



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

NEWS

Our first issue of the newsletter in 1995 looks back to some of the events at the end of last year and also looks forward to some of the events planned for the coming year.

The first announcement is of our Committee for the year October 1994 to October 1995. There has been some delay in announcing this because of a resignation.

CHAIRPERSON - Heather Moore

127 Fowlers Walk, 998 0234

VICE CHAIR - John Parsons

8 Meadvale Road, 997 9034

ACTING SECRETARY - Delphine Nunn,

24. Woodfield Crescent, 997 1208

TREASURER - Derek Buckley

53 Ludlow Road, 997 2378

Other members of the committee are;
Julie Gibson 40, Woodfield Crescent
Tony Oliver, 46 Denison Road
Mark Greenwood, 5 Brunner Road

We still have a vacancy on the Committee and wonder if there is anyone who would be willing to volunteer. It is not an onerous job, involving one meeting a month and a few extra hours in between meetings. We would be delighted if someone would join us as a coopted member. Please contact Heather Moore if you would like some more details about what is involved and think you may be able to help

FROM OUR MAIL BAG

The committee has recently received two letters that they feel would be of interest to residents.

Following our recent article and letter from Jean George another ex-resident of the Brentham Estate has written to tell us something about life on the Estate when it was first built. Doris Palmer's family, the Marshalls, were the first residents of 52 Meadvale Road in about 1910. Doris, then 4 years old, now 88 years old, knew Jean George as a baby. Her family then moved to 69 Fowlers Walk. She goes on to recount, *"Sports day was one of the big excitements of the Summer finishing the evening with dancing on the grass outside the cricket pavilion. This must have been in about 1921."*

Doris enclosed her subscription for next year saying that she enjoys the newsletter because it brings back so many happy memories.

Secondly, Rose of 1 Harrow View Road, has written a long letter regarding the privatisation of the Pitshanger Park Play Centre. This would involve the introduction of charges for the Centre and swings. She feels that this is unfair and cites many good reasons why the Centre should remain in the hands of the Council and free to residents in the area.

Rose asks for residents who use the Centre to write or ring to protest. The person to whom you should address your protest is ;

John Cudmore, c/o Ealing Town Hall, 081 993 1534.

IDEAL INTERIORS

The centrepiece of this year's Annual General Meeting was an illustrated talk given by the Committee's guest, Lesley Hoskins, an archivist for Sanderson and Sons.

The talk, entitled: "Ideal Interiors : Brentham Decoration in a Bygone Age." was an attempt to respond to members' requests for a clearer picture of the typical original Brentham interior, which might inform their own plans for future decoration. As such Ms. Hoskins's talk was all that could have been expected, and more.

Having confessed an interest in the "planned" estates of the period, she had clearly researched our own environment thoroughly, visiting Brentham on a number of occasions and examining some of our best conserved houses. Her first impressions were of the contrast between the monotonous terraces of the Victorian era and the organic asymmetry of Brentham cottages which seeks to preserve the feel of the countryside, with the impression of space and airiness.

She drew on analogies with Hampstead and juxtaposed illustrations of late nineteenth century interiors with those of the planned estate, to demonstrate the inappropriateness of Victorian design values to our own homes.

What appeared most strikingly was the almost revolutionary austerity of the spare, clean "Arts and Crafts" interiors by comparison with their cluttered if often cosy looking predecessors, mahogany or similar dark woods.

By contrast, the movement which lay behind the planned estate held in

principle the idea that light represented health and darkness disease. Consequently the interior decor of these new houses was to express those precepts.

Ms. Hoskins then took us on a "tour" of the kind of interior she envisaged, introducing en route the concepts of the "multi-purpose" room and the "servantless house", keys to the changing social environment. In design terms, elaborate concealment gave way to clean, clear uncluttered lines, simple but aesthetically pleasing shapes. Graining was "out", natural wood and good plain furniture were "in". In living spaces which were not only the centre of family life but also areas for sewing and other handiwork, windows were allowed to admit light, with one set of curtains instead of elaborate heavy drapery.

Heavy and dark wall-covering had given way to light colours, and ornaments and pictures tended to be well-chosen and few, rather than random and cluttered together.

Bathrooms and kitchens reflected the new clean and functional ideal, and were if anything even more austere than the living areas.

An appreciative audience gave Ms. Hoskins a suitably warm reception, and she kindly responded to the many questions which followed her talk.

HANDMADE ON THE ESTATE

As part of the launch of the Brentham Christmas Cards, the society took a table at the Methodist Christmas Craft Fair.

The theme for the stall was 'Handmade on the Brentham Estate'. We had

Christmas gift boxes and tags, stationery, mincemeat and some beautiful garlands. The cakes, as usual, sold very quickly!

The Christmas Cards were a terrific success - hundreds of drawings of Brentham front doors and Fowlers Walk have been winging their way all over the country.

We raised the grand total of £123.75 which will be used to fund future projects.

Thanks to everyone who gave produce and time, and especially to Julie Gibson and Mandy Greenwood who made it all happen. We'll be doing a stall at the Easter Craft Fair - see elsewhere in this issue for details.

HARK !

If you live in Woodfield Crescent, you may have seen a strange sight one night, a few days before Christmas.

You might have spotted a line of people filing in to Number 42 singing "For we all want some figgy pudding..."

Well, worry no longer. It was merely the Brentham Society Carol Singers taking a well earned break in their tour of the estate. Christa Brodie-Good very kindly threw open her house to us for a mince-pie and mulled-wine stop-over. (No figgy pudding, though.)

Back in balmy October, it seemed a good idea to revive the old Brentham custom of carol singing around the Estate. But we could not predict whether enough singers would agree. And we had no idea about the reception we would get from the Estate. Thankfully, the response was brilliant. We had a choir of up to 15 people on

both the Sunday and the Wednesday. The singing was much appreciated and people made very generous donations.

We've just heard that we collected a total of £151.45 for the David Allen Retioblastoma Appeal, and £154.68 for St David's home for Ex-servicemen. This is a magnificent result and thanks must go to everyone who donated.

Thanks are also due to Ellen Jackson for the use of her home and piano for rehearsals, and to Sue Clark for the carol books. And thanks to everyone who sang - it was a marvellous effort in bone-chilling weather.

If you would like to come and sing with us next year, you'll be very welcome - I can recommend the mince pies and mulled wine!



SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is now time to start collecting subscriptions for the coming year. The method of collecting subscriptions introduced last year was highly successful and we intend to use the same method again this year. With this newsletter you will have received an envelope. Please enter your name and address and return it with your subscription to the collector indicated. If you pay by direct debit please ignore your envelope.

NB The subscription for 1995 is still only £1 per household. If you can, please make a donation, as this increases the work we are able to do on your behalf. Thank-you.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



ANNOUNCING DECORATE AN EASTER EGG COMPETITION

A competition for all children under 13 on the Estate. The rules for entry are as follows:

1. Children are invited to decorate an egg in an imaginative and original way.
2. Entries must be submitted 2 days before the Craft Fair on March 18th.
3. Entries should be submitted to Mark Greenwood at 5 Brunner Way.
4. Entries will be judged and the winning entries will be exhibited on the Easter Craft Fair stall.
5. Children who visit the stall to see the winning entries will receive a small chocolate egg.
6. There will be prizes for various categories depending on the entries.

GARDEN OPEN DAY 1995

We are looking for volunteers who will be prepared to open their gardens to visitors one afternoon in May or June. Anyone interested? Please contact Delphine Nunn, 997 1208 for more information.

Apologies to the Silvermans who live in Brentham Way and not Brunner Way as stated in our report of the garden awards in the last edition of the newsletter.

THE EASTER CRAFT FAIR

March 18th, 10.30 - 3.30
Methodist Church Hall,
Pitshanger Lane.

Brentham Society Stall

ON SALE

stationery,
cards
cakes
tickets for wine tasting

ON VIEW

Easter Egg Competition
entries
Chocolate egg for visiting
children



CHEESE AND WINE TASTING

The Society has organised a wine and cheese tasting evening, in conjunction with COTE D'OR wines and the VILLAGE PANTRY both of Pitshanger Lane.

The tasting will be held at ;

St Barnabas Church Hall
Thursday March 30th,
8.00pm

Tickets £5, available on the evening or at the Craft Fair

Plus there will be another chance to view some of the original plans of Brentham houses.