



*Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing*

## NEWS

**A Very Merry Brentham Christmas to you all**



### CAROL SINGING

We'll be carol singing around the estate on  
Thursday 17th and Saturday 19th  
December.

Once again we will be collecting in aid of two local charities, The St. David's Home for Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, and The Retinoblastoma Society fighting eye cancer in children. Do come and join us and, if previous years are anything to go by, you're sure to enjoy the evening (particularly the mulled wine and mince pies). Last year we collected just over £200 with your help. If you feel your voice isn't up to it we still need people to rattle the collecting boxes and if you can't join us do give your support when we knock on your door.

The singing starts on Thursday at 7:00pm (meet at 45 Ludlow Road) and Saturday at 6:00pm (meet at 77 Fowlers Walk) - song sheets and plenty of encouragement will be provided.

For more details contact Sue Chandler 997-1444

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### Brentham Christmas Cards

There's still time to buy Brentham Christmas cards or some Brentham stationery for the perfect Christmas thankyou note. Two designs of Christmas card are sold in packs of 5 for £2.50. Stationery is available from the Pitshanger Bookshop or Rosanna Henderson (998-6550).

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This newsletter is primarily a review of the Brentham Society during 1997/98. Our next issue will introduce the new committee and contain full details of the 1999 calendar. In the meantime you'll be receiving a note through the door seeking your subscription renewal - still at £2 per household. Do join and help preserve our heritage.



**A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year from all those involved in the Society.**

## Review of 1997/98 and Report of the AGM

The 1998 Brentham Society AGM was held at the Brentham Club on the 13th October 1998. Some 50 members listened firstly to an interesting talk given by Stephen Smith on his quest to discover co-partnership developments. Stephen is the great grandson of one of the founder members of the Brentham Garden Suburb (Hubert Brampton) and seems to have inherited his ancestor's enthusiasm for the housing movement.

He explained that he had discovered over 50 co-partnership schemes in Britain and had managed to visit 20 of them. Most of the schemes are centred around industrial conurbations (London, South Wales, Birmingham and Manchester) which is to be expected as they were originally built to house workers, although one exception to this was a scheme in Keswick in the Lake District which is adjacent to the famous Derwent Pencil factory. All the developments were built during the period 1900-1914 before Local Authorities became the main provider of social housing.

He then showed photographs and scale plans of some of the developments and pointed out the similarities with Brentham. It was interesting to see the same style of architecture and the open space philosophy appearing in a number of the photographs.

After refreshments and a chance to view the photographs of the year's social events, the business part of the meeting started.

### Chairman's report

Mark Greenwood began his chairman's report by posing the question "The Brentham Garden Suburb is special - but why?" He believed it was due to the strong sense of community which still exists today - 97 years after the original co-partnership scheme was first started by a number of idealists long since departed. The Brentham Society represents that community and has had a busy and successful year.

#### \* Members

Despite the rise in membership fee the number of members has increased. The

number of newsletters has increased to four per year, some new street stewards and a Committee surgery have all helped to improve the flow of information. Mark thanked all the membership collectors, the newsletter production and delivery team, and the street stewards for their work.

#### \* Planning

This is the most important side of the work of the Society. The committee has reviewed 34 planning applications working closely with the Brentham Advisory Panel. A small group has produced some recommendations for a revised Planning Guidelines booklet (thanks to Heather Moore, Clive Hicks and Pam Turner). Ealing Council will soon be producing a document for public consultation. Mark noted that the Council are in the process of serving enforcement notices in relation to four planning contraventions in Brentham.

#### \* Education

The committee considered that one of the strongest ways of encouraging residents to conserve Brentham is to increase our knowledge of the Suburb's history and its architecture. An information pack was delivered to every household, the society archive has been further refined, a talk on the history of May Day celebrations was well attended and two guided walks around the estate were organised as part of the Open House weekend. Thanks to all involved, particularly Clive Hicks, Rosanna Henderson and Julie Gibson.

#### \* Centenary

In order to help raise funds for a book to celebrate Brentham's centenary a special general meeting (SGM) approved the proposition for the society to apply for charitable status. Unfortunately, despite all the hard work, the Charity Commission turned down the application. However we still plan to publish a book. (see opposite)

#### \* Social

A busy year started with carol singing and the delivery of Christmas parcels to some of the older residents on the estate. The spring brought an experimental "social evening" aimed at newer residents and the summer

started with a cycle ride, a new event in 1998, followed by the famous annual strawberry tea and the family sports and picnic day. Many thanks to all organisers and to those who came along and made all the events such a success.

Finally Mark thanked the Brentham Club for allowing the Society to hold a number of social events and committee meetings in its "spiritual home", all without payment. He then explained he was standing down. He had got a tremendous amount out of being part of the Society's organisation and he thanked everyone for putting up with him as chairman, especially all those on the current committee!

#### Vote of thanks

Heather Moore proposed a vote of thanks to Mark for all his hard work and the contribution he has made to the society whilst serving on the committee and presented him with a bottle of champagne.

#### Treasurer's report

Lawrence Hamilton gave a brief outline of the financial position of the society. The accounts showed an underlying surplus of £400 in 1998. There were three principal reasons for this:

- increase in the membership fee
- stationery expenses reduced
- no costs to hold social events

He noted however that some events operated at a loss and suggested that there was potential to do better in the future. The accounts were accepted.

#### The Book Project

"Brentham : the Authorised Biography". Wendy Sender briefly recapped on developments. The current position is that our 'big idea' to mark the Millennium and the centenary of Brentham is now underway.

Aileen Reid, a specialist writer on architecture with a popular touch, has been commissioned to produce the manuscript of a comprehensive history of the Brentham Garden Suburb to coincide with our centenary in 2001. It will tell the story of how our small estate fits into the history of the Co-partnership and Garden Suburb movements, make use of our extensive

archive of photos and other materials and feature the memories of residents who have lived here over the years. This is not only a history of our special corner of Ealing, but a chronicle of the 20th century too. We believe it will excite a lot of interest.

Once we have a manuscript we have a number of options for how lavish the publication is to be and how many pictures we can use, depending on funds. A pretty basic publication without any illustrations would be about £8,000. For the kind of book we believe would do justice to the material, we'll need quite a bit more than that – around £20,000.

Wendy is leading the project and with a small sub-committee, planning a fund-raising strategy to make sure the publication goes ahead. Lawrence Hamilton presented the budgetary position in more detail and explained that a number of benefactors had underwritten the cost of the work commissioned to date.

Over the coming months, we'll keep you informed of progress and the ways you can help by taking part in fund raising activities. Our aim is to publish in plenty of time for your Christmas stocking in 2000! The Spring Newsletter will contain details of an important scheme for founder supporters of the project.

#### Committee for 1998-1999

The following residents were elected at the AGM :

George Barnes	997-8327
Sue Chandler	997-1444
Polly Fenech	357-0644
Rosanna Henderson	998-6550
Krystyna Mackersie	998-7618
Heather Moore	998-0234
Jackie Moss	997-1014
Sue van Raat	991-5467

At the first committee meeting after the AGM the new committee elected officers for the coming year. Heather Moore was elected chair. Heather says .. "After two years out of the chair I find myself back in it for the coming year. It is an exciting time for the Society with six new members joining the committee. We are looking forward to working together to further the work of the Society and to plan for our Centenary in 2001".

## The 1998 Garden Awards



During the year a group of current and former residents have been keeping a watchful eye on how the estate's gardens have been blooming. Here are some of the comments made about the winning gardens in each category.

The Spring Award went to Andrew White of 20 Brunner Road - through an arched privet hedge lies a fantastic secret garden well planned and with lots of spring colours. Commended : 194 Pitshanger Lane, 5 Ludlow Road, and 9,18,24,39 & 76 Brentham Way.

The Summer Award went to Peter & Mandy Walker of 26 Ludlow Road - a pretty front garden with a good layout in proportion to the cottage style house, containing attractive foliage plants with pots contrasting well with the gravel. Commended : 93 Fowlers Walk, 10 & 16 Woodfield Crescent, 3 Neville Road, 50 Meadvale Road and 54 & 78 Brentham Way.

The Autumn Award went to John Rolfe of 85 Fowlers Walk - super colours dominated by gold where the plants are larger on the higher side of the garden and sweep down to low along the entrance path - promises great things. Commended : 24 Woodfield Crescent, 16 & 23 Neville Road and 39 & 78 Brentham Way.

This year the All Seasons Rose Bowl has been awarded to Brian Vaughan of 64 Meadvale Road - lots of shape, variety and interest in this long Meadvale garden with splashes of variegated and exotic plants giving focus and enticing the visitor up the path towards the house.

The awards were presented to the winners at the AGM by Elizabeth Atkinson. Good luck to everybody in 1999.



## Stepping down

Thanks are due to a number of people who have given their time and energy to the society over the years and who are stepping down.

Firstly Mr Johnson of Neville Road who has been delivering the newsletter in that road since issue one - for almost 30 years. Thankyou very much from all those involved in producing the newsletter over the years. Is there anybody out there willing to step into his well worn shoes ? (Contact 998-6550).

Secondly, in October, David Humphries resigned from his position as the Brentham Society's nominee on the Brentham Conservation Area Planning Advisory Panel. This panel, formed by the Council to advise on planning applications in Brentham, is one of the groups vital to Brentham's future. It gives informed views on developments in our conservation area. David has been a member of the panel for 15 years and during that time has put in an incalculable amount of time. His unstinting efforts in visiting sites, checking planning applications and writing to Council Planning Officers have been vital in keeping Brentham planning on course. His knowledge and advice have been appreciated by many residents and by generations of Society Committees. It's safe to say that no-one has put in more work for Brentham than David over these fifteen years and that our Garden Suburb would be a poorer place without his work. So .....

### **WANTED - PLANNING REPRESENTATIVE**

A hard act to follow, but we are looking for an individual with an interest in architecture and the history of the estate, who supports the planning guidelines in relation to Brentham and is willing to look at planning applications and ensure they meet the criteria as set out in the Policy and Design Guide. The work involves short meetings with other panel members once or twice a month and some correspondence. If you're interested, please contact Heather Moore 998-0234 for more information.

Last but not least the 5 retiring committee members - Mark Greenwood, Elizabeth Atkinson, Lawrence Hamilton, Julie Gibson and Philip Sutcliffe. A big thankyou for all your contributions over the last year in particular - we know you'll not be far away !!