

The Brenthamite

(PUBLISHED MONTHLY)

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VOL. I., NO. II.

JANUARY, 1917

THE LAMENT OF THE OLD BOWLING GREEN.

It used to be a favoured place,
Where Brentham's bowlers met all comers.
The noble "woods" would on me race,
And o'er my pimples gaily chase
The "jack" in by-gone summers.
I helped them all to learn the game,
Then suffered foul desertion's shame.
Within my privet boundaries fair,
Our famous Captain anecdoted.
And gradually built up there
That happy family spirit rare,
For which the Bowls Club's noted.
And oh! the tickets he has sold,
For Concerts, to the men who bowled.
Then by the Institute they laid
A Green, on which the game was started.
And left me in the cold, dismayed,
While boys and nasty bow-wows played,
When friends had all departed.
But now at last they've thought of me,
Allotment gardens I'm to be.
No more they'll come with rubber soles,
To save my face from being roughened.
But in old clothes, with spades and poles,
In wooden clogs, dig horrid holes,
And get there muscles toughened.
Where once the bowls so lively sped,
The cabbage plant will raise its head.

THE PIERROT.

There is no chimney cowl on hire at the office in spite of rumours to the contrary. Residents wishing for short-period revolving cowls are warned that Santa Claus objects to them. Besides Zeppelins may be guided by the "tune" they play when left unoled.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Home on leave recently have been :—A.-M. Harold Allport (discharged from hospital), Pte. Percy Roe (now preparing for a Commission), Sergt. Jack Miller, Canadian R.F.A. (who left Brentham for Canada six years ago), Spr. W. Palmer (wearing his M.M. ribbon), Pte. H. Salter (home wounded), Seaman Leonard Poulteney (on leave from his internment in Holland), Lieut. I. Brownlee (after an attack of trench fever), Sergt.-Major C. Ephgrave, 1st Class Mechanic J. Walsom. Trooper H. Foord (one of the very few of our residents to be in the original mobilisation in August, 1914, and since having seen service in Egypt and Gallipoli). All men home on leave are welcome at the Institute, where the Committee extends honorary membership to them.

Our sympathy goes out to Rifleman F. C. Dent, Q.V.R.'s, who, as a result of wounds received, has suffered the loss of his right arm. Mr. Dent could wield his pen to some purpose, and was an organist of talent.

Mr. George Tollett, who is serving in the French Army, has been awarded the Croix Guerre for bravery in operating the telephone while under fire. Our congratulations !

Sadler W. G. Brown has been in hospital in Malta, suffering from dysentery. In a letter to Mr. Hearn, he writes anent the I.C.C. : "I should call it a business Committee, not a Coalition," and again, "I keep them all alive in the ward with some of the yarns, some of those spun on the Bowling Green when we had finished playing the noble and ancient game." Good luck, W.G.B. !

We have received a field service post-card from Sergt. Tom Nicholson, who is "quite well," and wishes "A Happy New Year to all." Cheero, Nick !

A programme of a Concert in aid of War Relief Funds at St. Neots has reached us, and we are pleased to notice that the part of Cissie in "Contrasts" was taken by Mrs. Nicholson, who will be remembered with pleasure in Brentham dramatics.

Sergt. George Pedrick has returned to England in order to train for a Commission.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Mr. CHARLES HOGLEY. During his long illness we have shared with Brentham a continual anxiety to learn of his welfare, and now the end has come we express the general sorrow at the loss of a brilliant sportsman and a good fellow. With Mrs. Hogley and her little son lies the deepest sympathy of all Brentham.

[Mrs. Hogley desires to express her thanks to the many friends who have shown their sympathy in her loss.]

DECEMBER EVENTS.

BY SKIB.

A Bohemian was held on December 2nd. The spirit of Bohemianism was there alright, and Mr. Hearn encouraged it. But could it have been anticipated that not more than 50 would be present more cosy conditions could have been arranged ; Bohemianism can hardly be expected to thrive in a half-empty hall. The company, too, was bound too much by local traditions in the matter of refreshments, and was reticent of obtaining them except at half-time, as though there is something vulgar about having a drink during the progress of such a concert. Misses Lewis, New and Irwin, and Messrs. Douglas, Poulteney, Coburn, Bryceson, and Winyard were among those who entertained. Brentham must study the art of mutual cheeriness before putting on the coloured garb of Bohemianism again !

The Second Entertainment by pupils of Miss Molly Duncan on December 9th was a great attraction to Brentham. Although a "repeat," owing to the popularity of the first entertainment, several new items were introduced, and those repeated retained all their freshness. "The awakening of the Dresden China" and the song scena "I don't care" were the chief of these items ; the former culminating in the dramatic appearance of a fairy (Margery Cooper) from within a large clock, and the latter introducing six babies in their cots during a visit from Santa Claus. Both were very artistic, and proved that Miss Molly Duncan's pupils are in no way resting on laurels previously gained ; each announcement of future displays will re-awaken the most pleasurable anticipation in the minds of those who were fortunate enough to be in the audience on this occasion. Miss Molly Duncan gave two recitations from Dickens, in her best style, and Miss Millicent Welham sang two songs, to which encores were demanded, in the true spirit of the comedienne : this being something of an innovation in Brentham. Mrs. Lionel Fielder was again an accompanist whose art conceals itself.

Whist Drives were held on the evenings of December 16th and 23rd. Twelve tables were in use, and keen play resulted.

Members' Night.—That is the only term that suits the occasion of the social evening to which the I.C.C. invited the Institute members on the evening of December 30th. Whether or not the Committee thought that members were not taking full advantage of their membership, it was a happy idea that led to the members and their friends testing to their utmost capacity the facilities of the Institute and the organising power of the Committee. Both members and committee learnt much from the occasion ; the former found that the latter makes a special study of its members' comfort and convenience, and the latter was assured of the members' appreciation of the work that the Committee is doing.

At six o'clock a billiards' flying handicap was commenced, and the billiard room was thereafter a scene of much animation. At seven o'clock a Concert was started in the hall below, and this served as a rallying point for those who were anticipating the later dance and whist drive. It also made a pleasant interlude for those whose luck in the billiard handicap was short-lived; one by one they trickled in and soon found their spirits revive. Long before the end of the Concert (8.30 p.m.) the hall was well filled, and the company was very grateful to those who figured in a very good programme:—Miss Bennett, Miss Forrest, Miss Nolan, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Bryceson, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Ridsdale and Mr. Toms. While refreshments were served a few energetic gentlemen prepared the halls for the dance and whist drive. Both were largely attended; indeed one can hardly recollect an occasion on which so many were present, and the remaining half of the season should see similar scenes on each Saturday evening. Shortly before midnight all in the building met in the Hall and concluded a very pleasant evening by singing the National Anthem.

ON DIT:—

- That the I.C.C. high official who was looking for "A Pair of Blue Eyes" the other evening is to be musically commended rather than frivolously condemned.
- That the issue of "Brentham" cigarettes at the Institute bar does not indicate that the Refreshment Department is likely to end in smoke.
- That "J. D." will shortly deliver a lecture on "From Bowls to Cabbages," with practical illustrations from Brunner Road.
- That pickling cabbages and beetroots grown in that district will naturally turn red if the old ground tells tales.
- That beginners at Snooker are advised to book a table early, before the pro's. arrive.
- That the said pro's. are sure to be there before the game is finished, and should remember that the beginners are having an awkward as well as an expensive time.
- That the gentlemen who collected the slips issued by the Club were so delighted with the various styles of reception accorded them, that they almost forgot they were obliging the residents, and nearly felt that some of the householders were obliging them.
- That the I.C.C. Secretary has discovered a safe place for his keys.
- That the last dance at the Institute Social suited some people "down to the ground."
- That the programme for the 'ITE Concert on 3rd February will be like the last one, only more so. ANON.

Our next issue, February, will be the twelfth, and will complete Volume I. The list of subscribers to that volume is still open; it has been but slightly added to recently.

OUT AND ABOUT.

No branch of indoor activity is more worth doing than that which falls to the Children's Committee. With no Operetta to absorb their energies, the Juniors are able to devote themselves to a variety of pastimes, ranging from tiddley-winks to chess, and from sewing to boxing. The younger members, boys and girls, have their hour together, but the elder ones, probably because of the incompatibility of their respective programs, are denied the delights of co-education.

I understand, however, that recently the boys have been invited to join the girls at their weekly dance, but, of course, this was the result of a delicious piece of collaboration ; the girls simply could not dance with one another, and the boys showed an altogether simulated desire to learn dancing. Anyhow, it succeeded, and I hope it may lead to further conquests.

* * *

A much respected and valued, though unofficed, member of the Board of the 'ITE, stated some time ago that he had "smoked a pipe of tobacco grown in an estate garden and cured by the grower." My colleague is quite well again, and I wonder who cured him !

Shortly afterwards I found a new cigarette on sale at the bar of the Institute, and as the brand was "Brentham" (beautifully printed on each cigarette), I decided that my love of Brentham's horticultural products did not extend to tobacco, and under the impression that there was something more than the name about those cigarettes I refused to try a sample. Now I have learnt the truth : No Brentham tobacco (grown and cured) is used in the manufacture of those cigarettes. I am prepared to write a testimonial for them in return for a month's supply.

* * *

Intellectual Brentham—or, rather, since they form no well-defined "set" here, it should be the Intellectuals of Brentham—is to receive attention at the Institute. A series of five lectures is arranged, and quite a number of people who lay no claim to being intellectual intend being present. There lies the danger, for while there are in Brentham a few people who regard themselves as intellectual not one of them recognises the presence of any others ; each is quite alone, and cold. What a shock for them when they see ordinary intelligent people appreciating those lectures.

W.E.R.

KINO writes :—"December 31 falling on a Sunday, I was very grateful to the I.C.C. for arranging its social evening for December 30. Usually I miss this watch-night function, but this year I was able to join in. You see I always spend the last minutes of the old year and the first minutes of the new in my bath, thus obtaining two baths per year without the fatigue of two." There's cleanliness !

BRENTHAM CLUB AND INSTITUTE.

With half their task completed, the members of the Institute Control Committee face the coming three months with renewed confidence.

The Social Evening on 30th December is now but a pleasant memory, but it has served to show what an admirable social atmosphere has been developed.

Special attention is drawn to the excellent series of lectures that have been arranged for the Tuesdays in January. The subjects are most interesting, and appropriate to the times, and they will be handled by distinguished lecturers whom we are most fortunate to have obtained. The programme is as follows:—

TUESDAYS

- Jan. 2. By F. W. Headley, Esq. (of Haileybury College).
Subject: "Citizenship and the British Empire."
 „ 9. „ F. W. Headley, Esq. *Subject*: "War Loans."
 „ 16. „ C. H. Blakiston, Esq. (Of Eton College).
Subject: "The Teaching of Civics."
 „ 23. „ Rev. T. W. Oswald Hicks.
Subject: "What the Small Nations have done."
 „ 30. „ Rev. T. W. Oswald Hicks.
Subject: "Our Duty to the Small Nations."

Lectures will commence at 8.30 each evening.

Admission to these lectures is free to members and non-members alike.

Those residents who were unable to join the Institute at its opening have now been provided with an opportunity to become members for the half-session.

Membership for the remaining three months—January to March—is now obtainable at fees of:—Gentlemen, 4/-; ladies, 3/-. All residents who are not yet members are heartily invited to join in our activities, and become members for the remaining half-session.

Arrangements have been made whereby members of the Institute, who are also members of the Horticultural Society, may give orders, and obtain seeds, at the I.C.C.'s room on Thursday evenings from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The programme for Saturdays is as follows:—

- Jan. 6.—Whist Drive. Admission, 6d. Non-members must, in addition, take visitor's ticket, 3d.
 Jan. 13.—Concert. Admission, 7d. (including tax). Non-members take visitor's ticket, 3d.
 Jan. 20.—Dance (large hall). Bridge Drive (small hall). Admission to either, 6d. Non-members take visitor's ticket, 3d.
 Jan. 27.—Whist Drive. Admission, 6d. Non-members take visitor's ticket, 3d.
 Feb. 3.—Concert. (Hall granted to the *Brenthamite*). Admission, members or non-members, 7d. (including tax).

The members of the Brentham Club and Institute desire to express their deepest sympathy with Mrs. C. F. Hogley in her sad bereavement, and to record their sincere respect for the memory of Mr. C. F. Hogley, who was one of the oldest and most honoured of their members.

HON. SEC., I.C.C.

The event of the month in this section has been the appearance of the long looked-for handicaps for Billiards and Snooker with excellent entries, the first rounds of which are in process of being played off.

The time limit by which the first rounds have to be finished is the 27th of January, although I hope to see these rounds played off before then, in order that the handicaps may be completed in good time. Only in very exceptional circumstances will any extension of time be given, and now that the holidays are over I hope that all members who have entered will make every effort to play their matches as soon as possible. The prizes will be announced during the month.

I have to put on record the thanks of the Billiard Sub-Committee to Messrs. Askew and Goodridge, who kindly accepted the somewhat onerous task of handicappers.

The Flying Handicap held on the 30th December was, undoubtedly, a great success, and it was pleasant to see our old member, Sergt.-Major C. Ephgrave, as one of the entrants. The winner was Mr. Rudd, who took away with him a half-a-crown box of cigarettes (or rather what was left of it), the runner-up being Mr. Harry Boxall, who takes a prize of the value of 1/6, but its value has not yet been disclosed, although this will probably also end in smoke.

As is usual in Flying Handicaps, the billiardist's good (or bad is it?) fairy "Fluke" was in evidence to help some of the deserving players, but for some unaccountable reason she overlooked me this time, which perhaps some of my friends will consider rather unusual.

At the conclusion of the Flying Handicap the tables were placed by the I.C.C. at the disposal of the devotees of the game, without recourse to the money boxes, and altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent.

P. C.

Junior Section. It is very gratifying to see how this section has taken on with the children, and on Tuesday evenings to see them taking part in their games, and the serious ones in reading their papers and magazines, you would almost wish you were young again. We have several new members, and at our last meeting, on the 19th December, a number of carols were sung.

On Wednesdays the senior boys attend regular for games, boxing, billiards, etc., which they thoroughly enjoy. Thursday is the senior girls' night, which is usually spent in games and dancing, and the ladies of the Sub-Committee, not forgetting the Chairman, enjoy themselves almost as much as the children.

On Mondays the serious evening for our big girls is taken up with fancy and useful work, with very good results.

J. E. R.

Very little has been done this month on the course
Golf. owing to the weather, and the condition of the ground.

As the weather improves, and the days get longer, we should look forward to seeing our members to the *fore*. It should be mentioned, owing to a slight oversight in our previous account of the result of the Charity Cup, Mr. de Lacy Lewis, the winner, was 2 up on Bogey.

J. E. R.

*Horticultural
Society.*

The A.G.M. of the Society was quickly followed by a meeting of the new Committee, at which Mr. Frank V. Edwards was re-elected Chairman, and Mr. J. G. Phillips elected Vice-Chairman for the current year. A Trading Sub-Committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Bartholomew, Bentham, Hearn, and W. H. Morris, the last-named acting as Secretary. An Allotment Secretary was also appointed in the person of Mr. F. W. Green.

Negotiations are in full swing for the provision in the immediate neighbourhood of further allotments, and members desirous of taking one up are requested to communicate with Mr. Green. The tenancy of the present War allotments has been renewed, and rent should be paid as soon as possible.

A notice relative to the trading activities will shortly be circulated, and it is hoped that the arrangements made for the smooth issue of seeds, etc., will be appreciated. (See I.C.C. note). The membership fee remains at 1/-, and it will greatly help the Committee if old and prospective members will take an early opportunity of paying their subscriptions for 1916-17 to an officer of the society.

Please note addresses : Chairman, Mr. F. V. Edwards, 11, Ludlow-road ; Secretary, Mr. J. T. Hutton, 16, North View ; Treasurer, Mr. T. Bowles, 214, Pitshanger Lane ; Trading Sub-Committee Secretary, Mr. W. H. Morris, 8, Neville Road ; Allotments Secretary, Mr. F. W. Green, 26, Meadvale Road.

B. H. S.

TO OUR READERS.

In the advertisement pages this month you will find a very attractive Insurance proposition, offering cover against practically every risk. For no other reason than that of value, it is worthy of your serious consideration. I wish to mention, however, that in conjunction with this advertisement, I have undertaken on behalf of the *Brenthamite* to act as an agent in furnishing particulars and forwarding business. Any revenue received thereby will go into the funds of the Magazine, and if you are concerned for its welfare let us hear from you.

THE ADVT. MANAGER.