

BRENTHAM SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 40



Hon. Sec:
Stefanie Poulain

Chairman: Martin Jiggins
1 Winscombe Crescent

BRENTHAM ALLOTMENTS

We understand that all your letters to Councillors and Chief Officers have had a very marked effect - keep writing, please. Everyone is now fully away of our objection to any scheme to develop the allotments for housing. The Policy Committee of the London Borough of Ealing has recommended that the proposals go forward, but we know that this is by no means a final decision and we understand that the Parks & Amenities Committee are certainly against the proposals. We will, of course, keep you advised of any developments.

The following is an extract from a recent article in "The Times" on the subject of the growing interest being shown by ordinary people in the quality of their surroundings:-

"The 'Amenity lobby' is now recognised by central and local government, industry and commerce as being, for good or ill, a potent force in the land. Civic Societies, amenity societies, environment groups, national and local, demand notice and respect"

The Brentham Society is part of this movement. A surprising amount of work goes on on your behalf, as you can see from the foregoing report on the struggle to keep the allotments. It helps us in our efforts if we can truthfully claim the support of the majority of the residents on the Estate. Evidence of your support is your renewed membership of the Brentham Society. Apart from this we need funds to continue our efforts and your 30 pence membership subscription is vital. Many of you have not renewed your membership for 1975 and some who have not previously supported the Society may now wish to do so. An example of the need for funds is the possibility of a public enquiry on the question of the allotments site. If you want the Society to continue to represent your views and to act as a focal point for action, you must support us with your membership. Please return the tear-off slip to your nearest Committee member with 30p. Please do it now or you may forget!

Chairman: Martin Jiggins, 1 Winscombe Crescent
Vice-Chairman: Clive Hicks, 72 Brentham Way
Secretary: Stefanie Poulain, 6 Neville Road
Newsletter Editor: Marjorie Miles, 34 Holyoake Walk.

FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND

One of the highlights of the year must surely be the Flower Festival Weekend held at the Methodist Church, Pitshanger Lane, in July. In these days of gloom and depression it was a great tonic to see the wonderful flower arrangements depicting our journey through life,

and to admire the skill and imagination of the people who executed them.

The many beautiful exhibits in the Active Leisure Room brought admiration and delight to the many visitors, and the Society's exhibition of the photographs of the Estate proved to be an interesting talking point to all who saw them.

The children's efforts were both imaginative and clever - ranging from scarecrows of all shapes and sizes, to pretty, weird, and wonderful creatures made from various fruits and vegetables, and the Sweet Necklace Tree brought comments of admiration from all, and again showed that children can produce some extremely marvellous creations.

This was indeed a weekend to remember, and may we hope that such events will long continue to be part of our way of life.

SOUTHALL SHOW

After presenting our visual display of Brentham at Ealing Arts 75, the organizer of the Southall Show felt that our exhibit was so good that we were invited to set it up at the Southall Show over the Bank Holiday, which we did and yet again Brentham was much commented on!

It was sad to hear a few months ago of a very old lady on the Estate dying of cold and self-neglect in her home during the chilly Spring weather, in spite of help available. There are indeed many examples in Brentham of neighbours giving outstanding care and service to old people nearby.

Perhaps one of our difficulties is that the able-bodied are concerned to respect the dignity and privacy of the elderly, whilst the aged themselves, hoping to retain their independence for as long as possible, are reluctant to allow strangers into their homes. They should be reassured that the social services and local doctors are only too pleased for elderly people to remain in the familiarity of their own homes. In many cases, it is the assistance offered by the welfare services and the care of neighbors which help them to do this for so long.

Our best hope seems to lie in a continuing policy of good neighbourliness towards all the older members of the community, so that when they reach a time of need or the crisis of illness they will feel happy to call on those who over the years have been their friends. It would also be a constructive move if one person in each road would be willing to assume responsibility as a voluntary warden to alert their neighbours and the Brentham Society when someone seems to be in need of care and practical help.

This is an important matter and, if you are able to help, please contact one of the Committee members.

FLOWER, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOW

Sorry folks: we have had to abandon our idea of a fruit and flower show for this year. St. Barnabas Church Hall was only available for a Saturday afternoon in October and, as the weather has changed, we feel that what would have been our best exhibits have been spoilt by the rain. However, we will definitely be making this an event for the beginning of September, 1976.