



*Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing*

## NEWS

### Chairman's notes

I am writing this at New Year, a time of resolutions and planning ahead. It is a time for the Society Committee to pick up all the jobs that were submerged by the Christmas festivities. I have just written the agenda for the next meeting and, as always, there are many more jobs waiting than seven committee members have time for. As always, we will pick those jobs which most clearly lead to our objective of working to conserve, improve and educate people about the Brentham Garden Suburb.

Our year starts in October after the AGM and it was then that we announced our resolutions. We said we would :

- Involve more Brentham residents in the Conservation of our Garden Suburb.
- Update the Planning Guidelines.
- Form a clear plan for Brentham's Centenary.
- Make more use of the Archive.
- Improve the Society's finances.
- Publish a fuller calendar of events.
- Spread the word about the Brentham Garden Suburb.

Last year we were asked to involve more residents in making decisions about the work the Society does. This is your chance to get involved.

Firstly we need more committee members. The only qualifications necessary are enthusiasm and a few spare hours a month. We have an item elsewhere in this newsletter with some specific jobs we need help with - please have a look and help out if you can. We will be having two events during March so come and meet us.

If you are interested in planning, get involved in helping update the Brentham Planning Guidelines.

Use this newsletter. If you disagree with the direction the Society is taking, or if you think it doesn't go far enough, write a letter to the editor and he'll publish it.

We need help now producing the History Book. Please check the 'help needed' column for details.

Help plan the Society's Centenary Celebrations. We want a small group to produce a plan for 2001.

Over the year, two committee members stepped down. Congratulations to Tonia Gann on the birth of her baby. Delphine Nunn was the editor of the newsletter for as long as I've been on the Committee - I will miss her down to earth advice. I think they both deserve the warmest thanks from the Society.

It only remains for me to wish you a (belated) Happy New Year.

Mark Greenwood

## Report of the AGM

The 1997 Brentham Society AGM was held at the Brentham Club on the 28th October. Over 60 members listened firstly to an interesting talk given by Ray Rogers the Conservation Officer for Ealing. Ray gave us a guide to the amazing variety of listed and special architecture in Ealing, not just churches and houses, but for instance, the viaduct in Hanwell, the buildings over the shops in Acton High Street, and the Victorian Work House in Greenford where Charlie Chaplin lived as a boy. Ray also showed us the Planning Guidelines he has masterminded for other Conservation Areas in Ealing.

After a short break for refreshments and a chance to view the display created to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Great Storm, the business part of the meeting started.

### Chairman's report

Mark Greenwood began his Chairman's report by referring to Kenneth Clarke's statement that architecture is communal art - it depends on the relationship between maker and user more closely than the other arts. He likened this to the relationship between the Brentham Garden Suburb and its residents; the people who live here value Brentham, and that value is expressed in the Brentham Society.

Mark paid tribute to the hard work of the Committee members over the past year. Membership is up and new Welcome packs are being prepared. Much of the Committee's work has been to do with planning, improving the way it works with the Council, and pressing for action on planning contraventions. A letter has been sent to every company trying to sell UPVC double glazing on the estate to make them aware of the conservation regulations.

He thanked the Planning Advisory Group (David Humphries, Pat Baxendale, John Kelly) for all their hard work. This group is not part of the Brentham Society, but a group of local people asked by the Council to give views on every planning application on the estate. The Brentham Society works closely with them.

The Committee spent much time considering the application by St Barnabas Church for a new hall. After much discussion with members and residents the Committee decided not to take a specific view on the design for the hall but to take a lead from English Heritage. The revised plans received the approval of English Heritage and planning permission from Ealing Council. He wished the church every success with the next stages of the project.

The Society held a full calendar of events during the year, starting with a special evening to thank everyone who had helped the Society and to try and secure further help. This was followed by carol singing, a wine and cheese evening, the Strawberry Tea, a picnic and children's sports day and walks as part of the Open House weekend which attracted visitors from as far as Cardiff and Cambridge.

The Society's archive material has been sorted, thanks to Alan Henderson who kindly responded to a plea for help. Plans are underway for the estate's centenary in 2001 and a definitive book of the estate's first 100 years is proposed.

Mark outlined what the current Committee would like to do if re-elected and then concluded by thanking the Society's members for their contributions, involvement and support.

### Treasurer's report

Lawrence Hamilton's Treasurer's report noted a healthy reserve but with a loss for the year on the Current Account of £545. The report, delivered by Delphine Nunn, went on to point out that the underlying loss was less at £317. Steps the Committee would take if re-elected were outlined. The meeting voted to accept the report.

The Society's members then voted without opposition to elect two new committee members, Philip Sutcliffe and Rosanna Henderson, and to re-elect the five committee members standing. Elizabeth Atkinson announced the Garden Awards and the raffle was drawn. The meeting closed following questions from the floor (see last page for detail).

## Garden Awards 1997

This year the exciting task of judging the front gardens was taken over by a team of interested residents - regular judge Pam Turner gave some topical tips for those present to take back to the gardens of Brentham with them. Here are some of the comments made about the winning gardens.

The **Spring Award** went to Janet and Tony Sever of 7 Brentham Way - masses of vibrant coloured plants in well tended beds ... superb. Commended : 64 Meadvale Road where the muted colours of the ground cover plants to the dwarf trees entice the visitor up the path.

The **Summer Award** went to Janice Parks of 10 Woodfield Crescent - traditional cottage planting - dense and colourful. Rich colours against an evergreen background. Commended : 5 Brunner Road packed with an interesting variety of leaf textures and colours. A very artistic use of a small space.

The **Autumn Award** went to Mr and Mrs Rayner of 194 Pitshanger Lane - a large corner plot divided by paths. Oblique views give interest and the established mixed planting provides good late colour. Commended : 20 Brunner Road - the arched hedge forms a most attractive permanent frame for the garden and good foliage plants contrast well with the pretty heathers and other pale coloured plants ... lovely. Also 22 Brentham Way which has an interesting variety of shrubs and ground cover plants, with plenty of late colour.

Finally the **All Seasons Rose Bowi** has been awarded to Krys Mackerse of 39 Brentham Way - a glorious colour scheme with flower beds planted to overflowing. Excellent background layout.

## Successful Christmas Carols

Once again thanks to all those of you who joined the carol singing evenings around the estate and to those of you who generously donated to the two charities we were supporting. We were able to send just over £200 shared between The St. David's Home for Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, and The Retinoblastoma Society - fighting eye cancer in children.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### A Brentham Social

- Meet Your Neighbours

Thursday 12th March at 7-30pm  
The Brentham Club - Meadvale Road

Whether you're new to the estate or an existing resident, why not come along and meet your neighbours have a glass of wine and find out why our estate is so special. There won't be an entrance fee but a charge will be made for wine and there'll be a chance to see the storm report again and look at some original plans of the houses and estate layout. Brentham stationery will be on sale and those involved in the Centenary History will be on hand to get your ideas for inclusion in the publication. We look forward to meeting you there.

### The Brentham Society Committee Surgery

Saturday 21st March - 10-00am till 12-00noon  
The Brentham Club - Meadvale Road

If you have any concerns, questions or ideas about Brentham or the Society, this is your chance to put them to committee members who will be waiting to hear from you at this pilot surgery. Find out more about us - or give us your ideas on how we could improve the way the Society is run. We'll have copies of leaflets and membership packs there, as well as an enthusiastic welcome. Do pop in.

### More dates for your 1998 diary

May Day Talk	Wednesday 29th April
Family Cycle	Sunday 7th June
Strawberry Tea	Sunday 21st June
Fun Day	Sunday 19th July
Open House Weekend	Saturday/Sunday 19th/20th September
AGM	Tuesday 13th October

\*\* look out for more details on \*\*  
tree posters nearer the time.

## New Committee 1997-98

**Mark Greenwood** 998-1064 Chair

Mark is a designer working in advertising. He has been a committee member since 1994.

**Elizabeth Atkinson** 991-1758 Vice Chair

Elizabeth is on a short holiday from committee work, her excuse being the birth of Rachel just before the new year.

**Lawrence Hamilton** 933-5331 Treasurer

Lawrence, a consultant to the Health Service, is in his third year on the committee and second as Treasurer.

**Rosanna Henderson** 998-6550 Secretary

Rosanna has lived on the estate since 1984 but has only recently become involved with the committee. She is Personnel Manager for a major film distribution company.

**Heather Moore** 998-0234

Heather has lived around Brentham for much of her life. An experienced teacher, she has filled many roles in the society including Chairperson from 1994-97.

**Julie Gibson** 997-8637

Julie, a committee member for six years, is a senior manager for a medical charity foundation. She and Colin are expecting their second child.

**Philip Sutcliffe** 997-4857

Philip is a manager at Central Middlesex Hospital. He and Melanie recently celebrated the birth of their third baby, Dominic.

### Subscription - only £2

Membership Subscription has been held at £1 since 1970. The new committee were elected at the AGM on the basis that they would raise the subscription to £2 per household in 1997/98 to cover the increasing costs of running the society. Subscriptions are now due and donations above this small amount are still sought from those who feel able to give more.

## Help needed

- **Committee members.** See chairman's notes on the front page for more details
- **Planning Guidelines Group.** We need one or two more people to join the team looking at the existing guidelines and to contribute to a proposal for updating them. Please contact Heather Moore or Julie Gibson.
- **Centenary History Project.** We need help with mailing out the Proposal to potential sponsors and in following up after the mailing. Please contact Wendy Sender (997-4123) or Philip Sutcliffe.
- **Centenary Celebration Group.** We need a small group of people with imagination and energy to add to the ideas already suggested. Please contact any committee member.

## Help received !

- Ealing Council Parks Department are investigating the state of the low fence round the small open garden across Meadvale Road from the Brentham Club and will prune the bushes following the issue of responsibility for upkeep raised at the AGM.
- BRETS Environmental Services have promised to keep the path between Pitshanger Lane and Holyoake Walk regularly swept following concern expressed at the AGM.

## ..... and finally

This is the first newsletter produced by our new editor - Alan Henderson. Should anyone have any comments on the format or content or have ideas for future articles please contact him on 998-6550.

## STOP PRESS

Brentham May Day - Saturday 16th May