounds predate the earthworks by over a thousand years.

Burnville Farm has an interesting history. It stands on land once part of the outlier of the parish of Lamerton. At the time of the conquest, Lamerton (Lambretona) was held by the Saxon thane Ordulf. In the Domesday entry for this manor, it is shown as being held by Roald L'Adobed (or Rhiwallon) from the King. On this period of history, the outlier is mute and was probably not settled land. The nearest settlements being Liddaton (Lideltona), Willsworthy (Wyvelsworth Stondon), Lydford (Lideforda), Warne, Mary Tavy (Wagesfella) and Week (Wyk Dabernon).

In 1100, Roald L'Adobed entered religion and his group of estates, including Lamerton, vested in the crown and were granted to William Gifford. The Giffords held the manor for over 150 years. The outlying part of this manor however, was not granted to William Gifford but to Plympton Priory. The date of this gift is not known, but was before 1156 and as it was not mentioned in the disposal of Roald's lands was possibly given to the Priory by Roald himself, the Domesday holder of Lamerton.

Later, in a confirmatory charter signed by Henry II, dated to about 1155, confirming the estates held by the Prior of Plympton, we find the following:

- (225) The whole land of Watrifalla (Waterfall in Brentor parish) and
- (226) Langstan (Langstone Manor in Brentor parish) and
- (227) Wudemanneswella with the Furze Brake (Woodmanswell in Brentor parish) and
- (228) Rughadona (Rowden in Brentor parish).

These lands are the $\frac{1}{2}$ part of Lamerton (the whole outlier) and recorded at the Dissolution as being worth £9-11s-2d, and being part of the Manor of Waterfall. Also listed is a shillings worth of land at Brent (part of Brentor parish). The disposal of all the lands held by Plympton Priory is currently being researched by the writer. Although granted to one Arthur Champernowne at the Dissolution, they were later divided and did not remain in one persons hands as was the fate of Tavistock Abbey possessions.

The outlier boundaries are typically Saxon and cover an area stretching from the River Lyd, starting at the ford, near Liddaton, following the river upstream, past the Waterfall and Lydford Bridge, under the viaduct, then turning southeast, up the feeder stream and across the A386 to Willsworthy Camp, westwards to another feeder stream, following it down past Hall Farm to near the Manor Hotel; on to the River Burn, following it downstream to meet with the Liddaton lands near Brinsabach.

End of Part 1.

From near Brinsabach the outlier boundary follows the feeder stream there, to Holyeat, turning northeast to skirt the Tor, then northwest, northeast for a little way, then northwest past the Brentor Inn to skirt Rowden, locating the head of the feeder stream nearby, following the stream down past Burcombe to rejoin the River Lyd at the ford.

In Benjamin Donn's 'Survey of Devon-1765', Burnville is shown as East Longstone and Langstone Manor as West Longstone, where the Herring family is listed as being in residence. Also in this survey, Burn Lane, surrounded by Burnville land, is shown as a settlement or hamlet. ~~Brentor Village is not indicated.~~ The late Freddie Wrench, of Burn Lane, once told the writer he was convinced of the truth of this and that the verges and strips of land fringing the lane would have held many 'hovels', the homes of the labouring class. Such primitive shelters, made of cob, wattle and daub and thatched with branches and turves, would leave no trace, apart from some possible sherds or artifacts.

For many years, the Herring family held Langstone and its lands. In 1873, Philip Herring is listed in 'Return of the Owners of Land' as holding 474 acres of land in Devon, approximately the combined acreage of both Burnville and Langstone. The land on which Burn Lane House stands was first leased (Three lives lease) and then purchased, from the Herring family. So the tie with Burnville land is significant. The Brentor Inn used to be called the Herring Arms.

The Ward family (Ward and Chowen, D. Ward and Son), purchased Burnville in 1907 and in 1944 sold the whole estate to the Church Commissioners, as did the owners of Langstone Manor, the latter family remaining as sitting tenants. In recent years the Commissioners have been selling land, including Burnville, Langstone, Week, Burns Hall etc. in order to release money for other investments. It is interesting to note that the Russell family, The Bedfords, along with others, still hold the sole rights for the extraction of minerals on Burnville land.

John Bodman, the previous owner of Burnville, who bought the estate from the Church Commissioners, told the writer in the 1860's, at the time the University of Belfast was conducting a 'dig' at Lydford for remains of the Saxon settlement there, that they would find more Saxon history on his land than they ever would at Lydford.

Up to the last war, Burnville employed many men and horses. The house is a listed late Georgian or Regency building and replaced the earlier farmhouse, which still exists close by, now sadly showing its years.

In the 1990's many parishes were realigned and the Lamerton outlier fused with Brentor to form the parish we know today.

It would seem that the history pages of Brentor are once again being turned with the sale of both former Tavistock Abbey and Plympton Priory lands. It is always sad when land changes hands. We can never really own land, only perhaps act as trustees for our allotted span. The land goes on and with it the love, toil, hopes and aspirations of the previous owners, tenants and farmworkers.

Dennis Young

CHURCH NEWS

The Reverend Peter Apps

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Mr Apps who was for a number of years both Rector of Lydford and our Vicar in Brentor.

After a relatively short period of retirement with his family in Mary Tavy, he became seriously ill; but he remained cheerful and extremely interested in all that was going on in Brentor, where he was born and where his father had been Vicar at about the time of the First World War.

Peter Apps will be remembered with affection for his gentle devotion to his faith and to his duty, particularly in visiting any parishioners who were elderly, infirm or in trouble in any way. Our sympathy goes to his widow, Mrs Margaret Apps and their two daughters who in recent months have so ably and lovingly nursed him.

Harvest Festival and Supper

Both the service in Christ Church and that in the evening at St Michael's on the Tor were well attended and, as usual, both churches were beautifully decorated and filled with produce.

The Harvest Supper in the Church Hall on the Monday evening was enjoyed by some 70 people and the sale of produce (efficiently and good-humouredly auctioned by Robert Orsmy) raised the sum of about £180 for the work of Christian Aid in the flooded areas of Bangladesh - a very worth-while cause.

CHURCH HALL

5th November Sparkler Party and Barbecue

It is hoped to arrange another party on the lines of last year, centred on the Church Hall and the paddock opposite. Do not forget the date(!) and watch out for the posters!

Diary Dates (cont'd)

Saturday October 31st	R.S.P.B. talk Village Hall 2.30 p.m.
Thursday November 5th	Annual Meeting W.I.
Thursday "	5th Sparkler Party and Bonfire, Church Hall and field opposite
Thursday November 12th	W.I. Florentine Day Class Village Hall 10 am
Thursday December 3rd	W.I. Christmas Meeting

Copy for next issue by 26th October please.

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How old is your house?
2. Has it always been a house or was it for example, a shop, doctor's surgery, vets, or workshop etc?
3. Is it or has it been connected with farming, mining or the railway?
4. Has your house been altered in any way, e.g. extended, but not necessarily in recent times? (Home improvements not being the sole prerogative of the 20th century!)
5. What is the name of your house, is it the original name, if not do you know the previous name(s)?
6. Do you know anything about the previous occupants?
7. Any other information you feel might be interesting e.g. the cost of the house when it was originally built or the rent charged?

