

# BRENTHAM SOCIETY



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

CHAIRMAN: Audrey Jones

SECRETARY: Barbara Murray

NEWSLETTER No. 104

DECEMBER 1990

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 18th October at the Brentham Club was very well attended. After welcoming everyone and thanking those who had helped during the year, the Chairman summarised the aims of the Society and its achievements. However, the main point was that the Society is the residents and it was up to everyone on the Estate to look after Brentham. The committee simply acted as a catalyst. A new committee was elected:

Audrey Jones	Chairman	32 Brentham Way	997 9640
Paul Wharrier	Vice Chairman	3 Ludlow Road	998 7264
Barbara Murray	Secretary	2 Winscombe Crescent	997 8115
David Skelton	Treasurer	39 Woodfield Avenue	998 3450
Tony Oliver	Membership Sec.	48 Denison Road	997 7523
Brian Fallon		12 Winscombe Crescent	997 1056
Mark Cyron		18 Brentham Way	998 3357

Garden Awards: Because no single garden reached the standard of previous prize winners, the Cup was not awarded. Seven gardens were highly commended and the first two received gardening vouchers:

27 Brunner Road (1st) 10 Ludlow Road (2nd) 18 Brentham Way, 50 Fowlers Walk, 39 Meadvale Road, 22 Brentham Way and 56 Holyoake Walk.

Congratulations to the gardeners. Please do not be discouraged - with a little more rain in 1991 we hope to re-instate full awards.

LIKELY LAD (OR LADY) WANTED - As you see, we have only seven committee members and would like to recruit an eighth. If your interests are in architecture, gardening, arboriculture, photography, writing, local history or public works, please contact any committee member.

LUNCH CLUB - Tony Oliver would be pleased to welcome pensioners to the lunches which are available every week-day at the Brentham Club.

Vegetarian and Diabetic menus are available.

Contact Tony Oliver for yourself or on behalf of someone you know.



## "THE PIONEER CO-PARTNERSHIP SUBURE" Facsimile Edition.

A number of "Old Brenthamites" wrote to say how much they enjoyed the book. Their letters were so interesting we invited five people to an "oral history" session. Audrey has now typed the transcript. Local "characters" abound and Miss Thompson, redoubtable North Ealing School teacher featured in everyone's memories. Another recording session will be held in the spring. Contact Audrey if you lived in Brentham in the 20s, 30s and 40s.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION IN ACTION

Many thanks to the five people who saved a weeping birch from destruction in a recent wind-storm. They physically held the tree in place whilst new stakes were bought and fitted. Their prompt action saved a valuable tree.

## STREET LIGHTS

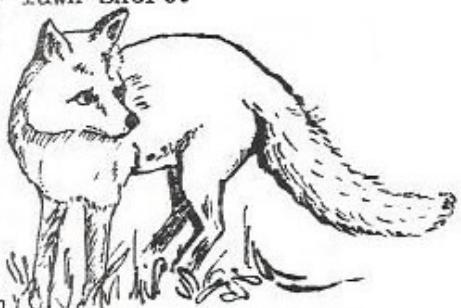
You will have noticed that a number of street lights are not working in Brunner Road, Woodfield Crescent and Winscombe Crescent. We have been informed by the Council that the fault lies underground and is the responsibility of the S.E.B. They assure us that are doing all they can to expedite repairs by the S.E.B. The Council have been warned that if anyone is unfortunate enough to suffer an injury due to the unlit streets, they will be held responsible.

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## THE WILD SIDE OF BRENTHAM

Mike Silverman writes: Some unusual arrivals suggest that if not a vacuum, there must at least be an area of low pressure over Brentham. A sheep was found wandering up Winscombe Crescent by Barbara Murray a few years ago. Perhaps it had been employed by someone to keep their lawn short! Around the corner, in Brentham Way, the Durants came across a dispossessed donkey. Most exciting are the recent sightings of a fox (or foxes) in the back gardens in Brentham Way after an absence of over ten years.

In Spring 1989 a fine, male cockatiel turned up on a tree behind our house, to be enticed into a cage by Mrs. Durant. By co-incidence, her milkman was a keen parrot fancier, but even he was surprised when the bird laid a clutch of eggs! Certain species of parrot have "gone wild" and regularly breed in the London area. Rose-ringed parakeets, attractive birds with bright green plumage and a long tail, were deliberately released into the wild in the 1960s. I have seen small bands in this area.



Some immigrant species are not quite so benign. Last summer a ferret gnawed its way into a cage of guinea pigs in a garden behind Pitshanger Lane and killed them. The tame creature was easily enticed into a basket where we were able to admire its expressive visage - strikingly like that of a sad clown. Ferrets are domesticated polecats, probably of Central European origin. Formerly widespread, their wild British counterparts now survive only in Wales. Our creature had probably escaped recently from captivity. Could feral ferrets join foxes and in some towns, badgers, drawn into the relative wildlife vacuum of urban areas?

## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Residents may have noticed some disruption in Brentham Way recently - a film company were shooting some rather strange scenes involving an old lady sprinting down the street in jogging gear. This, and other scenes, are part of a series of public information films to be shown on television throughout January 1991. They are intended to inform the public about forthcoming changes in Income Tax exemption on Savings Accounts - non-tax payers will benefit. Brentham Society also benefits - by a donation of £150 to the Society, some of which money has been used to provide Christmas gifts for elderly and disabled residents.

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A HAPPY - and above all - PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL

Stationery may now be bought from Rosalind Jones, 32 Brentham Way. 997 9640