



Brentor News

November 2020

Issue 492

Produced by The Brentor Community Trust
www.brentorvillage.org

Brentor's Broadband – Here's the Good News and the Bad News

At last those of us in Brentor who can't access Airband should be getting superfast fibre broadband courtesy of the government's Universal Service Obligation (USO) scheme. But how can it be that all the residents of West Blackdown and at least one in Station View have been offered free connection to Brentor's new fibre-to-the-premises broadband network, but others in the village centre a few hundred metres away are being asked to pay between £8,358 and £36,871 to be connected to the same network?

Our new network will involve burying a fibre cable under the moor from Mary Tavy to West Blackdown – apparently this is the expensive part of the installation. From there onwards the fibre will be hung on existing telephone poles – a relatively cheap process. It has already been done free of charge by BT to hamlets as small as Horndon and Cudliptown.

Openreach/BT have told everyone in West Blackdown that, unless there are unforeseen issues with the installation, connection will be free, paid for by USO funding of up to £6,800 per property. There have already been two detailed surveys carried out by Openreach surveyors and notices have appeared on telephone poles advising of work being done relating to the new fibre network, so it really does look as if it will be happening soon.

But what is to happen in the rest of Brentor and other areas of the parish such as Liddaton? Residents in these areas who are eligible for Universal Service Obligation scheme are not likely to agree to pay the vast sums being quoted for connection. Probably the best way forward will be to follow West Blackdown's example and band together to raise merry hell with our local MP, Ofcom, BT, Openreach and anyone else they can think of! After all, residents in West Blackdown were originally quoted £42,457.20 to be connected, but when they started to make a fuss the price miraculously reduced to zero.

On 15th October Ofcom announced that it is setting up an investigation into how the USO scheme is being implemented by BT. In particular the legislation requires BT to take into account that costs can be shared among customers who could use the same infrastructure. Ofcom is concerned that BT may not be complying with the USO regulations when it assesses excess costs for a given connection. This apparently results in some customers' quotes for a connection being higher than necessary! Those of us in Brentor who have had outrageous quotes should definitely be contacting Ofcom!

There's lots more information about how to register for the USO scheme and about the new fibre network on the village website – go to www.brentorvillage.org

Colin Dawes – colindawes@btinternet.com

The Playing Field and Pavilion



Unlike lots of other villages, we are very lucky to have outdoor space and the shelter provided by the pavilion at the playing field. We are finding enforcing Covid-19 restrictions extremely difficult particularly when governmental advice changes so often. Is it the responsibility of the committee, or the person in charge of an event, or individuals using the facilities? We are trying our best. Please continue to enjoy events organised at the field, safely.

BVHPF Committee

Brentor Commons Video

There will soon be a video on YouTube about Brentor Commons, its history and habitat etc. It was sponsored by the wonderful Brentor Community Support Group via a grant from Dartmoor National Park in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The support group has helped people through these difficult times and as an organisation we fully support their work in the community. We have seen a massive increase in the use of the commons during this period, as people both locally and from further afield have taken the opportunity to explore new places away from the usual 'honeypots'.



The video was filmed by Will Walker-Smith and edited by David Harris in the hope that it will raise awareness of the commons and encourage more people to visit and enjoy this special habitat.

Visit Brentor Commons Association on Facebook.

For more information please contact: Will Walker-Smith, liddaton@me.com

Brentor Friends of the Field

OCTOBER DRAW 2020

Number 15 Sheryl and Keith Burroughs
Number 16 Nicky and Charlie Elder
Number 22 Jane Diaz

All Win £10 prize

A Standing Order of £5 per month to our dedicated bank account will help with extra maintenance and improvements to the playing field.

Bank Account: TSB

Sort Code: 30-98-46

Account: 30089760

If you would like to support the field in this way please contact: Sue Stephens 01822 860374
stephens214@btinternet.com

Brentor Playing Field

IN AID OF VILLAGE FUNDS



Last Car Boot of the Year

1st November 2020

**Brentor Playing Field
Burn Lane, Brentor PL19 0ND**

Sellers: Cars £5 Vans £10 Buyers Free!

Sellers to arrive From 8.30am

Buyers from 10am

We will need to adhere to Covid secure rules.

**A one way system will be
in place to ensure social distancing**

**Please call 07706 972906 or email:
belarusness@hotmail.co.uk to book a space
Refreshments will be available**

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&



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BRENTOR PLAYING FIELD



Serving up..

Fairtrade locally roasted Organic Coffee,
Freshly baked croissants, Bacon rolls, Soup,
Pasties, Sausage Rolls,
Jacket Potatoes & Panini's with various fillings,
A yummy selection of cakes
Cream and Savoury Afternoon Teas



EVERYONE WELCOME

We're continuing to offer our home delivery
service of cooked meals & local produce

EVERY FRIDAY 10am until 2pm

Pre orders advised to avoid disappointment.

Enquires & orders to 07787994220

**PLEASE OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING
AND THE RULE OF SIX**

Soup and Sausage Stroll

Saturday 7th November

12 to 1.30pm Brentor Playing Field



Come along to the playing field and enjoy some homemade soup and Keith's sizzling sausages cooked on the bbq. Hot drinks and cakes will also be on offer. If you could bring a coffee mug with you that would be great but paper cups will be available.

There is ample time to take a walk around the village or moor beforehand or participate in the recently set up Geocache experience which starts and finishes at the field. On the day a route card can be collected at the playing field with all the hidden locations! Alternatively you can download the Geocaching App prior to your arrival and the route will be available through your phone.

It will be helpful, particularly if the weather is poor, to stagger return times back to the field. This will ease demand on the shelter if it is wet and make catering a little easier. Parking your car in the field before you start could offer some refuge from the rain.....but it will be fine and sunny.....we promise.



Or of course you could just come for the food!

As with all village fund raising events we would ask you to observe the Covid-19 regulations in force at the time.

Sue Stephens (860374) stephens@btinternet.com

Do You Have a Property to Rent?

Local resident, Caro Woods, is desperately looking for somewhere to rent in the Brentor area, for 6 months or more from the beginning of 2021, due to sale of her own property. If you can help, please call 01822 811026 or 07713 592935.

Brentor Village Hall and Playing Field

Macmillan Coffee Morning Update

The coffee morning scheduled for 3rd October unfortunately had to be postponed due to storm Alex making an unwelcome appearance during that weekend.

We will certainly make another date to support this very worthy cause but it may well not happen now until next spring.

Sue Stephens (860374) stephens@btinternet.com

Parish Council News

Emergency Contacts

The Parish Council are busy updating the list of emergency contacts – people in the parish who can be called on in the case of an emergency. If you are willing to volunteer your services in time of a crisis (eg If you have a 4 wheel drive, are competent in first aid or would just be willing to provide shelter until the experts arrive) could you contact Cllr Sue Fraser brentorpc3@gmail.com or the parish clerk.

Vacancy

There is still one vacancy on the Parish Council. Meetings are still being held virtually every month. Next meeting 16th November. Contact the clerk for further details.

Caroline Oxenham (Clerk) brentorpc@yahoo.co.uk Tel 01822 481415 or 07846 573678 (Monday to Friday).

News from Brentor Commons

Work has recommenced on Brentor Commons following the summer months when we take a natural break. We use this time to allow our wildlife the space to breed, grow and re-establish itself across the 48 acres that comprise Bowden and Liddaton Downs.

There is a natural rhythm about the work that follows the seasons. By the end of March we have stopped work to allow birds, mammals, insects and plants their period to reproduce, grow, spread their seeds and bring up their young in peace. This is how it has always been in the past and is good practice.

In autumn we can now roll the bracken to reduce its vigour and allow the moor grasses to grow through. The birds have fledged their young, some have stayed while others moved south through Europe to Africa like the grasshopper warblers and cuckoos.

With help from the Tavistock Taskforce we have coppiced more of the invasive willow around the Liddaton pond thus allowing a little bit more light in. This is a gentle process as we do not want to remove all of it as it is a very important habitat in its own right. Work to keep areas of the Holloway clear have been completed, coppicing of hazel, hedgelaying and constructing 'dead hedges' with the resulting 'brash' is continuing for a few months using monies from the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant. Other work planned includes improving the small parking area by the entry to the Holloway, creating a 'scrape', which is a place that will allow water to collect, near the wet area on Bowden Down and more planting of heathers and other indigenous trees.

There's still plenty to do including checking the dormouse nesting boxes, mine shaft protection fences, ash die back issues, paths where they become muddy and impassable due to nearby springs and the inevitable fly-tipping of rubbish.

Please go and have a wander around. Although the colours are not so spring and summer vivid, the autumnal browns, oranges and russets are subtle and beautiful. Spiders webs collectively envelope the gorse in the mornings, linnets flock and roe and red deer are seen regularly on both downs....it is a wonderful place.

For more information please contact: Will Walker-Smith liddaton@me.com

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Church News

Harvest Collection

The collections for both services at the end of September were in aid of Tavistock Food Bank and we have raised over £100 which will go to this worthwhile local charity. Thank you everyone

Spring Flower Festival

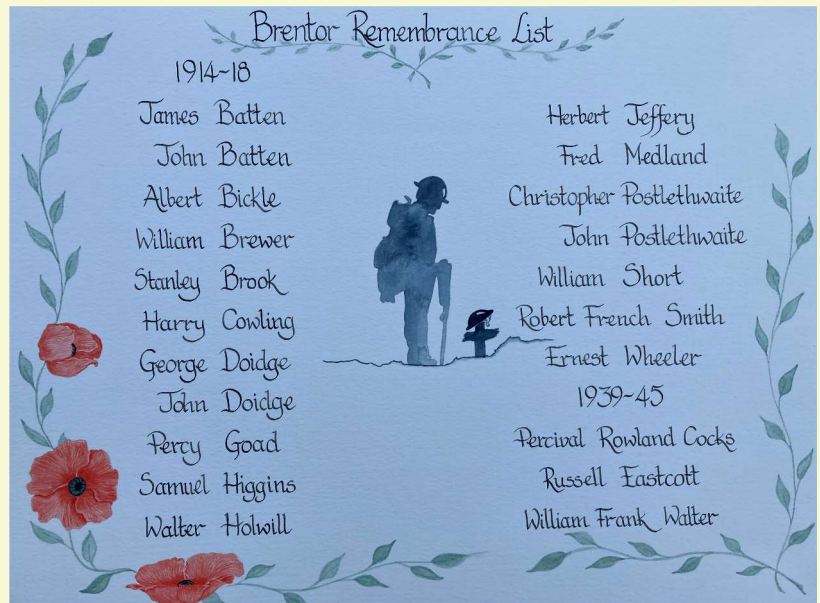
We are planning to hold a mini flower festival in Christ Church shortly after Easter 2021, so if you would like to join in please think about potting up some spring bulbs to go on display in and around the church. Thanks to Kate Kelly and her intrepid band of helpers our churchyard is very well looked after and is much appreciated by all our visitors. It is surprising how many people go into the churchyard at Christ Church – one morning recently I counted 18 graves with fresh flowers on, so you can be sure your efforts will be valued.

The Season of Remembering and Remembrance – All Souls Service

This is a quiet reflective service commemorating all those people we loved who are no longer with us. There will be a series of appropriate readings and then the names of the departed are read out and a candle is lit in memory of each one. The service is at 4.30pm at Christ Church on 1st November, and if you are unable to attend but would like any names read out please send them to helen@brentorchurch.org.uk and we will light candles for them. The service will be recorded and will be available online later via the Brentor Church website, streamed services, although the names will not be broadcast.

Remembrance

There will be a short service for Remembrance at Christ Church at the usual service time of 9.45am (space is limited so please let me know if you would like to attend) and the Act of Remembrance will be at Brentor War Memorial at 10.50am. In accordance with government restrictions there will be 6 taking part in the Act of Remembrance, representing the church, the parish council and of course the Royal British Legion. Social distancing must be observed and a record kept for NHS Test and Trace.



Brentor Church Book of Memorial

Over the last year the names of all those buried at Brentor since the 1850s have been recorded, and this book will be displayed in due course for people to see. There is a special page for the 11th November, designed and drawn by Sam Biggs, and in such a year as this it seems especially appropriate that this page should go in *Brentor News* for all to see and remember.

Church services in November

Sunday 1st November	9.45am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
	4.30pm	All Souls service at Christ Church
Sunday 8th November	9.45am	Short Remembrance Day service at Christ Church
	10.50am	Act of Remembrance at Brentor War Memorial
Sunday 15th November	9.45am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
Sunday 22nd November	9.45am	All Age service at Christ Church
Sunday 29th November	9.45am	Morning Prayer at Christ Church (TBC)

Helen Harris (Church Warden) 810845 helen@brentorchurch.org.uk

Brentor News Key Facts

Distribution: *Brentor News* is also published on the village website www.brentorvillage.org. If you would like *Brentor News* in colour emailed to you via the e-robin service, request this by emailing brentorvillage@btinternet.com. A small donation to the Brentor Community Trust would be appreciated if you live outside the parish.

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Website: Contributions to, or comments about, the Brentor Village website are always welcome and should be sent to the Editor, Colin Dawes, at brentorvillage@btinternet.com.

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Wednesday 18th November to Sue Fraser swhitfraser@gmail.com