

# THE BRENTHAM SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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APRIL 1970

A Newsletter will be produced at intervals and distributed to all members of the Brentham Society. The first copies are being distributed to all residents of the Brentham Garden Estate, whether or not they have chosen to join the Society.

The Brentham Society was formed at a public meeting on 10th March, 1970, at which the following Steering Committee was elected:

Mr. Clive Hicks,	72 Brentham Way
Miss M. Tims,	137 Fowlers Walk
Mr. C. Higgins,	18 Ludlow Road
Mrs. M. Aarens,	8 Winscombe Crescent
Mrs. J. Irvine,	38 Meadvale Road
Mr. A. Scanlan,	3 Winscombe Crescent
Mr. A. Oliver,	48 Denison Road
Mr. B. Fallon,	12 Winscombe Crescent

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Brentham Society is an independent body and membership is open to all residents (whether house-owners or tenants) of the Brentham Garden Estate, the boundaries of which are as specified in the Ealing Council's Report on Conservation Areas.

The aims of the Society are to encourage the preservation and improvement of the character of the estate, and to promote such activities as may be desired by residents.

At the meeting on 10th March, 70 households were enrolled as members. Since then the number has risen to about 100. There are approximately 700 houses and flats on the estate. Obviously it was not possible for all residents to attend the meeting and there are probably many more who would like to become members. Subscriptions of those who have already joined the Society will be acknowledged in due course.

## ABOUT THE ESTATE

We are fortunate in having an attractive and, in many ways, a unique place in which to live. The attraction of the estate lies largely in the charming rural style of the houses, with their gardens and hedges, set in a well-planned layout of roads. This is in marked contrast to the drabness of some other suburbs, and its quality has been recognised in that the estate has been declared a Conservation Area. Just what this means will only be known when it is put to the test. Should we ever be required to take a defensive line in maintaining our interests, then a concerted voice is likely to be more effective than unco-ordinated effort.

Already the Committee's attention has been drawn to a proposal to build a Middle School on the site of the allotments behind Neville Road and Brunswick Road; and to demolish houses, either in Neville Road or Brunswick Road, to provide access. Residents in these roads have been officially approached about their willingness to sell their houses. Apart from any question about the suitability of the site for a school, the Committee considers the demolition of houses to be totally unnecessary in view of the fact that there is alternative access to this site. We are investigating the situation.

## ACTIVITIES

As well as being concerned with the physical aspects of the estate, the Society hopes to foster a community spirit of the kind that was envisaged by its founders. A number of suggestions have been made.

Pre-School Playgroup: If there is sufficient response from mothers of young children and anyone with practical experience of forming a playgroup, a meeting will be called for those interested.

There may also be interest in forming a baby-sitting rota and a young wives' group.

Retired People: There are many retired people living on the estate. A neighbourly concern for the interests of elderly or retired residents is one of the aims of the Brentham Society.

Property Maintenance: A suggestion has been made about the possibility of negotiating favourable terms with contractors for house decorating, general repairs, plumbing and the renewal, where necessary, of the traditional Brentham windows.

Garden Maintenance: A similar arrangement might be made for lawn mowing and hedge cutting. There are a number of possibilities here - e.g. that a contractor could be employed; or that a retired or semi-retired resident would like to undertake this work as a part-time job.

We should like to draw the attention of residents to the facilities offered by the long-established Brentham Horticultural Society. The secretary is Mr. A.J. Priske, 15 Neville Road. For 2s.6d. a year, a member has the advantage of reduced prices for materials and tools and the possibility of some practical advice.

Other Activities: Ideas already put forward include - a Music Society and/or Choir; a Drama Group; Keep Fit classes.

In addition, there may be sufficient interest to warrant occasional activities such as children's outings; retired people's outings; garden competitions, etc.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS AND OFFERS OF HELP would be welcomed by the Steering Committee. Written suggestions may be handed to any member of the committee, and it would be helpful if these could be received by 5th May.

## NEXT MEETING

By request, we have arranged a showing of further Colour Slides of the Brentham Estate, at the Brentham Club, Meadvale Road on

TUESDAY, 12th MAY, at 8 p.m.

All residents are invited. New members can enrol at the meeting.

Time will be given for a discussion on all suggestions received.

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I would like to support the Brentham Society and enclose 5s. (per household) membership fee.

NAME: ..... ADDRESS: .....