

BREATHAM

ISSUE 134 MARCH 1999



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

NEWS

Notes from the Chair

Spring in Brentham is always a beautiful time. It's good to see the flowers and to smell the scents of the early spring blossom. Yet it doesn't seem long since we were carol singing, a successful and enjoyable event.

This issue of Brentham News contains our calendar of events for this year. Watch out for the new Brentham notice boards in front gardens, generously sponsored by Grimshaw & Co. Estate Agents. March events are a stall at the Craft Fair in the Methodist Church Hall and a committee 'Surgery' where we hope you'll drop in and bring your concerns and ideas. We look forward to seeing you.

Our new committee elected in October are now a well established team, enjoying working together and with plenty of ideas to carry the Society forward to our Centenary in 2001.

Reading this newsletter you'll see that plans for the Brentham Book are advancing fast. I commend the partnership scheme to you.

The Society receives notification of planning applications on the Estate. In November we responded to an application for an astroturf hockey pitch, hard tennis courts and a sports pavilion on land belonging to Brentham Club. Our response to the Council was to

recommend rejection of the application as it stood because of the loss of rural aspect which was a key feature of the original concept of our estate. Latest news is that the application is being revised in the light of objections received from residents, the Society and those concerned with development on land close to the river Brent.

While talking of planning, may I remind you that because the estate is a conservation area covered by an article 4 direction, you need planning permission to alter any part of your property - the buildings and the means of enclosure (hedges etc.) For clarification please contact the Conservation Section of the Council's Planning Department or Mrs Pat Baxendale (998-1855) who is a member of the Conservation Area Planning Advisory Panel for Brentham. If you proceed with work before seeking planning permission the Council may take enforcement action for you to reinstate original features which can be a costly exercise.

In January you will have received an envelope for your subscription (only £2), and there's still time to return it if you haven't done so already.

Lastly may I welcome new residents. If you would like a welcome pack or want to become a member of the Society please phone our Secretary Rosanna Henderson 998-6550.

Heather Moore

BOOK PROJECT UPDATE

There is encouraging progress to report since the last newsletter. As well as an author, the Brentham centenary book now has a title:

Brentham: The Pioneer Garden Suburb 1901-2001

Specialist writer Aileen Reid is busy researching Brentham's early years and is preparing a questionnaire to jog people's memories about more recent ones. She has also enlisted high-level support from people like the Director of the prestigious Courtauld Institute, who will write letters of support to help our fund-raising.

In the meantime, we've recruited a VIP supporter in the form of Sir Peter Hall - not the theatrical knight - but the influential Professor of Planning at London University, world authority on town planning, and a near-neighbour from Queens Road, North Ealing. Sir Peter is already a fan of the Brentham estate: he has called it "a *minuscule masterpiece*", and has agreed to write an Introduction to the book and help in other practical ways. We hope Sir Peter will be able to open some useful doors, and his backing is a great boost for the project.

Most significant, he has bought the first 'Co-partnership Share' in the book. This was formally presented to him in bitter weather outside 32 Brentham Way by Sky TV news presenter and Committee Member Paula Fenech at the end of February.

You may already have seen coverage of the launch of the Share Scheme in the *Ealing Gazette*. (We've had quite a bit of press interest, including from the *Evening Standard* and BBC 2's *One Foot in the Past* heritage series, which we hope to capitalise on later.)

The enclosures with your newsletter this month tell you everything you need to know about the Co-partnership Share

Scheme. This is the main way that you can be directly involved in the production of Brentham's centenary history. So please read the *Buy a Share in History* leaflet and the letter from Brentham Society Chairperson Heather Moore, and then sign up to be among the first 'shareholders' in this, your story.

Local printers Argent Litho have sponsored the printing of the *Buy a Share in History* leaflet to save the Society costs. The paper for the leaflets was donated by Arjo UK Merchants. We hope these will be the first of many business sponsors for the project and we welcome their support.

Now that the project is really getting going and we are creating interest in what we are trying to achieve, we need more help 'on the ground' to maximise our effectiveness and to raise the money! If you think you can help (with useful contacts, potential business sponsors, influencing skills, letter production, fund-raising ideas, interviewing residents, or just plain legwork) we want to hear from you now!

Some appealing (in both senses of the word) events are planned for the coming Spring and Summer months - especially over the Brentham May Day weekend - so look out for further details.

In the meantime, you can make an immediate impact by becoming a Shareholder sooner rather than later. We want to time publication for early next year, so we need Shareholders now to meet this ambitious target. The Co-partnership Share Scheme gives you the opportunity to make your mark in history - so sign up. It won't happen without you!

Find out more about the book, the Share Scheme, or ways you can help from Sue Elliott 998 9978, Mark Greenwood 998 1064 or Wendy Sender 997 4123.

Sue Elliott

OTHER NEWS

Carol Singing

December saw the annual carol singing around the estate. Thanks to all those who contributed to our collection boxes, we raised £275 for the two charities we support, the St David's Home for Disabled Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen and the Retinoblastoma Society fighting eye cancer in children. A special thanks to Ellen Jackson and Polly Fenech who supplied the mince pies and mulled wine and to the Brentham Club who let us gate crash and sing at an annual dinner (well done Polly for being so bold).

Brentham May Day

The annual festivities this year will be on **Saturday 22nd May**. Enrolment will be at the Brentham Club on 30th March 4-30pm and the first rehearsal will be on 15th April. The May Day committee needs help with organising rehearsals, erecting the May pole and stewarding the event (you don't need to have a child enrolled to lend a hand).

Does anybody have any old May Day programmes? We're trying to compile a list of previous May Queens for inclusion in the Brentham book. In particular we're missing the periods 1927-1935 and 1964-1972.

Contact Pat Baxendale 998-1855

Demise of local enterprise

After 25 years of small press publishing, the Brentham Press, started by Margaret Tims while living on the estate, is being wound up. Many of you will have seen the local history society booklet Ealing Tenants Ltd. - Pioneers of Co-partnership written by Margaret back in 1966. The first publication of the Brentham Press was a text of a lecture "The Beauty of Life" given by William Morris in 1880 - it became a modest best seller. After moving to St. Albans some 10 years ago the Brentham Press published mainly poetry, including a selection of poems written by a local resident in Ludlow Road, Margaret (known as Peggy to some) sends her best wishes to friends on the estate.

More memories

We've recently received a marvellous letter from a 92 year old ex-resident of Brentham

together with some good photos showing how different things were when the estate was first built. Doris Palmer (née Marshall) lived with her parents, the first tenants of a house in Meadvale Road, and later rented a house on the east side of Fowlers Walk. She remembers the view from the back bedroom window being a field of buttercups - and not a house in sight where Kingfield Road now is. Doris features in the photograph taken of the opening of the institute by the Duke & Duchess of Conaught in 1911 and has fond memories of dances at the Institute in later years.

The Society would like to hear from any other ex-residents who have memories of life on the estate. Do you know of anyone who has a story to tell?

Contact Alan Henderson 998-6550.

Brentham Web-Site

Plans are afoot to start up a Brentham Web Site. Hampstead Garden Suburb already has a site and although we won't be trying to match theirs we feel it's about time we joined the super highway. Watch this space for further developments - or go surfing!

Contact Sue van Raat 991-5467

Not so much news - a plea

Now that the gardening season is about to begin, a request was made at last year's annual general meeting for those of you who have hedges running alongside an alley way to keep them trimmed. Some of our older residents have found it difficult to get through to the street with their garden rubbish so please think of others.

Talking of gardens, don't forget the annual garden awards. Those judging this year will be out on the street keeping an eye on the best examples of front gardens and maybe this time it could be yours which gets a mention. You don't have to register to enter.

Do you have any news or comment?

The Editor would welcome any news, views, or comment about life on the estate for possible inclusion in future newsletters. Copy date for the summer edition is 29th May 1999. Send your correspondence to:

The Editor, 47 Meadvale Road.

The New Committee

Heather Moore (998 - 0234) - Chair

Heather takes the chair for a second time having held the position earlier (1993-1996). She's enjoying working with the new committee to take the Society forward to its Centenary.

Sue Chandler (997 - 1444) - Vice Chair

Sue lives in Woodfield Crescent and is a relative newcomer to the estate. She is an organiser and has millennium street parties in her sights but in the meantime a stall at the craft fair will keep her occupied !

Sue van Raat (991 - 5467) - Treasurer

Sue has lived on the estate in Neville Road for 7 years and has a keen interest in its history. She wants to develop our internet web site.

Rosanna Henderson (998 - 6550) - Secretary

Rosanna has got the hang of it now - having been the secretary last year. Her aim is to increase the society membership to an all time high to maximise involvement of all residents.

George Barnes (997- 8327)

George is a retired optometrist and has lived in Brentham Way since 1974. He's a keen sailor and motorcyclist and has experience in fundraising.

Krystyna Mackersie (998 - 7618)

Also a long standing Brentham Way resident, Krystyna is a former winner of the All Seasons Rose Bowl garden award. She loves the tranquility of the estate and is keen on conservation.

Jackie Moss (997 - 1014)

Another resident of Brentham Way, having moved recently from North View, Jackie now has two young children and used to work in the BBC's drama department.

Paula Fenech (357 - 0644)

Paula lives in Ludlow Road with her architect husband and 14 month old daughter. She is captivated by the estate and is keen to ensure the planning regulations are enforced as well as informing residents just why the rules are so important if we're to keep the Brentham Garden Suburb so special.

Wendy Sender (997- 4123) co-opted member

Wendy is the "book supremo". She's lived in Denison Road for 10 years and has worked with the committee on publications in the past.

1999 EVENTS - CALENDAR

Craft Fair	Saturday 13th March
Committee Surgery	Saturday 20th March
Family Cycle	Sunday 6th June
Strawberry Tea	Sunday 20th June
Fun Day	Sunday 18th July
Open House Weekend	Saturday/Sunday 18th/19th September
AGM	week beginning 18th October
Craft Fair	13th November
Carol Singing	December (tbc)

Keep a note of these in your diary and for details watch out for notices around the estate nearer the time.

Committee Surgery

Saturday 20th March 1999

Brentham Club 10-00am till 1-00pm

Do pop in and meet some of the committee. Gives us your views on what you think we should be doing. Having read this newsletter is there anything you could help with ? Come and see if you'd like to lend a hand !

Family Cycle

Sunday 6th June 1999

Meet Pitshanger Park 1-00pm

Following the success of last year's event we're repeating this leisurely cycle from Pitshanger Park to Osterley Park mostly off the public highway. It's suitable for all ages from 8 to 80 and there'll be a cream tea at the end. We can try and arrange transport back for the weary if necessary although a cycle back taking a different route is recommended.

Alan Henderson 998-6550 for further details.