



*Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing*

## NEWS

### MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Many regular readers will have noticed that this edition of the newsletter is rather late, appearing in February instead of the more usual, January. Every year there is a rush to get the newsletter out for the beginning of the New Year, which means that contributors are obliged to work on articles during the very busy pre-Christmas period. The Committee decided that this was an unfair burden on those kind enough to write articles and so we have delayed the first edition of the 1997 newsletter. You will receive it in February this year and in subsequent years. We hope that this will not alter the timing of the other editions but adjustments may have to be made later. We will keep you informed.

We hope that we can still wish you a Happy New Year and trust that this edition will provide some news, interest and entertainment.

Delphine Nunn

### 1996 FRONT GARDEN AWARDS

Once again Pam Turner took on the exacting task of walking round the estate and deciding on the recipients of the garden awards. These are her notes on the 1996 gardens.

Last year's award speech at the AGM had to begin with a confession. I had not been able to add a winter category to the

other three seasons, as promised, though starting visits in February did mean I could call the first category "Late winter-early spring". The second was early summer and the last early autumn. Again there was the grand award for the best all rounder.

I also made a note not to include any of the 1995 winners, even as mentions. This was partly to stamp on my own predilection for particular styles, but mainly to bring forward some very promising gardens. It made the whole exercise even more interesting and perhaps more difficult.

The award winners in each season's category have not been given mentions in the other seasons, though they may well have been on the short list, again so that more gardens could be highlighted. Obviously the award and mentions in the "all seasons" category appeared on all the season's short lists.

### **LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING**

First award went to **Miss E.L.Cowie of 76 Brentham Way**, where the simple two square plan reflects the symmetry of the house. This firm geometry was softened by informal shrub planting and by jasmine over the porch. Lots of greys gave a light background to spring bulbs.

**EARLY SUMMER** -This award went to **Mr and Mrs Mackersie of 39 Brentham Way**. The plan is simple and quite standard for the estate, with a direct path to the front door, a narrow bed on one side and lawn on the other with surrounding borders. The winning feature was the colour - plenty of flowers, but in a positive and controlled scheme set in a good framework of shrubs. There was also good use of well placed pots for accent.

**Mentions :** 20 Brunner Road  
57 & 90 Meadvale  
85 & 93 Fowlers Walk

**EARLY AUTUMN** - **Margaret Fitzpatrick** was the winner of this category at **37 Woodfield Crescent**, on the corner of Winscombe Crescent . Although the narrow front and side gardens are well laid out, the best part is at the rear side of the house. I decided to count it as "front" as it is clearly seen from the road and because it is just so good. A side gate leads onto a paved patio with a seat backing onto the house. This faces a broad border of most interesting mixed planting, varying heights and textures with rich harmonious colours. All is steadied by the focus of a pedestal bird bath.

**Mentions:** 64, 67 & 72 Meadvale Road  
5 Brunner Road.

**ALL SEASONS**- **Mr and Mrs Snodin at 24 Brentham Way** took the rose bowl for their beautifully designed garden which looked good through the changing seasons. The plan is a rectangular "picture" using plant forms and surfaces to suggest a larger landscape, bounded by the house, entrance path and driveway and front hedge with a cherry tree. Plant contrasts and gentle colours have been handled with great artistry.

**Mentions :** 65 Meadvale Road  
9 Brentham Way  
200 Pitshanger Lane

I wonder why the winners are all at the

east side of the Estate? This is not reflected in my first short lists which are pretty evenly distributed and recorded very high standards in general. I made notes on 39 spring gardens, 59 in summer and 56 in autumn. So press on westerners, you are nearly there!

### REPORT OF THE AGM

Last October's AGM marked the centenary of William Morris' death. David Rainger, chairman of the William Morris Society, gave a talk depicting the legacy of this Victorian genius and his significance in the garden suburb and co-partnership movement. Slides and readings illustrated Morris' prodigious energy and versatility as a poet, designer of wallpaper, textiles, furniture and as a notoriously committed socialist.

Over 50 people were present for the chairpersons' annual report given by Heather Moore. After introducing the committee she thanked committee members past and present for their hard work in keeping the Society alive and working for the conservation and enhancement of the estate.

Heather outlined some of the the activities organised by the committee which have become part of the tradition of Brentham; the strawberry tea; Christmas parcels to older residents of long standing; carol singing in aid of local charities; stalls at the craft fairs; the garden awards and of course the newsletter. The Brentham architectural walk led by Clive Hicks and Jill Burton during Heritage weekend drew people from all over London.

Heather thanked all those concerned in making these varied events such a success. Heather also reported on the success of a new venture which attempted to rediscover some of the



original spirit of Brentham - a family picnic and funday. Local families had a wonderful time and thanks go to the residents whose properties adjoin Ludlow Green for their co-operation.

About 30% of households on the estate responded to the questionnaire sent out last January. The results (which were displayed around the hall) were very helpful to the committee in revealing the concerns and wishes of the residents and in producing many offers of help. Sandra Phillimore of Meadvale Road won the prize draw for people completing the questionnaire.

Heather expressed the committee's continued concern at the number of contraventions of planning regulations. The Society has recently produced a pack to welcome all new residents and to alert them to the special status of Brentham. The planning leaflet, "Planning permission on the Brentham Conservation area" encourages residents to contact volunteer David Humphries, (997 5424 ) who is available for help and guidance before work commences. Heather gave special thanks to David for all the time he spends discussing options with residents who consult him. Heather mentioned several residents who have re-instated original features; Brentham windows put back into homes marred for years by picture windows; unsightly painted brickwork stripped and hedges replanted. Such planning applications have and will receive ready approval. The committee remains aware of the concerns of residents about the nature, speed and volume of traffic on the estate and the continues to monitor the situation. (See Chairman's letter, back page)

This being Heather's final report as chairperson she then handed over to

Mark Greenwood who thanked Heather for all her work over the past years and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.  
Elizabeth Atkinson

#### NEW COMMITTEE 1996-97

Mark Greenwood	998 1064
Delphine Nunn	997 1208
Lawrence Hamilton	998 1178
Elizabeth Atkinson	991 1758
Julie Gibson	997 8637
Heather Moore	998 0234
Philip Sutcliffe	997 4857

#### CRAFT FAIR

Once again the Society had a stall at the Christmas Craft Fair at the Pitshanger Lane Methodist Church in November . On sale was stationery and Christmas cards, cakes, mincemeat, dried herbs and playdough, all made and designed on the Estate. The stall's produce was beautifully packaged and presented and sold very well. Our thanks to Mandy Greenwood for organising it for us and to everyone else who made things or helped on the day.

Mandy has run the stall ever since we decided to have a stall at the Craft Fair. Sadly, she feels she can do it no longer. We are looking for another person or people who could run it for us. Are you interested? Please phone Mark Greenwood, 998 1064

#### POEMS REQUESTED

Poems, on themes connected with the Brentham Estate, are requested for a poetry competition. There will be three age groups : primary age: secondary age: adult Prizes of book tokens will be given and winning entries will be published in the newsletter. Please send your poems to **Chris Makin 23 Woodfield Cres.** including your name, age, address and tel. no.

## THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN MARK

I've only been in the job for four months but I feel that I've already seen the best and the worst of the Chairman's role. I took on the job at the AGM in October when Heather Moore stood down. Following in Heather's footsteps is no easy job - the Society has been revitalised in the past three years. I can only try and continue the direction Heather started.

Shortly after the AGM, we held a Social evening for all the people who have been involved in the Society's work recently. We also invited everyone kind enough to have offered to help in the future. It was a terrific event - a chance to get together and discuss the estate, thank all those who have helped in the last year, and to ask for help for specific jobs we are planning.

At the end of November, I went to a meeting at the Brentham Club called by the Pitshanger councillors to discuss local traffic. The council's Highway's Services Manager, Mr Daniel Metzger outlined the Draft Area Transport Plan process. The council wishes to do something about traffic in North Ealing and came to find out what the locals think. There was lots of talk from the platform about "listening to local opinion" and "partnerships with council tax payers". Then comments were invited from the floor. I was shocked at the passion engendered by traffic planning.

The Club's hall was full to overflowing and one after another people stood up to demand that cars be slowed down and through traffic stopped. Many remedies suggested, some simple like installing road humps the length of Brunswick, Brunner and Pitshanger. Some were complex, for instance,

creating a series of one way streets and 'no through' roads which could be switched regularly to confuse rat-running drivers.

I took the chance to put the Society's views. I stressed the fact that, as our own survey showed, although there was general agreement that there is too much traffic, the usual solutions are not necessarily suitable for an Arts and Craft Garden Suburb. I was taken to task for suggesting that speeding is not the major problem, but rather it is the volume of traffic and lorries driving illegally through the middle of the estate. However the police survey showed that only 2% of traffic on Brunswick Rd was breaking the speed limit.

All comments were noted by the Highways Department. They will produce draft proposals to be discussed by the council in March. A final proposal will then be put to local residents. We will, of course, try to monitor events. In the meantime, any one who wants their opinions to be heard could write to Daniel Metzger at the town hall, or to their Councillors.

The downside to the chairman's job is dealing with Brentham residents who, for whatever reason, are sold plastic double glazed windows. Just before Christmas, two more people were left facing the prospect of the council telling them to take out thousands of pounds worth of totally unsuitable pvc and aluminium replacement units. We say again, as we head towards spring time, if you want to do some improvements that affect how your house looks, please ask!  
Mark Greenwood

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE. PLEASE RETURN TO APPROPRIATE COLLECTOR. £1 PER HOUSEHOLD. DONATIONS WELCOME.**