

BRENTHAM SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER NO. 74

MARCH 1983

Hon. Chairman:
Barbara Murray
2 Winscombe Crescent.

Martin Jiggins

We have to announce the resignation in January of our Hon. Secretary for some years, Martin Jiggins. Martin was one of the founders of the Society and, after a spell as Chairman, took on the duties of Secretary. We shall miss his distinctive contributions to our proceedings and wish to place on record our thanks to him and our best wishes for the future to him and Rosemary, his wife, in their new home (alas, not in Brentham!).

The Secretary's duties are being split at present; if any member of the Society is willing to help in any way, the Committee will be, as ever, grateful.

Further notes on the 1982 Garden Competition

We promised in the November issue to mention a few of the other gardens on the Estate which attracted our attention. Some previous winners inevitably came up trumps again - 54 Brentham Way, 64 and 84 Meadvale Road, 1 and 2 Ruskin Gardens, and 3 and 17 Brunner Road, all looked excellent.

One garden not mentioned in previous years is 27 Neville Road where Mr. and Mrs. Grimsdell have created an interesting background for their plants, with contrasting textures of paving and cobbles. No. 22 Neville Road was also very pretty.

In Holyoake Walk, no. 40 had a colourful display, particularly in late summer, with a good background of house climbers. No. 33 was also attractive.

Fowlers Walk is full of variety. There is a nice example of a paved garden at 65, with a lovely mix of low plants. No. 50 maintains its superb standard and 95 again shows how delightful a really tiny garden can be. The arched gateway at 48 gives an inviting view of the side entrance and 85 was looking superb for most of the summer.

Adjacent gardens can often enhance one another, either by similarity or contrast. Nos. 46 and 48 Meadvale Road are an excellent example of this. Also in this road 14 and 32 were very attractive.

No. 36 Ludlow Road produced some magnificent vibrant colours. In contrast, a lovely soft colour scheme could be seen in early summer at 13 Winscombe Crescent. We don't often mention the Woodfields. Last year we liked 22 Woodfield Crescent's contrasts on a tiny scale, and the bright colour at 91 Woodfield Road.

It is not just the fond imagination of the judges, but several residents observed a general improvement in the gardens on the Estate since the Society began the competition in its present form. This is really more

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important than winning prizes, though that adds a lot of fun to the efforts. What is most important though, is that you make your garden how you like it. In this way new ideas develop, or old ideas are revived afresh, to everyone's delight and benefit.

36 Holyoake Walk : windows and doors

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Planning permission has been refused by Ealing Council for the work done in May 1982 at the above address. This is not a sudden, retrospective action but the logical end of a chain of events which began when the windows and doors at this house were changed without planning consent. The Brentham Society has consistently opposed this work, believing that it spoils the character of this house and therefore of its neighbours and of the estate.

However, we do not make the decision on these matters. The council has done that, and, if there is an appeal, the Department of the Environment will give their judgment. Any person who wishes his or her views to go forward to the D. of E. in the event of an appeal, should contact the Chairman, and will then be kept in touch with developments.

Pitshanger Lane Pedestrian Crossing

In the September newsletter we said traffic counts were being under-taken. The G.L.C. is now actively considering installing a crossing near the Post Office and we have written in strong support.

Street name signs

You may have noticed a new sign at the Brunner Road end of Pitshanger Lane, on a pole about 7' tall. This height is stated to be a new council policy, to reduce vandalism and prevent signs being hidden by parked cars. Nevertheless we have protested to the council that it is unsightly and hope to achieve some consultation before any more such signs go up. We are also trying to get some of the old signs repainted and re-erected; but for this we may have to do some painting ourselves, subject to the council's agreement.

Brentham Luncheon Club

There are a few vacancies for this popular Club. If you are a retired state pensioner and would enjoy a good lunch in pleasant company for a modest price (65p) please ring Mrs. Frances Hughes at 998-7417 or inquire at the Brentham Club, Meadvale Road on any weekday between 12 noon and 1 pm. Lunches are booked for one week in advance.

History of Brentham

Our search for historical material has resulted in an exciting discovery in the archives of Hampstead Garden Suburb. It is a collection of old "magic lantern" slides on the subject of Brentham!! There are above 40 in all, some showing scenes of the opening of the Institute in 1911 and others showing scenes of our houses and streets in their early days. There are some of groups of people and we wonder if anyone will recognise any of them. Clive Hicks has kindly undertaken to photograph them and make modern transparencies, which we will be able to show at one of our meetings. Previous showings of slides have always been popular and this new discovery should provide us with several interesting evenings. We look forward to showing them to you.

Motorbikes by the Brent

We have made representations to the Council about the 'scrambler' bikes using the ground beyond the allotments, by the river Brent. The Council Parks Department agree it is a nuisance and say that if it occurs again, residents should telephone 579-2424 (The Town Hall) and ask for a Mobile Park Patrol to be sent there. We can only hope this will help.