

BRENTHAM SOCIETY

Chairman

Brian Fallon
12 Winscombe Crescent
Phone 997 1056



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

News Letter No 93

January 1988

BRENTHAM TREE FUND

There was a magnificent response to the appeal. To date £1240 has been received. A cheque for £1200 was handed to the Mayor of Ealing on January 12th. He paid tribute to the Brentham residents unique example of community action. The original target of £960 was set on the assumption that 48 trees needed to be replaced at a cost of £20. But on 'walking the estate' it became clear that quite a few extra trees should be planted to fill gaps and replace dead saplings. The council were so enthusiastic that they have agreed to plant 69 new trees and to replace 14 failed saplings at a total cost to us of £1200. There is a possibility of planting 3 more and some replacement hedges and, with the cost of a commemorative plaque, more funds could be needed, so if you have not already made a donation, please be advised that the Fund Account is still open at Jones & Co, should you wish to do so.

Audrey Jones, Penny Silverman, Pat Baxendale, Jenny Birkett & Barbara Murray have co-ordinated the choice of trees with the invaluable help of Brian Gould from the council, using the excellent reference books lent by the council.

Our grateful thanks are also due to several estate agents and the Nationwide Building Society for their help and contributions.

Our primary concern has been to restore the streets to their former appearance in accordance with the Conservation guidelines and what we believe was the original intentions of the founders. Regard has also been given to native trees which will provide the best habitat for our wildlife.

Please note that the new tree cannot always be planted exactly where an old tree stood - the ground may be impoverished and it is too expensive to bring in new soil. When looking for a nearby spot, account has to be taken of underground services, driveways and gateways. The council assures us that each new tree will be as close as possible to the site of the old tree.

Audrey Jones has a detailed log which can be examined if you ring her on 997 9640. Trees include: Plane, Maple, Hornbeam, Sorbus, orn. Apple, orn. Ash, Italian Alder, Elm (disease resistant), Lime (drip reduced), Cherry, Cockspur Thorn, and Beches (var)

ADOPT A TREE

Planting will begin in the next two weeks. To give every tree the maximum chance of survival, some care must be given. The council cannot afford to visit and water every tree regularly, so we are asking residents to adopt a tree close to their house. Adopters will be given advice on watering and on any possible problems which might arise. There will be a telephone number to call if you feel the tree is not thriving, or if it is damaged in any way. The present rate of survival in the borough as a whole is 65% and we aim to achieve 80% by care and vigilance. We are warned that 20% of trees simply do not survive the trauma of transplanting from nursery to street. The council is to replace any failure at their cost, not ours. Watering should be done once a week in summer and capped pipes are provided so that the water reaches the roots and does not wash away top soil. You will need a hose or watering can but if you haven't got one, don't let that deter you. We are looking into utilising the Ealing Gazette Target Bonds to purchase watering cans so please continue to collect them and pass them on to any committee member.

contd overleaf --

If you are interested in adopting a tree please phone Audrey Jones (997 9640) or Penny Silverman (998 1220) evenings or weekends, or drop a line to Audrey at 32 Brentham Way.

Any tree which is not adopted by a volunteer will have to be 'put up for adoption' so you may be asked anyway!

DID ANYONE TAKE PHOTOS OF FALLEN TREES? IF SO, AUDREY WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM. WE NEED PRINTS OR NEGATIVES TO RECORD THE GALE AND CHART THE PROGRESS OF THE PLANTING AND GROWTH.

FINALLY, THE BRENTHAM SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED TO RESTORE THE ESTATE - IT HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE TO BE ABLE TO WORK THIS SCHEME - WE WILL ADVISE YOU IN DUE COURSE OF THE DATE OF THE CEREMONIAL PLANTING - PLEASE COME. THE NEXT NEWS LETTER WILL GIVE FULL DETAILS.

BRENTHAM STATIONERY

Available at the following prices from Susan Floate, 17 Ludlow Rd. (phone 997 8550)

Notelets	50p per 10	}	all including envelopes
Notepaper (A5)	60p per 10		
Notepaper (A4)	70p per 10		

There are still a few copies left of the Brentham Booklet - 90p each.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS

Twenty parcels were delivered to some of the older residents. 'I think you are all so kind to think of the old and lonely at this time of year' said one grateful recipient.

GAS METERS

We thought it worthwhile to repeat a warning about gas meters which appeared in this letter a few months ago. The appearance of many houses in Brentham has been spoilt by external boxes fitted conspicuously to the front wall. British Gas are exempt from the planning laws as far as the siting of meters is concerned and it is their policy to install external ones when possible. A number of residents have found, however, that if they object strongly enough, on the grounds that Brentham is a Conservation area, British Gas will site their meters elsewhere - even inside. One resident managed to have a newly installed meter taken out and re-sited under the stairs. The conclusion therefore must be that if you protest strongly enough, you need not have the box on the front of your house.

PENSIONERS' LUNCHEON CLUB

A hot two-course meal is served every weekday at the Brentham Club - come and enjoy lunch in good company for only 80p a day. Vegetarian and diabetic meals available. For full particulars phone Tony Oliver (997 7523).

THE WILD SIDE OF BRENTHAM: MAMMALS.

Apart from the ubiquitous cats and dogs, there are several wilder mammals living on or visiting Brentham. Squirrels are the most noticeable and probably the most successful urban mammals. Hedgehogs seem to be less common than three or four years ago - does anyone know why? There continue to be sightings of foxes - one was seen trotting down Brentham Way last August.

Small bats - probably pipistrelles - have been seen in previous years but not in 1987 as far as I know.

The furry gifts which your cat brings home are probably wood mice - best seen in Autumn when their nests in piles of leaves or twigs are occasionally disturbed. Has anyone identified yellow-necked or house mice in Brentham?

More sinister creatures - brown rats - infest the banks of the river Brent. Not strictly our patch, but close enough!!

Mike Silverman (998 1220)

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1988.

These are still standing at £1 per household and will be gratefully received by our Treasurer: Crispian Strachan, 26 Holyoake Walk (997 1964).

We hope especially that new residents will join.

Don't forget to enclose your name and address. About 50 members pay by direct debit and if you would like to adopt this easy method, have a word with the Treasurer.