



**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS
OF BRENTHAM SOCIETY AND BRENTHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY**

Thursday 17th October 2002, 7.30pm, Brentham Club

Residents in attendance: approximately 50

Committee Members present:

Brentham Society: Sue Elliott (Chair), Sue van Raat (Treasurer), Nicky Cadisch (Secretary), Heather Moore, Krystina Mackersie, Rosanna Henderson, Graham Fox

Brentham Heritage Society: Wendy Sender (Chair), Sue van Raat (Treasurer), Eleanor Cowie (Secretary), Sue Elliott, Alan Henderson, Heather Moore

BHS Members in attendance: 16

The meeting was in two parts:

Part 1: The Arts & Crafts Home

Talk given by Wendy Hitchmough - Curator, Charleston

Part 2: Main Business

1. Minutes of the 2001 AGM and Matters Arising:

(a) Brentham Society

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting – proposed by Paul Fodrio, seconded by Mary Fear-Hill.

Sue Elliott reported that, despite protests from the Brentham Society and the Conservation advisory panel, none of the green ntl boxes along Pitshanger Lane had been removed. The Council had been advised that they had mishandled the planning process and therefore had no redress against ntl; nor were they prepared to increase the frequency of removing graffiti from the boxes. Mr Costello suggested invoking the help of Steve Pound as local MP; Peter Bigwood said that the Brentham Society should (1) complain to the Ombudsman about the Council's negligence and (2) either get ntl to remove the graffiti, or remove it and charge ntl. Pat Baxendale suggested getting another legal opinion on the position. Sue Elliott agreed that the Society would pursue these options.

(b) Brentham Heritage Society

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting – proposed by Pat Baxendale, seconded by Maureen Monaghan.

2. Brentham Society Committee's Report

Sue Elliott (Chair)

Sue reported that it had been hard to follow the excitements of the centenary year and book launch, but that there was still plenty going on to fulfil the Society's dual role of **Conservation and Community**.

As a result of BS input via Heather Moore, in collaboration with the Conservation Advisory Panel led by Pat Baxendale, in commenting and advising on planning issues, there has been a real improvement in the look of the estate, with many houses having original features restored. However, there had been problems when builders did not adhere to the plans as agreed. Character statements and general planning guidance had been distributed to every household with the Newsletter earlier in the year. Lighting on the estate is to be renewed next year and the BS will be working to ensure that the new lamps will be in keeping.

On conservation issues, various on-going projects had been initiated: listing of Holyoake House (awaiting the appointment of a new Conservation Officer); talking to the Brentham Club about advice and funding sources; reinstatement of an 'old-style' phone box in Brentham Way, and the establishment of a salvage store, for which an unused garage would be useful.

A good working relationship had been established with the Pitshanger Community Association; the BS and BHS Chairs met regularly with them and had provided advice to the PCA's 'blue sky' committee. A good working relationship had also been re-established with the Brentham Club: the Club's facilities were being used again and regular informal meetings had been held with the Club's management committee on ways of working together, particularly on the conservation of the Club buildings.

The Newsletter, vital for communication, had gone from strength to strength under Alan Henderson's editorship. Thanks were due to Grimshaws estate agents for their sponsorship. The Brenthamites Reunited feature was providing an important link with former residents, many now elderly. There had been a steady sale of Brentham merchandise during the year and thanks were due to Sue van Raat for organising the production of new mugs, and to Pat Baxendale for design advice.

The work of the BS during the year could not have been achieved without the hard work of event helpers, tea and cake makers, Street Reps, Newsletter deliverers, membership collectors and the many people who had regularly given up their time to help. Sue concluded by paying tribute to the Committee, especially retiring members Nicky Cadisch (Secretary), Chris Holdsworth, Krys Mackerzie (Street Rep. Organiser), Sue van Raat (Treasurer and Head of Merchandise and much else), and Rosanna Henderson (Membership, Events Organiser, etc.).

Rosanna Henderson (Membership and Events)

Rosanna reported that membership had fallen to 44% of households this year, compared to around 50% in recent years; this may have been due to the large number of house sales and rentals. She thanked all those who collected membership subscriptions.

Rosanna began her review of events by thanking the band of people who helped behind the scenes. Regular, long-established events included carol singing, which had seen a good turn-out and raised money for two local charities; the two Craft Fairs in the Methodist Church Hall, at which cakes and Brentham merchandise had been sold, and the Strawberry Tea, which continued to be very popular – thanks were due to Barbara Murray together with congratulations on her special birthday.

Among newer events were the meeting in the Haven Arms in March to celebrate Pioneers' Day (no fancy dress this time, but a sociable evening); the Open Gardens event in June, when 100 people viewed ten gardens (a mixture of new and old gardens participated); and the campaign to clean up Vivian Green in August, when a working party planted 500 bulbs and painted the chain link fence to maintain a very pleasant open space. In September, 27 people, including a good number of children as well as new faces, took part in the Family Cycle from Pitshanger Park to Osterley Park, finishing with afternoon tea.

The third category of events were the talks, walks and exhibitions, including the Gunnersbury Park Museum exhibition from October to February, which had aroused interest far and wide. In February Lesley Hoskins, Curator of the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture, had given a fascinating talk; in May a group had visited Prince Charles' model estate at Poundbury; then in September Sue Jackson had visited Brentham and given a talk on Haberfield NSW and Clive Hicks had led well-attended tours of the Brentham estate for the Open House weekend.

Other Brentham events, not organised by the Brentham Society itself, included May Day, when the BS had managed to track down several previous May Queens to take part in the parade, including those of 1952 and 1977. The singer Jack Jones (married to an ex-May Queen) also attended and subsequently mentioned Brentham on national radio and television. There had also been three extremely successful Jubilee street parties. Rosanna emphasised that suggestions for events were always welcome, as were volunteers to organise them.

3. Brentham Heritage Society Chair's Report (Wendy Sender)

Wendy reminded those present that as a charity the remit of the BHS is to carry out activities that are not only of interest to people living in the Brentham area, but also to those outside Brentham. Publishing the book had been a first step, and the next was to publicise it as widely as possible, through articles in the press and reviews. Since publication there had been 806 column inches of reviews, or 67 feet – higher than the Brentham tower! All the reviews had been very positive, indeed one had described the book as "the best local history account on London in the last decade". 113 books were sold during the year, with orders coming from the UK, Germany, Australia and North America, and of the original print run of 1750 copies, 191 copies remained.

The Gunnersbury Park Museum exhibition from October 2001 to February 2002 had been the longest running event, attracting 5,500 visitors. An audio commentary on the exhibition had been made by Sue Elliott for *Visions*, an audio magazine service for the blind and housebound in Ealing and Hounslow.

Work had continued on indexing and cataloguing the Brentham Archive and additional conservation-standard storage had been acquired. Donations to the Archive included May Day material from the 1970s, display boards from the Gunnersbury Park Museum exhibition, photographs and theatre programmes, and the loan of a substantial quantity of material found in the former offices of the Bradford Property Trust.

Work continued on updating the website and developing links to other garden suburbs in the rest of the world.

On conservation issues, the Brentham Heritage Society had worked jointly with the Brentham Society:- liaising with the Bradford Property Trust and the Council about the refurbishment of the front garden and exterior paintwork of Holyoake House; continuing to encourage the restoration of the room in the Haven Arms where Brentham's founders first met; participating in a consultation with Ealing Council about the replacement or refurbishment of Brentham's street lights, and opening discussions with the Brentham Club about a possible joint conservation venture.

New projects included the production of resource packs for local schools in collaboration with the Humanities Advisor of the London Borough of Ealing and with local primary teachers. The packs will be available in January 2003. The BHS also submitted an application to English Heritage for Blue Plaques for two houses in Brentham.

In the past year, the BHS had worked at forging links beyond Brentham with other garden suburbs/housing schemes, particularly in Australia, and had made links with the local community, including the Pitshanger Community Association, and attended a meeting of community groups at Gunnersbury Park Museum on the services and resources available at the museum. The BHS is a member of Ealing Community and Voluntary Service.

In its role of promoting Brentham, the BHS helped to organise heritage walks round Brentham during London Open House Weekend and gave a talk to Hanwell Rotary Club.

Wendy thanked everyone on the BHS committee for their time, energy and commitment, and particularly Sue van Raat, who had been faultlessly efficient in her role as treasurer, not only in handling the total of £40,000 in contributions and donations to the book project, but also helping to organise the single most successful fundraising event for the book – the Art Weekend.

4. Treasurer's Report (Sue van Raat)

(a) Brentham Society

Sue reported on a healthy year. Although subscription numbers were down, this had been offset by generous contributions from renewing members and by a donation from the Brentham Way Jubilee street party. There had been a drop in income, following the Centenary year, partly due to running out of merchandise; this had now been rectified and a new design of mugs was on sale. Income from the Strawberry Tea had returned to normal levels.

Expenditure on Vivian Green included a plaque, engraving of a bench, and fencing, which had been beautifully done by Tony Mackersie. A reception at Gunnersbury Museum was held as a thank-you to all those who contributed to the work of the two Societies behind the scenes. Miscellaneous expenditure included speakers' fees and gifts for senior residents' birthdays. After paying for the new mugs, the current balance now stood at around £3,000.

(b) Brentham Heritage Society

The BHS had had a quieter year, the main income being from book sales. Money had been spent on storage for the Archive and on the schools packs. The net surplus at the year end was just over £1,000, bringing the total in the reserve to more than £17,000 - most of which would be used up if a reprint of the book was commissioned.

Thanks were due to Andy Akerman for auditing both sets of accounts and to the Committees for 'allowing' her to be Treasurer!

5. Election of Committees 2002-3:

(a) Brentham Society

The following members were willing to stand again: Sue Elliott (Chair), Ian Brocklebank, Heather Moore and Graham Fox (co-opted).

The following nominations for new members had been received:

| | <u>Proposed by:</u> | <u>Seconded by:</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| George Barnes (previously co-opted) | Heather Moore | Nicky Cadisch |
| Richard Costella (Treasurer) | Sue Elliott | Bevan Jones |
| Eleanor Cowie (Secretary) | Alan Henderson | Sue van Raat |
| Sean Cadogan | Sue van Raat | Rosanna Henderson |
| Barry Murphy | Krys Mackersie | Ian Brocklebank |

The election of the above committee members was proposed by Peter Bigwood, seconded by Barbara Murray and the committee was elected unanimously.

(b) Brentham Heritage Society

The following members were willing to stand again: Wendy Sender (Chair), Eleanor Cowie (Secretary), Alan Henderson, Sue Elliott and Heather Moore.

The following nomination for a new member had been received:

| | <u>Proposed by:</u> | <u>Seconded by:</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Richard Costella (Treasurer) | Sue Elliott | Bevan Jones |

The election of the above committee members was proposed by Michael McCarthy, seconded by Maureen Monaghan and the committee was duly elected.

6. Amendments to the Brentham Society Constitution

A resolution to amend the constitution of the Brentham Society so as to open ordinary membership to local organisations and entities such as St Barnabas Church and the Brentham Club, who would each have one vote, and to open associate membership to entities such as estate agents, without a vote, was proposed by Barry Murphy, seconded by Paul Fodrio and carried unanimously.

7. Garden Awards

Graham Fox thanked Brian Vaughan for once again judging the Spring, Summer and Autumn Awards as well as the Rose Bowl. An attempt had been made to give more notice of the awards, so that the winners could be present to receive them.

Spring Award: 33 Brunner Road; Summer Award: 33 Ludlow Road; Autumn Award 111 Fowlers Walk

The Rose Bowl was awarded to 45 Woodfield Crescent.

8. Members' Questions

Tony Arnell proposed a vote of thanks to the Committees for all their hard work.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.