

THE BRENTHAM SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 7

FEBRUARY, 1971

Chairmen: Clive Hicks
72 Brentham Way

Hon. Sec.: Tony Scanlan
3 Winscombe Crescent

OUR LAST MEETING

The January meeting of the Society, held on Wednesday, 27th, heard the Assistant Editor of the Middlesex County Times, Mr. W.A. Goddard, describe the process of production of our local newspaper. He outlined the history of the paper from its origin (as the Caling Post) in 1863 to its present position as part of the King & Hutchings group of local newspapers centred on Uxbridge, with some of the most advanced printing techniques in the country. Mr. Goddard drew attention particularly to the high standard of photographic reproduction now being attained. In speaking of the ways in which news is gathered, he stressed the important part played by the secretaries of local societies such as our own in keeping the paper supplied with up-to-date and accurate information. About fifty people attended the meeting and the many questions showed a keen sense of involvement in what our local paper is saying.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB VISIT

Eight members of the Committee visited our "sister estate" at Hampstead Garden Suburb on Sunday, 24th January and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. We were received at the HGS Institute by the Principal, Mr. J. de F. Enderby, and the Chairman of the HGS Residents' Association, Dr. E.H.T. Hoblyn, together with other officers and were given a short talk on the origins and growth of the suburb. Our hosts then took us on a tour of the estate, stopping at points of special interest. Although Brentham was actually founded a few years before Hampstead, which dates from 1906, much of the "garden suburb" development was carried out over the same period and by the same architects. Many of the cottages we saw seemed just like home, but as Hampstead is about ten times the size of Brentham and has some 16,000 residents, there is naturally a much wider range of architectural styles. We were impressed by the activities of the Residents' Association in maintaining the amenities of the suburb and encouraging a sense of community.

The HGS Institute is a flourishing adult education centre, serving not only the suburb but a wide area of North London. We were reminded of the early days of our "Brentham Institute" (now the Brentham Club) where similar activities took place. We were specially interested to learn that the old Clubhouse in HGS, which was destroyed in the war, was an almost exact replica of our own club building. The site is now occupied by a Fellowship House, an attractive and lively centre for the over sixties. The suburb also has several groups of flatlets for retired people, some in the style of Holyoake House and others of more modern design.

After a delicious tea at the Tea House, kindly prepared for us by members of the Residents' Association, we spent a most useful hour discussing common problems and interests. As our estate is not so widely known as HGS, we took the opportunity to show a number of colour slides of Brentham - including some of our children's May Day procession, which is something we have that they haven't! We left Hampstead feeling that many helpful contacts had been made and that the link between our two suburbs should be maintained.

I would like to support the Brentham Society and encourage you to help us to maintain the link between our two suburbs for 1971/72

SAVE OUR MAY DAY

We feel sure that all Brentham residents will be concerned to hear that the May Day celebrations are in fact in some danger of collapsing owing to a shortage of helpers to organise the event - there is no shortage of children! This charming Brentham tradition has been maintained without a break since the earliest days of the Estate and for many years the organising has been carried out by a committee of Brentham Club members. They now feel that unless some additional help can be obtained they will be unable to continue.

On hearing of their difficulty, the Committee of this Society at once offered to assist with the organisation and our offer has been accepted by the May Day Committee. We hope through the medium of our Newsletter to raise all the necessary assistance so that this delightful - and, in London, very rare - event can continue.

WHAT IS THE BRENTHAM CLUB?

Many of the newer residents may not be aware that the present Brentham Club at which meetings of the Brentham Society usually take place, is the successor to the original Brentham Institute which was founded in the same building in 1911. After the sale of the estate by Ealing Tenants Ltd., to a property company, the future of the club was in some doubt and a group of local residents, loth to lose their social centre to any random purchaser, "clubbed" together and formed the Brentham Club Ltd. The club is still privately owned by local residents today and about 40 per cent of its membership is drawn from the estate; another 40 per cent come from adjoining areas between Scotch Common and Hanger Hill Park.

The extent of the facilities offered is probably unique for a private club within the London area. Sport predominates; four cricket XIs, four soccer XIs, lawn tennis in the Middlesex League, bowls, pitch-and-putt golf; and indoors, badminton, table-tennis, billiards and darts. For the less energetic, there are two licensed bars and two halls providing facilities for dances, wine and cheese parties and stage shows (a reviving feature of the Club). The basic membership fee is two guineas (now under review).

CONSERVATION IN EALING - AND BEYOND

Those who are interested to learn more about the conservation of buildings in Britain may like to know that our Chairman, Mr. Hicks, will be addressing a meeting of the Ealing Civic Society on this subject on Friday, 26th February. His talk will describe conservation law as it stands and look at future trends, with illustrations from Ealing's conservation areas.

Civic Society meetings are open to the public - this will be held at the Town Hall starting at 8 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 24th February: "RECORDS IN RETROSPECT"

8 p.m. at Brentham Club. A recital presented by Mr. A.J. Skinner

The programme will include piano music by Grieg, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff - Sir Thomas Beecham conducting some of his "Lollipop" - some Gilbert & Sullivan - a Strauss waltz and other orchestral items - and the voices of Victoria de los Angeles, Kenneth McKellar and Owen Brannigan.

Mr. Skinner, a local resident, is well-known to Ealing music lovers. He hopes this mixed bag will contain some of your favourite music as well as his own.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Wednesday, 31st March: An Evening of Slides

Have you any special slides you would like to show? - not more than six, please, on any subject of general interest. We shall also be showing more Brentham slides. Please deliver your contribution to Mr. Hicks at 72 Brentham Way not later than the weekend previous to the meeting.

I would like to support the Brentham Society and enclose 30p. (6s.) (per household) Membership Fee for 1970/71