



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

NEWS

Special General Meeting Votes for Charity Status

At a well-attended Special General Meeting at the Methodist Church on 29th April, the membership backed a proposal from the Committee to make certain changes to the constitution, paving the way for an application to the Charity Commission for the Society to register as a charity.

Why now, after 28 years as a society? Well, as a relatively new member of the Committee I must admit I laboured under the misapprehension that we WERE a charity for several months! After all, we have a constitution and formally minuted proceedings, we have objectives saying what we aim to achieve, we produce annual reports and accounts, and so on in other words we put in most of the hard work but cannot reap any of the benefits of charity status.

And for the Brentham Society, as we said at the SGM, those benefits revolve mainly around money and our ability to raise it for a number of projects connected with the Centenary in 2001. The main project at the moment - though there will be others - is to produce the definitive Centenary History of the Brentham Garden Suburb. This will cost in excess of £20,000 to produce, and while we expect sales to recover some of the cost, we certainly do not have that much money up front.

As you will have read in the last edition of Brentham News, a sub-committee led by Wendy Sender has formulated a project

plan, phase one of which involves competing for ever-scarcer (thanks to the "Lottery Factor") charitable funds from trusts with relevant aims. There are literally dozens of funds to apply to - the Rowntree Trust and Ellerman Foundation for example - and we do have a strong case, but virtually all of them will ONLY consider applications from charities.

So, now the constitution has been modified, we will submit our application to the Commission very soon. The approval process takes about 3 weeks, and once we get the all clear, Wendy and her team (we still need more volunteers - call Wendy on 997-4123 or me on 997-4857) can get cracking on the fundraising. If anyone missed the SGM and would like a copy of the new constitution including the changes, contact me or the Committee Secretary (Rosanna Henderson 998-6550).

As I said earlier, this project is starting 3 years in advance of the Centenary. That's because of the lead-time in producing and publishing a book in time for it to be in the Pitshanger Bookshop (and other good stores) in time for Christmas 2000. Other projects aren't likely to be as large but then again If YCU have any ideas on how to mark, or celebrate the Brentham Centenary, please write to the Chairman, or come to the next surgery, or speak to any member of the Committee.

Brentham is unique, so lets make sure we make a big splash in 2001. Hmmm ... a centenary pond in the park. now there's a thought.

Philip Sutcliffe

Chairman's notes.

• Membership

Our last newsletter will have hit your doormat with a heavier than usual thump. The usual newsletter was accompanied by a variety of leaflets about Brentham and our annual membership request. The pack's job was to update everyone in Brentham, including the many new residents, on the work of the Society.

A couple of people pointed out that the pack mentioned a Subscription Standing Order form which was not included. Sorry! If you want to continue paying by standing order, please ask your bank to pay at the new rate. If you haven't yet joined or rejoined, there is still time to do so!

We have had lots of appreciative comments for which we thank you and this year's membership is looking pretty healthy. The pack's success is due mainly to the work Rosanna, the Society Secretary, put in and to the team of deliverers who had to lug the packs all around Brentham.

• Plans ahead?

Spring is the time of year when many people decide to rip the house apart and change their living quarters. We are no exception - I am dreading the day the builders start and my family has to live in two rooms for three weeks.

It seems timely to remind you that any work that affects the outside of the house needs planning permission including replacement windows, retiling, porches, new doors or loft conversions. Also, changes to hedges, walls, fences and gates need permission.

• No more tree posters

I recently received a letter from Ealing Council Environment Department asking the Society to stop using the trees as notice boards. The Council are having a crack down on fly-posting right across the Borough and groups like ours are being targeted, along with commercial fly posters. We will be using a variety of methods of communicating with members in the future so keep a lookout and let us know whether they work.

• Bring them to book.

Once again, Pitshanger Library is threatened with closure. If you care about books and the

need for people in North Ealing to have easy access to them, pop into the library and add your name to the petition.

• Calm down, calm down.

We hear that work on the traffic calming scheme in Brunswick and Lynwood Roads is due to commence in May. As I understand it, there will be sleeping policemen along Brunswick from the junction of Lynwood up to the North Circular and also along Lynwood Road and Birkdale Road. So far, we know of no plans to do any work actually in the Brentham Garden Suburb.

Many people have suggested all sorts of catastrophic results of this scheme. I am looking forward to seeing what effect these changes really have, as I cycle to work along Brunswick Road every morning.

• Fast moving stationery.

Our pack also mentioned that Society stationery is available from committee members. It is, of course, also on sale in the Pitshanger Bookshop. Indeed since they started selling our wares, turnover has improved no end, so keep buying!

Mark Greenwood

Hedges and fences on Brentham Garden Suburb.

One of the key design elements in the Brentham Garden Suburb, unsurprisingly, are the gardens. In particular, the architects who laid out the estate took great care to plan the positions of the hedges and to include many of the ancient trees in the plan. The undulating ribbons of green hedge criss-crossing our Garden Suburb are one of the vital unifying features in Brentham.

When Brentham was made a Conservation Area, the importance of the gardens was recognised and it was agreed that if any resident wanted to change any hedge, fence, wall, or gate then they should apply for planning permission.

We have, along with the Brentham Planning Advisory Panel and the Council Planners, put together a guide to the rules in this area. Please take a moment to read it and refer to it if you have any plans to make changes to your boundaries, front or back, however small.

Planning guidelines (hedges & fences):

Firstly, attempt to retain, or replace with original planting or construction.

Where there is a living hedge, it should be kept. It can be trimmed or reduced in height or thickness. Where appropriate, advice from an arboriculturist should be taken, to avoid damage or the death of the hedge.

Where there is a dead hedge, or where there was originally a hedge, it should be replaced with a new hedge.

Where there is no hedge and where it is uncertain if there ever was a hedge, planting a new hedge should be encouraged. In fact the police have advised that hedges prove to be better than fences as a security measure.

Where there is an original fence, it should be replaced as original.

Where there is a fence but it is not original, it may be acceptable to replace with another fence, but height, design, construction, posts, etc. will be carefully considered but replacement with a hedge is preferable.

Where privacy is an important consideration, there may be scope for erecting a fence within the curtilage of the property, with a hedge planted on the boundary on the external side of the fence.

Mark Greenwood

FROM THE ARCHIVES

• YOUR CLAIM TO FAME ?

In the same way that every picture tells a story so every Brentham house has a history. Does your house have a claim to fame ? Maybe a famous resident has lived there, perhaps an MP, a local dignitary such as the Mayor of Ealing, a famous sports personality, even a witch or maybe your house was the scene of Ealing's most notorious murder or has been visited by royalty. This and other bits of fascinating information can be found in the society's archives and helps to paint a picture of life on the estate over the years. Have you got any snippets of information that may be of historical interest ?

• STREETS

Do you know the origin of the name of your street ? (Actually there are roads, walks, crescents, gardens, an avenue, a lane, a way and a view but there are no streets in Brentham !). The archives could help. I propose to start a short series of street profiles for publication through the newsletter and would be grateful for any bits of information you think other residents might find interesting. Do let me know.

• FRIENDS OF BRENTHAM

As well as all current residents receiving the Brentham Newsletter a number of ex-residents are still members and are sent a copy. Readership covers an area from as far north as Yorkshire to the south coast towns of East and West Sussex. Do you know of any ex-resident who would like to keep in touch with Brentham by receiving a copy - we'd be happy to put them on our mailing list for £2 per year to cover costs. These are just the sort of people who might have some interesting memories of our area.

• A PERSONAL MEMORY

One such ex-resident is Brenda Brant, formerly of Denison Road, who has just written her life story. She has kindly allowed us to reproduce one short extract :

" Life was good until 4th September 1939 when war broke out. I was 14 and did not want to be evacuated so I left school and started doing lots of little jobs to bring in money. I looked after children, delivered newspapers and white washed peoples steps for sixpence to help them see in the blackout.... We had an Anderson shelter put up in our garden the same as all our neighbours.... 1940 was the worst time with the great fire blitz. The fires from East London docks could be seen very clearly and we were about twelve miles away....1944 was the doodle bug year. Our house was very badly damaged from one that dropped on the corner of Meadvale Road and North View just a minutes walk from our home. Our house had no windows nor doors and there were piles of glass everywhere. This happened at 11-00am Sunday morning. The apple pies my mother had made were filled with glass. The war damage men were wonderful during the war and worked for hours to make everything safe".

(Extract of "My Life Story" by B.C.L.Brant)

Alan Henderson

- Archivist and Newsletter Editor (998-6550)

RECENT EVENTS - feedback

A Brentham Social

This was the first "Meet Your Neighbours" night we had trialled and proved to be a format that people enjoyed. There was a display of archive material that included a range of the original architects drawings for many of the houses within the conservation area. It was a real thrill for people to find their own home plans beautifully drawn and watercoloured - and an idea was mooted to have some colour copies of these priceless Arts and Crafts plans organised. A quiz was an integral part of the night alongside good wine and good company.

Julie Clements

Society Committee Surgery

This well attended pilot event at the Brentham Club on Saturday 21st March was in response to members requests for the committee to be more accessible and to promote the society's continuing policy of getting residents more involved in our work and activities. Our visitors included new residents to Brentham who wanted to know more about us and an "A" level student doing a project on architecture who has since spent some time looking through the archives. Subscriptions were paid and stationery was bought. Everyone agreed the event was a success and we intend to hold another Surgery in the Autumn.

Rosanna Henderson

May Day Talk

Have you ever wondered about the origins of Brentham's May Day celebrations or whatever Jack-in-the-Green is about? If you have, your questions would have been answered in Clive Hick's fascinating talk at the Methodist Church Hall on 29th April. Brentham May Day started about 1905 and copied from other festivals, bringing together two ancient traditions - the May Queen and Jack in the Green. The May Queen developed from the ancient perception of the divine as Mother, and Jack in the Green, from the Green Man, her son who came to earth as a tree. Clive showed us slides of other May Day celebrations in Hastings and Castleon, of sculptures of the Green Man from Britain and elsewhere in Europe as well

as some of our estate before the A40, and lots of May Day celebrations through the years. What puzzles me is why the sun was always shining ...

Heather Moore

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday June 7th Brentham Cycle (London Bike Week)

This is an event we are trying out for the first time this year. We propose to cycle (mostly off the public highway) from Brentham to Osterley Park where we can have a well earned afternoon tea. We'll meet in Pitshanger Park at 1-30pm by the children's play area. It's approximately 7 miles and takes about 2 hours at a gentle pace. It would help if we knew numbers beforehand. For more information contact Alan Henderson (998-6550).

Sunday June 21st (3:30 - 5:30pm) The 18th Annual Strawberry Tea

Barbara Murray has again kindly offered to host this popular event for residents and friends at 2 Winscombe Crescent. There'll be a Bring & Buy Plant Stall in aid of "Downhurst" for which donations of plants will be very welcome. Admission is £2 (Society Members £1-50, children 50p).

Sunday July 19th - Fun Day

Fun for all the family - a great success last year, we hope for a repeat turnout. Watch for details or contact Lawrence Hamilton (933-5331).

More dates for your 1998 diary

Open House Weekend	Saturday/Sunday 19th/20th September
AGM	Tuesday 13th October

*** Remember ***

we can't put up tree posters near the time,
make a note of these dates in your diary

*** NOW ***