

BRENTHAM SOCIETY



JANUARY, 1972

NEWSLETTER NO. 15

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

The party previously announced for 3rd January was unavoidably postponed. It will now take place on:

MONDAY, 31ST JANUARY 8.30 - 10.00 p.m.

at 49 Meadvale Road.

Tickets: 30p single; 50p double

It would be helpful if names could be given in advance, with payment, to Colin Dix at the above address (997 3868) or Maureen Aarons, 8 Winscombe Crescent (997 7961); or, if more convenient, to any other Committee member.

We hope this will be an occasion for members to meet together and get to know each other in the informality of a private house.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

From discreet eavesdropping we gather that the carol-singers who patrolled the estate on 20th December were on the whole appreciated, and some residents enjoyed their efforts almost as much as the singers themselves. There was an encouraging turn-out and some unsuspected talent was revealed.

To foster this interest the Committee has arranged an Open Evening for members who are so inclined to come along and try out their voices in a choral group. This will be held on Wednesday, 1st March at 8 p.m. at 1 Winscombe Crescent, by kind invitation of Rosemary and Martin Jiggins. Please bring along any sheet music you may have for ballads and folk songs. Anyone with experience in organising or training groups of singers will be doubly welcome. Who knows? By this time next year we may have our own Brentham Choir (there used to be one, which was trained by Sir Thomas Beecham's chorus master, Albert Thompson).

FOR OLDER RESIDENTS

Christmas Parcels: As the Society is represented on the Ealing Central Old People's Welfare Committee, we felt it appropriate to remember our pensioners at Christmas time. We therefore arranged for a small distribution of extra groceries to a few of the "oldest inhabitants". We are fully aware that this was by no means an adequate coverage, although we were very glad to hear how welcome the parcels were to those who received them. With the help of an active membership we hope next year to ensure that nobody who would appreciate a Christmas hamper is left out.

Luncheon Club: It is very disappointing that, although our proposal to form a Brentham luncheon club for retired residents was supported by the Ealing Central OPLW Committee and would qualify for a subsidy from the Borough Social Services Department, we cannot proceed with it at present owing to lack of suitable premises. Both the local churches have been approached but were unable to offer accommodation. Can anyone help with alternative suggestions? If so, please get in touch with Tony Oliver, 48 Denison Road (997 7523).

Ealing Forum: Members may recall a talk in July 1971 when Mr. Ray Holt described his plans for a club for retired people in the borough. This has now been established and the first meeting of Ealing Forum took place at St. John's Church,

Mattock Lane, in December. The club is intended to cater primarily for professional people who, with the increased leisure of retirement, would like to pursue studies in such subjects as local history, the arts and sciences, as well as social activities like bridge and travel. Anyone interested should get in touch with the organisers at 4 The Corner, Grange Park, W.5. (567 5468 between 5.0 and 6.30 p.m.).

CONSERVATION PANEL

Two members of the advisory panel for the Brentham Garden Estate Conservation Area attended a film show and discussion at Ealing Town Hall on 7th January at the invitation of the chairman of the Town Planning Committee, Cllr. Nickson. The Chief Planning Officer, Mr. Graham Brown, gave the introductory talk; other staff of the Planning Department and Councillors were also present.

"A Future for the Past" is a film made by the Civic Trust showing examples of "conservation areas" in various parts of Britain. Besides being an enjoyable visual experience, the film demonstrated very clearly in pictures and captions the need for action now by all concerned citizens, if our environmental heritage is not to be further eroded by piecemeal development. (This film is in great demand by amenity societies; if local interest warrants it, we hope to show it in Brentham at some future date).

Did you know that Ealing has seven conservation areas? As well as our own Brentham Estate these are: Ealing Green, Hanger Hill Garden Estate, Bedford Park (Acton), Churchfields (Hanwell), Norwood Green (Southall) and Northolt Village. An exhibition displayed at the meeting showed "townscape surveys" now in process for all these areas.

Your Brentham Panel found this evening so interesting and instructive that we have taken the initiative in arranging a further meeting with our fellow-panelists for an exchange of views on aspects of conservation in our particular areas.

WARNING TO HOUSE-BUYERS

There has been a lot of comment in the national press recently about unethical but unfortunately not illegal activities of estate agents (when handling property negotiations). We are particularly concerned at aspects of this as they affect us here on Brentham. We would be very grateful to hear from anybody who has recently bought or sold a house in this area. It is all transactions that we want to hear about. Ring Martin Jiggins (998 2641).

SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE !

An intensive drive to collect membership fees (30p per household) will take place from 1st to 14th February. Every house on the estate which is not at present in membership with the Society will be visited during these two weeks. Please have your completed membership form and 30p at the ready - this will save everybody's time. Comments on the Society's activities will also be welcomed, either verbally or in writing. Now is your chance to come back at us! The Committee has very much appreciated the encouraging messages received at the end of the year - with a special thank-you to Mr. Billy Harris for his gardening services.

If you are out when our representative calls, it would be helpful if you would deliver your subscription to your nearest Committee member or distributor.

Volunteers Wanted: Can you assist the Committee with this job by undertaking to visit a small number of houses (not more than 20 at most)? We shall be grateful for any help, however limited. Please give names to Maureen Aarons, 8 Winscombe Crescent (or any Committee member).

I would like to support the Brentham Society by becoming a member for 1971-1972 (Membership Fee 30p per household)

NAME ADDRESS

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