

T H E B R E N T H A M S O C I E T Y

NEWSLETTER NO. 12

OCTOBER, 1971

Chairman: Clive Hicks  
72 Brentham Way

Hon.Sc.: Tony Scanlan  
3 Winscombe Cres.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We regret that it has been necessary to change the venue of the Annual General Meeting, which will NOT now be held at the Brentham Club, but at St. Barnabus Church Hall in Pitshanger Lane at the same time of 8 pm on Wednesday, 20th October.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The first year of the Brentham Society has seen activity in several fields, some immediate, with obvious results, and some in the nature of seed planting, with more subtle results.

The Committee takes as the most serious function of the Society the responsibility to encourage the preservation and improvement of the character of the Brentham Garden Estate. Our initial effort has naturally been concentrated on preservation, since improvement could not be feasible while the erosion of the appearance of the Estate was continuing, and this naturally brings up the two subjects most closely associated with the name of the Society - windows and hedges! This is not the place to argue these cases again, but I must refer to the leading article in the Middlesex County Times recently which gratified the Committee very much by its strong support of our efforts to preserve the quality of the Estate houses. We all need to see the rarity of the great charm of this Estate, and to realise how easily it could be lost. If this side of the work of the Society has been educational, a more practical aspect has been the hedge cutting arrangements which have been made and used by a number of members during the Summer. A continuing labour for Committee members and helpers over the Summer has been the work on Brentham Green, on which the Council has now installed two seats. We are hoping that the maintenance of it will pass to the Council in due course, but arrangements have not yet been completed.

The social function of the Society has included a series of meetings addressed by speakers on a number of subjects, participation in two collections for charity, instigation of proposals for a luncheon club, and more recently, assistance to the Council in introducing their reduced fares for pensioners scheme. The meetings have not always drawn good audiences, and so we envisage a reduction in their number during the coming year and turning our attention to other ways of encouraging a sense of community on the Estate.

The Society's Newsletter establishes a link with a number of outside organisations and individuals. Particularly through the Conservation Area Advisory Panel there has been repeated contact with the Local Authority Planning Department, with whom an excellent relationship has been built up, very much through the efforts and interest of the officers concerned. We regret that our relationship with the Brentham Club has been much strained by our opposition to their present planning application. Without going over old ground, we made this opposition because we consider the proposal a threat to the amenity of the Estate. Without it, we might well have been working towards a much closer identity of interest.

The Society has established links with Hampstead Garden Suburb, a large contemporary of the Estate, and visits of Committee members have been exchanged, the Hampstead visitors coming on the day of the May Day festivities.

We are also in contact with the Bedford Park Society and Manchester Tenants Ltd. a co-partnership tenants' organisation which has survived at Burnage Garden Village. I have myself visited many of the garden suburbs and other estates related to the Brentham Estate, and hope to show to members the most interesting of these in photographs at coming meetings.

We have this year affiliated to Ealing Civic Society and to Ealing Arts Council. An application was made to register with the Civic Trust, but this has so far been turned down as a result of the prior registration of Ealing Civic Society. We hope that this is under review, since we consider that our experience may be of value to others in a similar position. (Several of the other estates have deteriorated far more than Brentham, and this must also apply to many other areas).

There are directions in which we must yet turn, and other proposals in hand even now. I should like to see the society acting as a catalyst in co-operation between neighbours in exterior decoration and even landscaping, and we shall probably also in the future turn more to the examination of the more general amenities of the area available to our residents. We are reprinting our very popular notelets, and expect to publish a booklet on the Estate in the not too distant future.

In conclusion I should like to say that we always welcome, and hope for, the views and suggestions of residents. We receive valuable help from a team of uncomplaining newsletter distributors: this we feel to give us and them a wider contact in the community. To widen this circle yet further would be a greater improvement.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The expenditure of the Society over the last year has amounted to approximately £56 - the major items being the Newsletter and renovation and upkeep of the Brentham Green. Our cash balance at the moment stands at around £42.

#### 'BACHELOR FATHER'

Residents may not have noticed that the programme "Bachelor Father" on Thursdays at 8 p.m. on BBC1 regularly uses the Brentham Estate for location shots. Ian Carmichael is becoming a familiar figure in some streets!

#### DECEMBER MEETING

The arrangements for seat reservations for Society members at the meeting on 14th December at Ealing Town Hall, when the speaker will be Professor Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, will be announced at a later date.