

# BRENTHAM SOCIETY



DECEMBER, 1971

NEWSLETTER NO. 14

## DECEMBER MEETING

We were delighted to welcome to our meeting on 14th December within Queen's Hall an almost capacity audience of over 200. It was clear that the majority realised the privilege of the opportunity of hearing Professor Pevsner. The Society was extremely fortunate to be able to arrange for him to speak to us, in view of his international reputation and the relative infrequency of his public lectures.

"William Morris - Artist. and Social Reformer" was the subject for the evening, and Professor Pevsner's setting out of Morris's thoughts on the relationship between art, everyday life and the visual environment seemed singularly appropriate today, in Brentham and in Ealing as a whole. All too often the environment is sacrificed to convenience. Education in visual appreciation has been neglected for so long that we have become unaware of the ways in which the environment may add satisfaction to our lives, and we allow it to be eroded gradually, until only too late do we realise our loss. The ideal of William Morris was that art should become man's joy in his life and work, the concern of all, not the varified activity of intellectuals. This may be a long way away, but a good start is to begin seeing the visual world around us.

## VISIT TO BRENTHAM ESTATE

Prior to the lecture, Professor Pevsner paid his first visit to the Estate. We are pleased to be able to relate that he was agreeably impressed by the layout and houses. He was inclined to attribute more of the houses to Parker and Unwin than we had previously. (Parker and Unwin were the architects responsible for the first "garden suburb" extension to the Estate and were the originators of the contemporary garden suburb movement, having designed the only two developments earlier than Brentham at New Earswick and Letchworth). The "Middlesex" volume of his "Buildings of England" series was one of the first, and does not include the Estate, but we understand that it will be included when the book is re-published.

## CAROL SINGING

All those wishing to join in Carol Singing should assemble at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 20th December, at or near Brentham Green in Meadvale Road. Song sheets will be available so there will be no excuse for not having a good turnout. The intention is to follow the "May Day" route through Brentham. There will be no collection: the purpose is the enjoyment of all at the time.

## WINE & CHEESE PARTY

Members wishing to come to our Cheese & Wine party on Monday, 3rd January should give their names as soon as possible to Martin Jiggins, telephone number 998 2641. Tickets are 30p single, 50p double.