

BRENTHAM SOCIETY



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

Chairman:

Brian Fallon
12 Winscombe Crescent
Phone 997 1056

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From a new resident.

Moving from a 2nd floor flat to a Brentham house, one of the first things we noticed was how much closer to nature we are here. The houses are designed with the gardens and spaces between them to be part of a whole scheme, and, 6 months on, I still get enormous pleasure just from looking out of the window at the other houses, their gardens, the trees and the birds. We've had to buy a bird-spotters' book to keep handy in the kitchen to identify the birds that come to our garden, and we have learned to love the toads that live in the compost heap. These houses have a strong sense of history too; I find myself imagining previous tenants - before the First World War, in the Twenties and Thirties - getting just as much pleasure as we do now. So! There isn't enough parking space and some of the houses have odd shaped rooms ... There is nevertheless something quite special about these houses. They weren't just plonked here by speculative developers. They were carefully thought out by radical young architects of the day, not only as a pleasant home for working people (a progressive enough idea then) but as a part of a grand social plan to enhance the quality of people's lives through environmental, educational and recreational facilities only enjoyed by the wealthy in the early 20th century. It's easy now to sneer at the rather naive 'co-operative' philosophy that caused our Estate to be built, and the elevated aims of its founders, but the end-product of their ideas and their work has a special charm & quality that makes me, for one, feel very privileged to live here.

Social Events.

The sun ^{shone} on the Strawberry Tea on June 27th when about 50 residents and friends enjoyed Barbara Murray's garden and the splendid tea provided. Our guests for the afternoon were Tony Mandelson, Chairman of Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and Chris Kellerman, Manager of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust Ltd and his wife Julia, re-establishing an informal link with Brentham's larger (and grander) sister garden suburb. As a result of their visit, four of our members took up an invitation to visit Hampstead on July 1st for their Institute Open Day and to have a quick tour ^{of} their Estate. It is very much bigger than Brentham and needs more time than we had to see it properly, but we were specially interested in some fine 'Brentham style' houses...not surprising as we share our architects, Parker & Unwin and Lister Sutcliffe. Tony Kellerman and some of his members came here the following Sunday for a guided tour of our Estate led by Clive Hicks. About twelve of us walked round in the afternoon heat to the amusement of some of the residents. We all learned more about our Estate and its origins and finally repaired to our Chairman's garden for refreshing tea and cakes. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. We hope to arrange a similar event for our own residents in September. The folks from Hampstead were impressed with our houses and our hospitality and there was talk of reviving the annual Brentham - Hampstead Cricket match.

Hampstead Garden Suburb is holding a Family Fete in their Central Square on Sunday 6th September - 2 till 6 pm with plenty of activities for adults and children. During the afternoon there will be a guided 'walkabout' specifically for Brentham residents - obviously, anyone can go to the Fete but may we have the names of those interested in the walkabout (please contact Brian Fallon, 12 Winscombe Crescent. Phone 997 1056. before mid-August). We hope to arrange transport for those who have none.

Rained Off.

Many thanks to Carol and Sue for organising a picnic/barbeque on the green between Denison and Ludlow Roads on the weekend of July 18th and to all those others who put in so much hard work in connection with it. Unfortunately the weather could not be organised and the event had to be cancelled. Such events help to bring the community together and we hope that something similar can be arranged next year when perhaps the weather will be kinder.

Garden of the Year

Unfortunately it was not possible to award prizes last year for the best front gardens on the Estate as our judges were unable to spare the time to assess their merits. The Brentham Allotments and Gardens Society has kindly agreed to provide a panel of 3 judges who will decide on the most attractive gardens of 1987. This year only the summer appearance can be considered but in future years visual interest throughout the year will again be judged. The winners will be announced at our AGM in October

Brentham Allotments & Gardens Society - their trading shed is open to members:-
Wednesday and Saturday from 11 to 12 am.
Sunday from 10 to 12 am.

Planning Rules and the Council

Two bits of news: The Council has relaxed its absolute ban on dormer windows and may now approve them in the right circumstances.

Also the procedure for all planning applications to which there is no objection at all has been simplified and should therefore be slightly quicker in future.

We hope to hold a public meeting to explain these and other planning matters later this year.

Thinking of a new roof?

One householder on the Estate did recently; but was going to put on the wrong tiles until we drew his attention to it and asked him to check with the Council. The advice he got from them meant that he got it right and saved himself time and money. Always ask first. There are tiles available for every roof on the Estate and permission is never refused for the correct tiles.

The 'green monster' in Denison Road

That thing that has recently appeared at the end of St Barnabas' Church is a ventilation device for the gas mains. It replaces the old tall pipe which had no fancy technology and is said to be better i.e. safer. British Gas and the church have discussed some tree planting on the site but there are problems because of the recent work done on the church and with the underground chamber below the 'monster'.

Brentham Wildlife

Do you ever notice the abundant wildlife which has chosen to live around us here in Brentham? One reason is our situation, close to river, park, meadow and wood.

But our main asset is the variety of habitats provided by the mature gardens and trees, hedgerows and ponds. You may be surprised to learn that the area is greater than Pitshanger Park.

Will you help to provide a record of our wildlife? Perhaps you already keep details - lists of passing or nesting birds - where do the local flocks of long-tailed tits nest? Observations on the local mammals: there are plenty; bats, hedgehogs, and mice. And records of the seasonal variations in insect life - why does the exciting flight of the stag beetles vary so much from year to year?

If you are at all interested, whatever your age, please give me a ring or drop a note so we can make a start.

Mike Silverman, 34 Brentham Way. Phone 998 1220.