

THE BRENTHAM SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

2

JULY 1970

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Steering Committee has elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr C.G. Hicks,
72 Brentham Way

Secretary: Mr C.G. Higgins,
18 Ludlow Road

Vice-Chairman:
Mr J.B. Fallon,
12 Winscombe Crescent

Treasurer: Mrs M. Aarons,
8 Winscombe Crescent

The Committee is always pleased to hear from members on any subject, and particularly from those who can help the Society in any way.

Constitution: The Committee has now agreed a constitution for presentation to the Society and this will be circulated to all members before the first annual general meeting in October.

Membership: The Committee proposes that full membership should be restricted to residents of the Brentham estate, but that Associate Membership should be open to anyone interested who supports the aims of the Society. Four associate members have joined so far.

OUR MAY MEETING

A successful meeting was held on 12th May, attended by about 120 people. Slides of the estate, past and present, were shown and a discussion followed on various topical matters. Forty new members were enrolled, bringing the total membership near to 150. We hope in future to be able to organise refreshments at meetings; and to close the meeting rather earlier, not later than 10.30 p.m.

The meeting gave assent to the following propositions:

- a) that the replacement of street trees on the estate, chiefly lime trees, should be done in a way causing minimum change in the character of the estate;
- b) that the partial closure of Brunswick Road is on the whole beneficial to the estate, although limited re-opening might be investigated;
- c) that the Society should investigate the production of a picture postcard, of a design similar to the illustration at the head of the Newsletter.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We must thank Mr West of the Brentham Horticultural Society for the slides he made available at the last meeting, showing not only the estate but a number of beautiful entries at the BHS shows a few years ago.

A correction must be made to the information in Newsletter No.1: the secretary of the BHS is Mr A.R. Thomas, 25 Woodfield Avenue. We trust that no inconvenience was caused.

Garden Bonfires: We have twice been approached on the nuisance caused by bonfires. It is suggested that bonfires should be confined to the late evening and that particular care should be taken to avoid bonfires whilst neighbours have washing hanging out.

PROPOSED BRENTHAM SCHOOL

As stated in Newsletter No.1, the Committee would strongly oppose the demolition of any houses on the estate to provide access to a proposed Middle School on the allotment area behind Brunswick and Neville Roads. Our present information is that no definite plans are yet made, but a preference has been indicated for a site at the corner nearest Neville and Brunswick Roads.

The area as a whole is about fifteen acres. A strip would be reserved for landscaping beside Western Avenue (which is likely to become a motorway before long) and about three acres would be needed for the school. The remainder would be given over to allotments, with a special effort to establish model allotments on this site. The allotments are owned by the Borough and at present are just over half used.

The school is proposed for children of 9-13 years from Montpelier and Twyford schools. (The Twyford area of Ealing, isolated by main roads, is too small to warrant a school for older children and so must be incorporated in the next nearest part of the borough.) It must be pointed out that suitable school sites are scarce in Ealing. The Committee considers that a school designed and sited with care need not affect the nearest houses too severely - it could even be a new amenity in the area, providing facilities for communal use outside school hours.

In any approaches to the Council the Committee would like to represent the views of residents as closely as possible. A questionnaire has been drawn up and is being delivered to all households. We hope that as many as possible will reply, from all parts of the estate, so that a fair assessment of views may be obtained.

TREES ON THE ESTATE

The Conservation Area Advisory Panel members have had a most useful meeting with Council officers about street trees on the estate, and it is hoped that the views of the Panel will have some influence on future policy. We were told that nearly all letters received by the Council on the subject were requests for the removal of trees: letters on the other side, from the many Ealing residents who value its trees, would probably help to stem the loss.

Mount Avenue: Many people will have seen the local press reports of the trees saved (perhaps only temporarily) on the Mount Avenue building site, almost entirely as a result of the efforts of a member of our Committee. The character not only of the Brentham estate, but of Ealing as a whole, is very much created by its trees and the indiscriminate felling of our larger trees must be curtailed if the neighbourhood is not to suffer drastically.

NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is again being circulated to all residents, since we feel that the voice of the Society should be heard as widely as possible. Do you prefer that only members should receive it? - please let us know. We are also sending copies to other interested parties including Council officers and local Councillors, our M.P., the local press and library, and other societies similar to our own. We have already received a reciprocal newsletter from Hampstead Garden Suburb, with much interesting news of community activities based on its flourishing Institute.

BRENTHAM CLUB

We have heard that the Brentham Society is still closely associated with the Brentham Club in many people's minds. May we reiterate that there is no connection whatsoever between the two. There have been no negotiations with the Club since the formation of the Society, except regarding hire of the hall for the first two meetings.

NEXT MEETING

A Members' Meeting (new members welcome!) will be held at 8 p.m. on

Tuesday, 21st July

at the Methodist Church Hall, Pitshanger Lane

We would like to hear from members on topical matters and on how they would like the Society to function. Some items we have in mind for the agenda are:

Brentham School -- Brunswick Road -- Relationship with
Brentham Club -- Venue of meetings -- Autumn programme