

BRENTHAM SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 47

Hon. Sec.
Stefanie Poulain.

Chairmen: Martin Jiggins
1 Minscombe Crescent.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

About 40 people attended the A.G.M. held at St Barnabas Church Hall on 30th Oct. Martin Jiggins the Societ's Chairman welcomed members and advised the meeting of the make up of the committee. For the years 1975/76 the nuber remained the same as Roger Crocombe was not standing for re-election. Mrs Valerie Winborn has since been co-opted.

The treasurer gave his financial report and emphasised the need to collect more subscriptions in 1976.

The Chairmen reported that the Society had had an active year. Mrs Goodchild of 59 Fowlers Walk had won the Garden Competition. The Luncheon Club was thriving. The Brentham Club and Mrs Julie Lloyd of Neville Road had volunteered to act as their Honorary Secretary.

He then went on to the question of the appropriation of the Allotments, and gave the background position leading up to the present time, and confirmed the Societ's continued opposition to any redevelopment of the allotment land. The Local Authority had originally asked for 1.2 acres for housing, and now wanted 3.5 acres to make it a viable development. The Society strongly objected to the fencing off the allotment land for two years and have been complaining to the Local Authority, the department of the Environment and to Land Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and fisheries. Martin pointed out that all decisions up to the present time, at local level, have been political.

Hopefully the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who are overall in control of Statutory Allotments (Brentham is one) will take it out of the political arena.

The regional Surveyor of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has promised to come to Brentham to carry out an inspection and listen to local comments prior to reporting to the Department of the Environment who make the final decision on appropriation. Nobody knows the cost of the scheme and even less nobody knows where the money will come from.

If necessary we will force a Public Enquiry. All is by no means lost, and we must continue to fight for as long as is necessary to defeat these proposals. Comments were made by members on these subjects and a short discussion ensued. Coffee and biscuits were served and members had an opportunity to chat and purchase noteclets and copies of Margaret Tim's book on the Estate.

ERECTION FILM.

ON Friday 12th December at the Victoria Hall, Belling Town Hall, at 7 o'clock in conjunction with the London Borough of Belling and the Northolt Conservation Society there will be a showing of slides of Northolt Village and the Brentham Film. Coffee and biscuits will be served, and there will be time for questions and the opportunity to see once again the splendid display of the photographs of the Estate.

STOI PRESS

Congratulations to our Secretary Stefanie Poulain and husband Peter on the birth of a daughter - Dannielle.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS.

As usual at this time of the year, we shall be distributing in the name of the Society the gift of a voucher (to be redeemed at one of the local shops) to a few of the most elderly residents. We know from the past what pleasure this gesture has given - as much for the thought as for the value. As you know, the Society has no income other than the subscriptions, so in order to raise some money towards this effort, Marjorie Miles will be holding a 'Bring and Buy' Coffee evening on Wednesday December 10th, at 34 Holyoake Walk, from 7-30 pm to 10pm. For the uninitiated, you pay 10p for coffee and biscuits, bring something to sell and buy something. If any member would prefer to make a donation towards the cost of the gifts the treasurer would be very pleased to hear from you, his address is 20, Brentham Way.

COME CAROL SINGING WITH US.

We shall be singing carols round the Estate - do come and join us, it gives a great deal of pleasure to the residents. Starting at Brentham Green Manxvale Road at 7.30pm, on Tuesday 16th December. Coffee and Mince pies afterwards.

BRENTHAM BOOKLET.

Your Committee have thought for along time that a booklet on Brentham would be a very good idea, with illustrations, photographs, and a history of the Estate. The Ealing Arts Council have enthusiastically encouraged us to prepare the Booklet and we are hopeful of receiving a grant from them towards the cost of publication.

RIVER BRENT FLOOD RELIEF STUDY.

Our representative attended the meeting at Ealing Town Hall on Thurs 12th Oct. and reports as follows:-

The Chairman Mr P. Gottlieb opened by declaring that Ealing Borough Council were determined to make the Brent valley one of the great parks of London. The G.L.C. has plans to undertake flood relief works along the Brent valley, which is subject to flooding from time to time and possibly more frequently in the future. They say that the Brent valley has escaped more serious flooding on a number of occasions only by sheer chance. The plan, which is only in the discussion stage, will cost £23 million on today's estimates and will build-in a safety factor which will cater for a "50 year standard" i.e. it will make the river capable of dealing with worst flood likely to occur in a 50 year period. The work will involve altering the shape of the banks in places, building up the sides in others and in some places will require concrete troughs of one kind or another. No single method would be used throughout - the treatment will vary depending on the local conditions in that part of the river and inevitably some trees will be lost. The G.L.C. were careful to point out that they appreciate the environmental and recreational value of the Brent.

Several people spoke from the audience and all of them opposed the plan. Notable amongst the objectors was the Brent River and Canal Society who agreed that something must be done about the flooding but considered that the high cost safety factor implicit in the 50 year standard would be unnecessary, costly and destructive of the environment. The Purpose of the meeting was so that the G.L.C. and the London Borough of Ealing could gauge the strength of local feeling and the response must have been clear. None of the speakers from the audience favoured the scheme. No resolution was passed and no decision was taken.

The full report of the G.L.C. feasibility study for flood relief in the Brent valley is available in the libraries, in the Town Hall and the Brentham Society has a copy if anyone wishes to study it. Anyone wishing to comment on the scheme is invited to write to the Director of Public Health Engineering (Rivers Branch), G.L.C., 10 Great George St. London. S.W.1.