

BRENTHAM SOCIETY



Editor: Miss M. Tims,
NEWSLETTER NO. 25

MARCH 1973

Editor: Miss M. Tims,
137 Fowlers Walk.

Hon. Sec.: Mrs. S. Poulain
6 Neville Road.

Chairman: Brian Fallon,
12 Winscombe Crescent.

LAST MEETING

The 'Gardening in Brentham' evening at Barralet's indoor centre in Pitshanger Lane on 16th February proved extremely popular. Warm thanks are due to Mr. Barralet and his staff who went to great trouble in preparing the programme, which included a general talk, question time and two excellent short films: one of summer-flowering bulbs, made by the Dutch Bulb Growers Association; the other offering a guided tour of the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley. Altogether an enjoyable and instructive evening.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 26th March at 8 p.m. in St. Barnabas Church Hall

MUSICAL PROGRAMME BY THE RUISLIP CHAMBER ENSEMBLE.

The programme will include madrigals and part-songs; and works for harpsichord, guitar and strings ranging from Weelkes to Villa-Lobas. Coffee and biscuits will be served in the interval. All welcome: admission free.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Friday, 27th April: 'Long-Distance Footpaths and Bridleways'

8 p.m. at St. Barnabas Hall. Lecture illustrated with slides by Mr. S.P. Taylor of the Countryside Commission. Note the date now. More details in our next Newsletter.

SAVE OUR MAYDAY !!

The Committee who have regularly organised the children's Mayday procession and maypole country dancing for many years have been depleted by people leaving the area and by illness to such an extent that they are unable to carry on this year, although they hope to be able to revive the event in 1974. Perhaps this will remind the many families who enjoy this event that it depends on the efforts of a stalwart few.

Several people have expressed the view that even a lapse of one year is a danger to the event continuing and wish to avoid this risk by putting on some festivities this year, even if it is not possible to emulate the 1972 festivities in full. There will be a meeting to discuss the position at the St. Barnabas Church Hall in Pitshanger Lane (next to the Church) on Tuesday 20th March at 8 p.m. It should be clearly understood that as matters stand at present there will be no Mayday festivities at Brentham this year unless this meeting is widely supported. All parents and others who wish to keep up the Mayday celebrations are urged to attend.

BRENTHAM CLUB APPEAL

A reminder that the Public Inquiry to hear the appeal by the Brentham Club against the Council's four refusals to permit the building of an indoor bowling centre takes place in the Town Hall at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday 20th March. Residents may attend personally or send their views in writing to:

The Inspector,
c/o The Town Clerk,
(ref. K/DH/BS/5514)
Town Hall,
Ealing, W.5.

Envelopes should be marked 'Local Inquiry'. The views of the Society are well known on this issue and have been submitted to the Inspector, with reasons for opposing the application.

BRENTHAM LUNCHEON CLUB

Membership has now topped one hundred and the luncheon club is obviously providing a much-needed service. The official opening by the Mayor of Ealing is on April 3rd. A Jumble Sale will be held in June to raise funds for the club. Please put aside your jumble now; arrangements will be made to collect it nearer the date.

PERSONAL STATIONERY

Notelets are now being reprinted and orders can be taken - price 8 for 10p with envelope.

We are also arranging to have writing paper printed with the Brentham design in the top lefthand corner. Individual addresses can be overprinted to order. Stationery may be ordered from any of the following:

Christine Dix	49 Meadow Road
Brian Fallon	12 Winscombe Crescent
Clive Hicks	72 Brentham Way

BRUNSWICK ROAD ALLOTMENTS

The proposal by Ealing Council to build housing on just over one acre of the allotment land between Neville Road and Brunswick Road was discussed at the Society's AGM last November and described in detail in our Newsletter No. 22. It may be recalled that the proposal arose out of a policy document on the subject of leisure gardens, which considered that there was excess allotment land in this area and that part of the surplus land could be used for housing.

Two aspects of the proposal have recently caused fresh concern: (1) a suggestion made in the Housing Committee that it would be desirable to take more than the acre of ground originally proposed; (2) the view of the Planning Department that it may prove necessary to demolish two houses in Neville Road to provide access to the site.

The Committee of the Brentham Society is opposed to these proposals for the following reasons:

- 1) We consider that the outer London boroughs should not be pressed by the GLC to house more and more people from Inner London, many of whom are being ruthlessly displaced by commercial redevelopment. It would be better to rectify the cause rather than attempt to alleviate the effects.
- 2) Ealing Council is naturally anxious to do something for its own homeless or inadequately housed people. The continued drift of population to London and the South East is likely to swell this number. Great care should be taken by the planning authorities to ensure that the demand for housing is not met at the expense of minimum standards of open space, with irrevocable damage to the environment.
- 3) This part of North Ealing is already subject to a considerable increase in population, as large Victorian houses are replaced by flats (e.g. in Mount Avenue); this will put an increasing strain on services in the area and additional housing land should not be sought in this area.
- 4) The Borough of Ealing needs to preserve all its open space; it is fifth in population in the London boroughs, yet fourteenth in open space. If the present proposals are carried out, allotment land in the borough will fall below the minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ acre per 1,000 population which was recommended by the Thorpe Report on Allotments in 1969.
- 5) It has been said that the allotments on this site are underused. We suggest that this is because their use has been discouraged by planning proposals over several years and also by the Council's refusal to plough the vacant sites.
- 6) The Brentham Garden Estate has been designated a conservation area by Ealing Council, which in its own report on these areas in 1969 stated: "They (the conservation areas) depend on the existence of open space and once this open space is developed it will not, for any practical purposes, ever be available for open space again."
- 7) We are completely opposed to the demolition of any houses on the estate; in particular, the two houses in Neville Road which are threatened (those facing Meadvale Road) form one of the focal points and provide an attractive boundary at this corner of the estate.
- 8) Any new development would be unlikely, because of the cost, to be in sympathy with the present character of the estate. In addition, more traffic would be generated which could be detrimental to adjacent roads (Denison, Meadvale, Brunner, Neville and Ludlow).

ACTION: Those who have written to the Chief Town Planning Officer have been informed that they will be able to comment on the proposals when the formal planning application is made. We think it essential that the views of residents should be made known now, before final commitments are made. The Committee is writing on

behalf of the Society to all those listed below and is proposing to circulate in the near future a joint protest which all residents may sign. Anyone wishing to write an individual letter should of course do so.

Your local Councillors: Mrs. E. Frodham; Mr. M.A. Perkiss; Mr. P.L. Rayner
(c/o Town Hall, W.5.)

Ealing representatives on GLC: J.C. Dobson; M.W. Farrow; Dr. Mark Patterson; Sir George Young (c/o County Hall, S.E.1.)

Your Member of Parliament: Mr. William Molloy, MP, House of Commons, S.W.1.

Chief Town Planning Officer)
Chairman of Planning Committee) c/o Town Hall, w.5.
Chairman of Housing Committee)

GLC Architects Department, County Hall, S.E.1.

Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, S.W.1.