



NEWS

Welcome to our festive edition of Brentham News

Carol Singing

Once again Brentham Carol singers will be out around the estate collecting for the two local charities that we support. Last year we raised £275. Why not come and join us this year on Thursday 16th or Tuesday 21st December (or both) and help us raise money for a good cause? We need people to rattle tins as well as sing and you'll be rewarded with mince pies and mulled wine.

Contact Sue Chandler (020-8997-1444) for details.

Christmas Gifts

If you are still looking for that special gift
why not give someone a share in the Brentham Centenary book?
Contact Wendy Sender (020-8997-4123)

Christmas Cards

Two different designs of Brentham Christmas card are still available.
Contact Rosanna Henderson (020-8998-6550)

Short notes from the Chair

My last notes of the old millennium are mercifully short to allow room for what others have written! Inside is a fascinating article from a resident which hopefully will prompt other would-be contributors to put pen to paper or finger to word processor as well as news of the AGM and book.

The newly elected committee are already at work planning a busy programme of events and projects to take the Society into the new

millennium. And lest we suffer from post millennium fatigue syndrome there's our own Centenary in 2001 which we want to mark with a really special celebration. Ideas please! And finally



Very best wishes for Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Millennium.

Heather Moore
(020-8998-0234)

CENTENARY BOOK CATCHES FIRE !

Metaphorically that is! We are now less than ten months away from our planned publication date in autumn 2000, and instead of a distant and tantalising pipedream, the Brentham Centenary Book is rapidly becoming a reality.

The special Book Newsletter distributed at the beginning of November brought news of the latest fundraising efforts. The most significant coup to date has been to recruit estate agent **Sinton Andrews** as our major local sponsor. We are very grateful to Gary Sinton, who lives in the Pitshanger area, for the interest and involvement Sinton Andrews have shown. Other local agents **Grimshaws**, **John Martin** and **Brendons** have also come on board with smaller, but vital, contributions and we thank them too. Grimshaws have been particularly supportive over the years, most recently sponsoring the well-used notice-boards.

As a result of Aileen Reid's personal approach to proprietor Conrad Black, we have had a donation of £1,000 from the Telegraph Newspapers charitable trust which, together with Co-Partnership Shares sold following the Book Newsletter, means that we are now three-quarters of the way towards our target. We have also been promised a small donation from London Weekend Television. So we've already made an impact with the media!

And as this newsletter goes to press we are delighted to report that we have sold in excess of 200 shares since the launch of the scheme in March – share sales alone have raised a phenomenal £7,600 ! People buy Shares for a fascinating range of purposes – Millennium presents, heritage gifts for grandchildren, a surprise for the spouse, even a welcome gift from a departing resident to a new arrival! If you have an unusual purpose for your Share, do let us know. And if you hadn't already thought of it, a Share would make an excellent Christmas present for "the Person Who Has Everything"

We're still hearing from a few people who haven't yet received their Share Certificate. These are made up in batches by a busy local calligrapher, so if you haven't had yours yet, don't worry, it will come to you shortly. If

you need yours urgently (for example for a gift) do let us know.

We've recently launched the local business equivalent of the Co-Partnership Share scheme to the shops and offices in Pitshanger Lane with positive initial results. **Curzon Road Garage**, **Kamps Heel Bar**, **Crescent Arts**, **The Printing Press**, **Knock on Wood**, **The Directors Cut**, **Reeves Dry Cleaners**, **Ray's Fruit Bowl**, **TH Carr**, **Margaret Dance Academy**, **Darlington & Parkinson**, **Kin's Chinese Take-Away**, **The Travel Studio**, **Aristocrat Valet Service**, **West Kebab**, **La Jardiniere Restaurant** and **Brill's** were among the first to sign up, with promises from many others. Full details and acknowledgements will appear in the next Book Newsletter due early in the New Year.

Many thanks to those who took the trouble to seek us out after the AGM and as a result of the Book Newsletter, to offer help or ideas for companies to write begging letters to. These are in the process of being followed up.

Fundraising will continue apace in the New Year in our efforts to produce the quality fully-illustrated book we're aiming for. If you can offer an attractive raffle prize or you have a business contact who can, please let me know. Although we have been reasonably successful so far, fund raising has taken an enormous amount of time and effort and we still get many more rejections than we get offers!

To help us with applications to charitable trusts and corporate organisations, which usually only give to groups with charitable status, we have established a separately constituted offshoot of the Brentham Society, the **Brentham Heritage Society**. Our application for charitable status has been submitted to the Charity Commissioners and we expect a response by mid-December.

At the time of going to press the Book Committee has arranged to have a stall on **Light up the Lane** night. This will help to publicise the book, and at the same time we will be able to make a contribution to **Meadow House Hospice** through the sale of homemade goodies. Many thanks to the bakers and sweetmakers!

Sue Elliott (020-8998-9978)

BRENTHAM ESTATE aligned with HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB ?

Why do Brentham roads run in the particular directions they do? Why is the tower of the Brentham Club placed precisely where it is? Why does it have a tower at all? Considering these questions was one result of joining an informative tour of Hampstead Garden Suburb on the afternoon of 26 September.

Michael Rowley, a resident of the Suburb and an architect, led a walk during which he compared its overall shape to a lobster and showed how its founder, Henrietta Barnett, aimed at creating a place where the affluent and the artisans could live together in a leafy and spacious garden suburb environment. Substantial Lutyens-designed houses occupy prime hilltop sites around Central Square while, further down the hill, the Suburb has increasingly modest houses and flats designed by architects like G.L. Sutcliffe who also worked on the Brentham Estate.

Michael Rowley also demonstrated some carefully calculated effects that underlie what at first appears to be a very informal street layout for the Suburb. Axis, symmetry and precisely aligned were the buzz-words of the afternoon. At the highest point of the Suburb, grouped around Central Square, are its three tallest buildings. Two of them are religious, the Anglican St. Jude's and the smaller nonconformist church, and the third one is educational, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, accommodating adult classes and the Henrietta Barnett School. These three dominating buildings are respectively crowned by a spire, a dome and a cupola, and several of the roads in the Suburb have been planned so that as you walk towards its centre you are heading directly towards one of these conspicuous features. Moreover, Hampstead Garden Suburb's main axis (the backbone of the lobster), along which your eye is inevitably drawn as you look up Heathgate from the edge of the Suburb towards Central Square, passes through both the spire of St. Jude's and the dome of the free church beyond it.

What all this means is open to interpretation. Was the aim to dignify Hampstead Garden Suburb with hints of classic grandeur, its main axis a foretaste of Lutyens' plan for imperial New Delhi? Are these road

alignments innocent aids to direction-finding, giving visitors reassuring views of major landmarks as they explore the Suburb? Or were they intended as constant assertions of the importance of religion and education?

But what about the alignments of Brentham? Do they serve similar functions here? This is a game anyone can play: all you need is a map and a ruler. First the obvious alignments, though some are more evident on the map than on the ground. The northern part of Denison Road and the central section of Holyoake Walk are both aligned with the tower of the Brentham Club which, having begun its life as the Brentham Institute, clearly equates with the institute in Central Square. The cul-de-sac off Fowler's Walk shows the same alignment with the Brentham Club. Brentham Way is aligned with Harrow-on-the-Hill, as are the northern part of Fowler's Walk and the southern part of Brunner Road. The lower part of North View is aligned with the summit of Horsenden Hill.

More surprisingly, links between the tower of the Brentham Club, with its pyramidal roof, and the similarly capped ancient churches of St Mary's Perivale, and St Mary's Northolt are not just architectural. The three structures lie in a dead straight line, on the same axis. But there are no evident alignments within the Brentham Estate with St Barnabas' church, presumably because it was a late addition to the estate. In any case, its lack of spire or tower disqualifies it from functioning like Lutyens' Hampstead churches, and Brentham ground a very different axe from the wife of Canon Barnett by naming a road after G.J. Holyoake, the last atheist to be imprisoned for his non-belief.

What all this seems to suggest is that the layout of the Brentham Estate was designed partly to focus attention on its social and cultural centrepiece, the Institute, and partly to anchor it firmly in its environment by tying it in to the most prominent local landmarks. Travel, it has been said, enables you to see your homeland more clearly; this outing to Hampstead Garden Suburb provided unexpected insights into the planning of our own estate.

Michael McCarthy - Holyoake Walk

Report of the AGM

The 1999 Brentham Society AGM was held for the first time in the new St Barnabas Millennium Hall on 20th October and was attended by some 50 residents. Heather Moore gave a special welcome to Michael Sutcliffe a relative of one of the main architects of the estate and to Aileen Reid (author of the forthcoming Brentham Centenary Book).

Aileen gave a talk on how Brentham came to be built, illustrated by photos and plans from the archives. It gave us all an insight into what is going to be a fascinating publication.

After refreshments and a chance to view the display boards of photos showing events of the past year came the business part of the meeting.

Committee report

Chair Heather Moore thanked the current committee for all their efforts and the many others around the estate who had given their time over the last year. Special thanks were given to Pat Baxendale and John Kelly of the Planning Advisory Panel, Wendy Sender and the Book Committee, Alan Henderson for the work on the archives and the newsletter and Peter Bigwood for developing our web page.

Secretary Rosanna Henderson said that membership was over 53%, the highest since 1988, the year following the storm. She reminded everyone that the Society is a non-profit making organisation and thanked all those who paid their subscriptions and who gave donations.

Paula Fenech who works closely with the Brentham Advisory Panel on planning issues outlined what having conservation status means and why it is so important to retain it. She briefly stated the current position in relation to the application for developments to the Brentham Club's sports facilities and also explained the Council policy on street trees.

Wendy Sender, speaking about the Centenary Book, thanked all those people who have helped get the Book Project where it is today. Particular thanks to Mark Greenwood for dreaming up the share scheme and the marketing strategy, Elizabeth Atkinson for finding so many back

gardens for the Garden Open Day, Sue van Raat and Pat Baxendale for the Art Weekend success and especially to Sue Elliott for her support and efforts without whom the book would still be just an idea. Sue Elliott then outlined what has been achieved to date and what is planned for the coming year.

Sue Chandler, on behalf of those organising social events, thanked Clive Hicks for guiding the Open House walks, Barbara Murray for opening her garden for the Strawberry Tea and Mandy Greenwood for her help on the Craft Fair. Carol singing had raised over £250 for two local charities who were extremely grateful.

Krystyna MacKersie thanked all those who had volunteered to become street representatives* and outlined their role in providing a welcome to new residents and acting as a focal point between residents and the Society.

Financial report

Sue van Raat presented the accounts which showed a net surplus for the year of £5,365 (£1,213 net of Centenary receipts/payments). She thanked Derek Buckley for once again auditing the accounts and asked if anyone on the estate would be prepared to take over the audit function as Derek will no longer be able to do so.

Vote of thanks

Tony Oliver proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for all their work during the year.

Elections

Election of the new committee* was proposed by Bevan Jones and seconded by Pam Turner.

Garden Awards

Pam Turner presented the garden awards. A full account will be given in the Spring newsletter.

Issues raised

Questions about trees, cable junction boxes and whether we are "Bren_tham" or "Brent_ham" were raised from the floor. For a full response see the Spring newsletter. Views on the latter welcomed by the editor!

* for committee members & street representatives
(see insert)