

BRENTHAM SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 55

APRIL 1978

Hon. Sec.

Martin Jiggens
1 Winscombe Crescent

Chairman: Marjorie Miles
34 Hollyoake Walk

MAY DAY FESTIVITIES 1978

May Day is 13th May this year even though the mysterious workings of the sewer-laying people have wrought havoc with the maypole pitch and look like causing alterations to the procession route.

Rehearsals are well under way, on Mondays for the 3-8 year olds, and on Tuesdays for the older girls. To date there have been 120 enrolments and at the rehearsal on 10th April the children elected Kirstine Fox as their May Queen for this year.

As the Range Rover used for carrying the very small children in the procession is no longer available, the Committee is looking for another vehicle suitable for this purpose. If anyone has any ideas (any horse-and-carts lurking on the estate?) could they please contact Mary Scanlan, 3 Winscombe Crescent, 997-6995, as soon as possible.

Tickets for the dance on the evening of the 13th (on which the financial success of the event largely depends) are now available and can be obtained from 3 Winscombe Crescent or 33 Ludlow Road.

BUFFET SUPPER

The Buffet Supper at No.1 Winscombe Crescent on Friday 24th February was enjoyed by approximately 40 residents. The evening fulfilled its promise of fine food, good wine, with interesting company, sincere thanks to Rosemary and Martin Jiggens for their hospitality.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society depends for its income on members' subscriptions ie 30 p per household per annum. In spite of our reminders, members, with some exceptions, do not hand in or post their subscriptions. We have to collect them door to door. The committee members have always done this and it is a pleasant activity which affords opportunities to meet people and discuss topics of interest. However, it is very time consuming. We propose to embark on a subscription collecting drive one Sunday morning fairly soon and we are asking for volunteers to help us.

Each volunteer will be asked to do a road or one side of a road. It is a simple matter of collecting 30p and giving a membership card in return.

Will anyone who is willing to co-operate in the work please contact Brian Fallon (997-1056) and he will arrange a convenient date.

BRENTHAM LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club has vacancies for retired state pensioners who would enjoy a good lunch in pleasant company. Please apply to the Supervisor between 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm any weekday at the Brentham Club.

The Luncheon Club needs some more voluntary helpers, if you can help please contact Anthony Oliver.

BRENTHAM STREET LIGHTS

Residents will have noticed that the Local Authority have been installing new lamp standards on the Estate and your Committee are far from happy with the design of these new lighting columns and have made representations to the Local Authority. We set out below extracts from a letter we have received from the Chief Officer, Works explaining the reasons behind the decision to replace the lamp standards:-

"The Architect of the Brentham Estate did not include the street lighting in his design: they were erected by the Council of the day to meet the conditions of the period. Fifty years later these conditions have changed dramatically. Although this Authority tries to preserve that which is good they are nevertheless governed by Acts of Parliament to provide an amenity which meets present day conditions and offer security to all users of the highways as well as those living in the area.

The reason for the decision to replace the gas converted units in Brentham Estate and elsewhere in the Borough is manyfold. The age of these, some 50 to 70 years, has started to cause problems with metal fatigue around the collar at the point where the bracket arm is clamped to the column. The constant movement has caused fractures resulting in brackets falling off, creating a hazardous situation detrimental to the community. The method of electric servicing is now no longer acceptable by the local electricity board as it does not conform with modern practices to satisfy the Health and Safety requirements for operating personnel or electrical engineering. As a result the Electricity Board will not or cannot repair cable faults to the existing columns. In this event a new column is erected alongside, which will accept a modern service.

It is inevitable that the existing installation cannot go on forever and eventually each column will have to be replaced resulting in a most unsatisfactory situation: therefore, it was decided to relight with the future in mind.

The new column design was chosen for its simplicity, along with reasons of economy and efficiency, that the slim erect, non shape would blend into any situation and would be unobtrusive. From the many thousands of these columns erected around the Borough the results have been extremely favourable.

I will accept that the existing are of a different nature but they have become extremely expensive to maintain. The lanterns are obsolete and the manufacturers are no longer in business, which makes spares virtually impossible to obtain. These units require 4 visits each year to keep them in full operational order, whereas the new require only 2. With the escalating costs of labour and transport these factors must be taken into consideration.

I thank you for your interest and co-operation in this matter."

We are still not happy with the position and will continue to make representations for a more sympathetic type of lamp standard in a Conservation Area but we are at least hopeful that they will be decorated in appropriate colours.

I should like to become a member/renew my membership of the Brentham Society and enclose 30p membership

Name.....Address.....