



# BRENTOR NEWS

March 2021

Produced by the Brentor Community Trust  
[www.brentorvillage.org](http://www.brentorvillage.org)

Issue 496

## Work starts on Brentor's superfast broadband network

West Blackdown homes will be connected to a new fibre broadband network by June, thanks to the Universal Service Obligation (USO) scheme. They will benefit from the latest high speed 'fibre to the premises' technology. Others properties in the village centre can also get free connection *but only if enough people register for it!*

If 25 homes in the north side of the village centre just register interest in the USO scheme, a cluster of 31 properties will be offered **FREE CONNECTION** to the new network..... and more could follow.

The USO scheme allows Openreach to claim a grant of £3,400 each for 70% of eligible properties, whether they register or not. That's 22 of the 31 in the cluster, leaving a shortfall of £8,358 to be raised locally. **BUT THERE IS AN EASY WAY TO GET FREE CONNECTION** - 25 people in the cluster just need to register interest in the USO scheme! The extra USO grant (3 x £3,400) will cover the £8,358 shortfall and **EVERYONE IN THE CLUSTER WILL BE OFFERED FREE CONNECTION**. BT confirms that if you register interest there is **ABSOLUTELY NO COMMITMENT** to sign up later for a fibre connection.

**SO PLEASE REGISTER!** We've been moaning about our poor broadband service for years and here's a chance to do something about it free of charge and with no financial commitment! So far only about 13 properties have registered - **WHERE ARE THE REST OF YOU? The number to call to register is 0800 783 0223.**



If you already have a poor or unreliable Airband connection you will probably qualify for a USO fibre connection, particularly if you regularly get less than 10mbps.

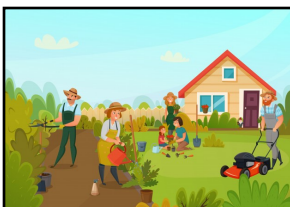
What about the rest of Brentor parish? - Another cluster of 13 homes around Darke Lane have been quoted £36,871 to be connected - a very divisive situation for a small community. How can it cost so much more to connect these properties compared to others in the middle of the village? However, if the cluster of 31 is connected free of charge, BT have implied that this cluster may also receive a lower estimate for connection (hopefully free?).

The Liddaton and Lydford Station areas of Brentor Parish are very disadvantaged by their poor broadband connection, served from the Chillaton and Lydford telephone exchanges. Residents in these areas are working hard to find other ways of connecting to fibre.

It's hard to understand the Universal Service Obligation scheme but there is lots more about it on the Brentor Village website. If you want to contribute information please contact me at [brentorvillage@btinternet.com](mailto:brentorvillage@btinternet.com).

*Colin Dawes, Brentor Village website editor*

## St Luke's Open Gardens - 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Advance Notice



Two opportunities to support St Luke's and enjoy Brentor gardens. Sally and Christopher, in Burn Lane, are opening on 9<sup>th</sup> May and 4 other gardens are joining together for a group opening on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, based around Rowden at the other end of the village. More details next month but if you would like to support either date by volunteering - please contact Sally or Christopher (810285) or Sue or Mike (810037).

# SECURING THE FUTURE OF THE BRENTOR COMMUNITY TRUST

## New Trustees wanted!

### Origins and Activities

The Brentor Community Trust (BCT) was established in October 2007 with the aims:

*“ to promote and support activities which enhance education, communication and social interaction for the benefit of the community of the parish of Brentor and surrounding areas in West Devon.”*

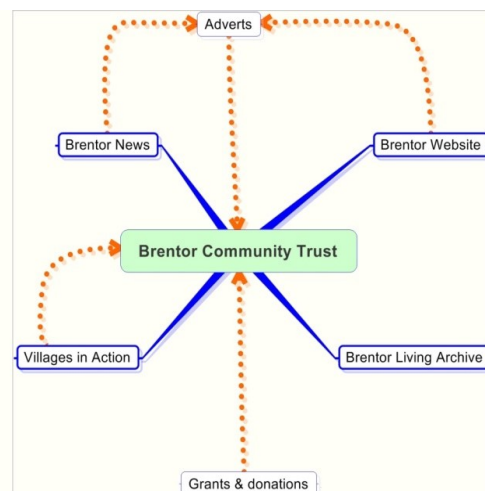
It organises and financially underwrites community activities and facilities (established over a period of 40 years) that are still of significant importance to Brentor:

The Brentor News (1979)

Villages in Action (VIA), Theatre & Music events

The Brentor Living Archive (2001)

The Brentor Village Website (2009)



This has been a largely self-funding community endeavour, achieved primarily through generous voluntary support. It is managed with a light touch once the structure of each activity is agreed. Its work complements that of the Village Hall & Playing Field Committee.

### Trustees

There are currently four Trustees.

This year, the two office holders (Mike Whitfield - Hon Treasurer & Acting Chairman; John Wheeler - Hon Secretary) will both be retiring as Trustees, after working a total of 60 years for the BCT, and its precursor Brentor Community Centre (1978).

The two remaining Trustees will be Jane Phelpstead (Brentor News and banking of funds), and Dominic Carnell (events and Villages in Action).

The BCT must now assure its future by appointing three new Trustees and electing new officers

This would provide an opportunity to revitalise the organisation and to reconsider its role in the life of Brentor and its environs. This year will also see the publication of the 500<sup>th</sup> issue of the Brentor News. In the past, such events have been celebrated by a Special Issue and related activities. This could provide a good opportunity to launch the new arrangements.

### Current status

#### **Brentor News (1979)**

This is compiled and capably managed by a resourceful team of editors which is currently looking for a new member. Costs have been reduced by more than 50 households opting for the online edition. Further cost reductions might be achieved by acquiring our own printer, but this would also make additional demands on our volunteers.

#### **Villages in Action (VIA), Theatre & Music events**

This is an ad hoc activity with organising groups coming forward when funds are available.

#### **Brentor Living Archive (2001)**

The Archive is run by John Wheeler and Mike Whitfield and so we hope that one of the new Trustees will take on this role. The online interface is being reconfigured and there are many uncatalogued items to be recorded and collated. These include digital items with related notes, paper records and miscellaneous artefacts, documents & original photographs.

#### **Brentor Village Website (2009)**

This is flourishing in the creative and capable hands of Colin Dawes.

### Action !

***If you would like more information, and/or you would be interested in becoming a Trustee, then please contact us.***

**Mike Whitfield**

[mikewhit@btinternet.com](mailto:mikewhit@btinternet.com)

**John Wheeler**

[ajw@brentor.net](mailto:ajw@brentor.net)

**Jane Phelpstead**

[croakytoad97@gmail.com](mailto:croakytoad97@gmail.com)

**Dom Carnell**

[dobsy@hotmail.com](mailto:dobsy@hotmail.com)

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## BRENTOR FRIENDS OF THE FIELD

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11, LIZ ROGERS; 12, SUE  
DAVIES; 27, MATT & ELENA

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Sue Stephens 860374



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[john\\_campbellburrows@icloud.com](mailto:john_campbellburrows@icloud.com) Competitive Rates

I would like to personally thank everyone for the support I've received for my little  
business. It's great to see many of you on a Friday when collecting your lunchtime  
Takeaway. I look forward to spring & summer, when hopefully restrictions are  
eased allowing use of the fields facilities again.

If you haven't visited the 'pop up' yet this year, you may not know I provide Home-  
made meals & stock seasonal local produce. I'm open to ideas, if there's some-  
thing you'd like to see on the menu or have available to collect.

I'd love to hear from you... Thanks for supporting local.

Millie Bickell

## GARDEN HELP NEEDED!

Hedge cutting and  
general assistance  
in a Brentor garden.

01822



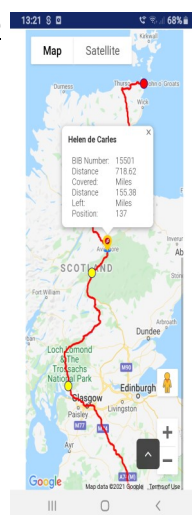
810083

Census Day is  
Sunday 21 March 2021  
in England and Wales



## LeJog Challenge—update

Helen de Carles is well on  
her way to completing the  
gruelling Land's End to  
John O'Groats challenge,  
raising funds for Brentor  
Village Hall and Playing  
Field. If you would like to  
support Helen in any way  
please contact her:  
[helendecarles@gmail.com](mailto:helendecarles@gmail.com)



## VILLAGE HALL CLEANER

We would all like to say a big  
"thank you " to Jo Pullinger, for  
all her work cleaning the village hall over  
the years. Jo is hanging up her rubber  
gloves, so we are looking for someone who  
could start looking after the hall in her  
place. If anyone is keen could they contact  
me, **Sheryl 870554** and when we can we  
can meet at the hall to discuss what is  
needed.



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Church Services	Time/Event	Any queries, contact the Churchwardens: 810845 David Harris david@brentorchurch.org.uk or Helen Harris helen@brentorchurch.org.uk	Location
Sunday 7th March	9.45am Holy Communion		Christ Church
Sunday 14th March	9.45am Mother Sunday Service for all		Christ Church
Sunday 21st March	9.45am Holy Communion		Christ Church
Sunday 28th March	9.45am Family Service		Christ Church
<b>Church News</b>	<p>As I am sure you will all appreciate, at this time I have no definite news about how we will be celebrating Easter at the beginning of April - just to say that we will definitely be celebrating this festival! Church services continue in a Covid safe way, and our churches continue to be open for private prayer every day thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, who clean the churches regularly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Helen Harris</i></p>		

### Brentor Parish Council

with the support of Devon Communities Together is publishing a *Community Emergency/Resilience Plan* for Brentor Parish. This will be available to view on the Brentor Village website shortly. DCT have awarded us a grant to buy equipment for use in the event of an emergency (before Emergency Services arrive) for the whole parish. This equipment will be stored at the Village Hall. David Percival is the Co-Ordinator for any emergency and can be contacted on 01822 810322 or 07713519296. Sand bags/salt are available for anyone in the parish who needs it.

We are also producing and printing a *Home Emergency Plan* for every householder in the parish, to complete and keep, which we hope will aid you in the event of an emergency at home. This will also be available on the village website for you to view and/or download and we shall endeavour to get it delivered to householders in the coming months. If you haven't received a copy by end of May, please contact Sue Fraser 01822 811097.

### Going paperless really helps!

So far over 50 of the 200 households in Brentor have chosen the 'paperless' option for delivery of Brentor News. They receive Brentor News as soon as it is available, *in full colour*. Each printed copy of Brentor News costs Brentor Community Trust over 20p - that's about £2.50 per house per year.

So well done to you paperless households, you will save the Trust **over £125** this year and reduce the amount of paper used by an equivalent of over 1200 sheets of A4! You too can go paperless - email 'paperless' to [brentorinfo@btinternet.com](mailto:brentorinfo@btinternet.com), along with your name and address. By doing this you will also join the Brentor 'e-robin' mailing list and receive occasional messages about local events and activities.

*Colin Dawes*

### VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Brentor News team are looking for another 'editor' to compile the monthly newsletter. Please contact any of the editorial team (below) if you would like more information.

### Brentor News Key Facts

**Distribution:** Brentor News is also published on the village website [www.brentorvillage.org](http://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](mailto:Brentorvillage@btinternet.com). A small donation to the BCT would be appreciated if you live outside the parish.

**Donations & Advertising:** All donations, advertising copy and payment of £5 per advert insertion should be sent by BACS to Jane Phelpstead 01822 810635 [croakytoad97@gmail.com](mailto:croakytoad97@gmail.com) in advance of publication.

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**Brentor Village website:** Contributions to, or comments about the Brentor Village website are welcome please send to the Editor, Colin Dawes [brentorvillage@btinternet.com](mailto:brentorvillage@btinternet.com)

**Editorial team:** Jane Phelpstead, 810635, [croakytoad97@gmail.com](mailto:croakytoad97@gmail.com), Emma Curran, 810200, [emcurran13@gmail.com](mailto:emcurran13@gmail.com), Sue Fraser, 811097, [swhitfraser@gmail.com](mailto:swhitfraser@gmail.com)

**Final copy for April edition by March 20th to Emma Curran**

**01822 810200 Email: [emcurran13@gmail.com](mailto:emcurran13@gmail.com)**