

Chairman: Clive Hicks
72 Brentham Way

Hon.Sec.: Tony Scanlan
3 Winscombe Crescent

BRUNSWICK ROAD

Residents will have noticed that Brunswick Road was recently re-opened to traffic entering Hangor Lane. As a result of strong local opposition, however, it has now been closed again and the closure could be extended for a further six months. The Committee has already expressed its opposition to the re-opening and individual protests have also been made. We understand now that the Council intends to hold a public meeting and a "plebiscite" of residents before a final decision is made about this issue and related local traffic problems.

PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL

The background to the proposal to build a "middle school" on allotment ground adjacent to the estate has been explained in previous Newsletters. Recent information had indicated that plans were well advanced, although we were told by the Acting Chief Education Officer that no final decisions had been taken. Now, with political changes in the Council, the project may come under review again. An alternative plan, which has been suggested in correspondence in the County Times, is for the expansion of the present Montpelier School into the adjoining park. In view of the laying out of a new park on the Fox reservoir site this proposal may prove more acceptable than it would otherwise be.

MEADVALE ROAD GREEN

Progress continues on the clearing and renovation of this site (see Newsletter No. 8). Our working party has thinned out the tangled tree branches, sown grass seed on the bare patches and put bedding plants in the central area. We are delighted to acknowledge two generous offers to provide benches on the green - one from a private benefactor and the other from the borough Parks Department. We are now considering the replacement of the existing fence by a linked chain hung between posts; another possibility is nylon rope, though this may prove unsuitable. Either way some expense will be involved, as well as hard labour. Can anyone help? Offers of assistance with labour, cash or materials will be gratefully received by the Committee. If we can get the help we need, this site could become a real Brentham Green, where people could sit and meet friends during the summer months.

KEEP BRENTHAM TIDY!

In the course of clearing the Meadvale Road Green, the Committee was astonished at the amount and variety of refuse deposited there, including drink cans and cigarette packets of every description. We have been a little disappointed to find that rubbish (especially garden refuse) is creeping back, both on and around the green and in the connecting lanes and footpaths in other parts of the estate. May we respectfully remind residents that this sort of unsightly dumping is not necessary; neatly tied refuse bags are usually removed without objection by the Council's collectors.

Bonfires: Another source of annoyance to residents can be the lighting of bonfires at inopportune moments. Please consider your neighbours before you apply the match, and make sure they have not just hung out the washing or settled in a deck-chair for a snooze. If possible wait until after 6 p.m. (or start a compost heap).

Hedge Cutting: Mr. Billy Harris has taken on the task of hedge-cutting for the Society and is already doing his rounds of the estate. Mr. Harris is proving to be a very popular figure and all who have so far made use of his services have expressed their satisfaction. Our thanks are due to him.

REPLACEMENT OF WINDOWS

The Committee has been looking into the possibilities of replacing our traditional window-frames as these wear out, and estimates have now been received from two firms of joiners who would be willing to provide new frames to the right specification. They are also willing to replace parts of windows, such as fanlights. If you have any problems with your existing windows or would like to obtain estimates, please contact Martin Jiggins, 43 Ludlow Road (998 2641) who will put you in touch with the joiners.

MAY DAY

A glorious day on Saturday May 8th brought out record crowds to watch the children's procession through the estate and the crowning of Catherine Cooper as May Queen at the Brentham Club, followed by the traditional dancing round the maypole. The Committee were especially pleased that this was the day chosen for a return visit to Brentham by the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association, who had entertained us in their suburb earlier in the year. Ten representatives came from Hampstead and attended the ceremony, which was something most of them had never witnessed before. The visitors commented on the fresh, country atmosphere of our neighbourhood. We were delighted to be able to show them the Brentham estate looking its best on this lovely spring day, to take them into some of our houses, and finish up the afternoon with tea in the garden of a Committee member. We hope our guests enjoyed the visit as much as we did.

"THE BRENTHAMITE"

As mentioned in Newsletter No. 8 some issues of this magazine dating from 1921 were recently brought to our notice. We have now had a request from Ealing Central Reference Library for the loan of any existing issues of The Brenthamite or The Brentham Magazine which residents may still have. These would be photocopied and returned to their owners. If you can help please get in touch with the reference library at Walspole Park, or notify any Committee member. Other archives about the early days of the estate would also be of interest.

NOTELETS

We still have a stock of this attractively designed Brentham Stationery, which proved extremely popular when displayed at our last public meeting. Price 10p for a set of eight notelets with envelopes; obtainable from Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. Aarons or Mrs. Oliver (see Newsletter No. 8 for addresses).

We regret the absence of our usual letter-heading for this Newsletter, owing to the necessity of replacing the existing plate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee would like to record its grateful thanks for the donations received towards the furtherance of our Society's work from two Ealing estate agents.

MEETINGS

Last Meeting: The evening of slides which was arranged in April evidently met the wishes of many residents and there was a very good attendance. Particular interest was shown in the "historical" slides which traced the development of the Brentham estate from the construction of the first houses in Woodfield Road in 1901.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, 26th May: 8 p.m. at the Brentham Club, Meadvale Road
A PROGRAMME OF SHORT FILMS introduced by Brian Fallon

The main film lasting 37 minutes will be "The World Still Sings" showing the famous International Eisteddfod at Llangollen in Wales. Others we hope to include are "Pembrokeshire, my county"; "Forest Heritage" (on the New Forest); and "Balloons in the Sky" (shot in the mountain scenery of Switzerland).

Time will also be available for discussion of topical issues.

FOR SALE: Black & Decker electric Hedge-cutter, with very long lead; also Suffolk Punch motor mower. Details from Mr. M. West, 71 Brentham Way (997 4323)

TO LET: New holiday chalet, near Dartmouth, S.Devon; fully equipped for four; reduced terms for B.S. members; Details from Miss M. Tims, 137 Fowlers Walk (997 7401).