

BRENTHAM SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, 22nd October 2015, 8.00 Brentham Club

Members in attendance: 30 plus Committee

Committee members present: Richard Costella (Chair), Martin Mortimore, Tony Miller, Ann Wolf, Alan Henderson

Apologies: Clive Evans, Heather Moore

1. Introduction and Welcome

RC welcomed everyone to the meeting . He introduced Katia Clarke, a student from Loughborough University who was going to give a presentation of the initial findings from her survey of Brentham residents covering the topic 'What it is like to live in a garden suburb'.

2. Presentation by Katia Clarke

3. Refreshments

4. Minutes of the 2014 AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes had been distributed to those present and their acceptance as a true record of the meeting was duly agreed by a show of hands.

5. Committee Reports

(a) Chair (Richard Costella)

RC said it had been another busy year for the Brentham Society. The three main projects occupying the Committee were the Tower restoration project, the possible introduction of wheelie bins and the issue of double glazing. The new web site is being used more regularly by members. There had also been regular meetings with the Brentham Club and the PCA to co-ordinate programmes. New street signs had been put in place. RC also wanted to thank Alan Henderson for all the work he had done digitising the archive material.

RC wanted to thank all those involved in BS's regular events:
a successful Strawberry Tea at Barbara Murray's house.
a very well attended Open House weekend, including a party of Japanese tourists.
Open Gardens day, organised by Sheila Fowler

RC said the membership was down on previous years following subscription increase, but overall income was up.

Brentham News continued to be produced three times a year. This was the Brentham Society's main cost despite sponsorship from Grimshaws. Putting this together involved a lot of work and RC thanked Michael McCarthy for all his work over a number of years. Michael was stepping down from the job as he had moved away from the area. Martin Mortimore had agreed to take over for the next edition.

RC said there were some changes to the Committee. David Ballard had resigned from the position of Treasurer, a job he had done for the past seven years. RC wanted to thank him for keeping an eye on BS's corporate governance as a charity and keeping finances under control. RC also wanted to thank Alan Henderson, former Chair and long standing committee member who had stepped down this year. He would, however, be continuing to work on the society's archive.

RC said it had been a year of interesting challenges and he thanked his colleagues for all their support and the various BS members who had contributed to another successful year. He also wanted to thank the Panel members Pat Baxendale and James Rowlands and Heather Moore. He said there were vacancies on the Committee if anyone was interested. He pointed out that this would be his last year as Chair so anyone wishing to become involved on Committee please step forward.

(b) Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer RC gave this year's report. Finances were similar to previous year with no significant items.

(c) Tower Appeal update

RC gave the Tower Appeal update on behalf of Clive Evans who was in Portugal. He said it had been hoped to raise £75,000 to restore the Brentham Club Tower, and so far £39,000 had been raised. It was thought that there were enough funds to undertake some of this work this autumn. However, after discussions with the

Brentham Club it had been decided to delay work until the Spring when the Club hoped to be able to make a donation sufficient to complete the work. Funds would still need to be sought to carry out internal refit of archive room. RC thanked all those involved in the fundraising effort and looked forward to seeing the work begin in the Spring.

(d) Wheelie Bins update

RC thanked Adel Golding for all her hard work liaising with Councillors and MPs over the issue of the introduction of wheelie bins to the Brentham estate. Darren Henaghan, from the Council, had visited the estate and BS was awaiting his response. BS was hoping for an exemption for the estate, or at least the 50% of the estate that has small or no front gardens. The next move will be decided once Mr. Henaghan's response has been received.

(e) Planning Update

In Heather Moore's absence, RC gave an update on planning over the past year. So far in 2015 there had been 43 planning applications. The Council had approved 26 of them, refused 3 and 14 were pending a decision. Of those that were refused none of the applicants had sought advice at the pre-application stage. The most frequent applications are for rear extensions and dormers. RC reminded the meeting that the Planning Department of Ealing Council either approves or refuses the application based on agreed Area Plan. The Brentham Society has detailed knowledge of Area Plan but does not decide it.

This brought us on to the issue of double glazing. The Area Plan has a presumption against double glazing on front elevations. The Brentham Society wants to find a way forward while maintaining the character and appearance of the conservation area. A working group had been set up with an independent Chair to discuss this and possibly come up with a proposal to give to the Council to change the Area Plan. The Group met before the summer, but Chair has indicated that she does not have the time to do justice to the role; one other member resigned. As a result the Brentham Society has prepared a position paper bringing together relevant information for discussion by the group which will be reconvened in the near future. The paper is in draft form at the moment. It is hoped to finalise it in the next few weeks.

Since the last AGM the Council's need to save money has brought to an end the paper notifications of planning applications to neighbours. We have sought to make residents aware of this change through Brentham News and the Brentham website.

The good news is that there have been some encouraging developments this year, particularly things that strengthen the green character of Brentham. Some

more residents have planted new hedges and the Council have planted a number of new street trees. The allotment land between Fowlers Walk and Brentham Way has now been landscaped and a new pond created.

Unfortunately there has also been some bad news. An appeal has been launched against the refusal to allow a new house in Pitshanger Lane. This year there have been particular problems with dormer windows built differently from the approved plans. Intervention brought about some improvement, but it could have been avoided had the builder been told he needed to adhere to the approved plans.

As always we could do with more help with our planning and conservation work. One member of the Brentham Advisory Group has had to resign so we are looking for someone with a planning or conservation background and a real concern for the conservation of Brentham.

6. Election of Committee 2015/16

The BS Constitution allows for between four and nine members and up to four co-opted members. Two members have resigned from this year's Committee, David Ballard and Alan Henderson. The following members of the previous BS Committee were willing to stand again:

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| 1. Richard Costella (Chairman) | 64 Brentham Way |
| 2. Tony Miller | 6 Winscombe Crescent |
| 3. Heather Moore | 127 Fowlers Walk |
| 4. Martin Morimore | 54 Fowlers Walk |
| 5. Clive Evans | 50 Denison Road |
| 6. Ann Wolf | 10 Neville Road |

Nomination for position of Treasurer had been received, proposed by R. Costella, seconded by A. Henderson.

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| 7. Andy Akerman | 55 Meadvale Road |
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No other nominations for new members had been received. The Chair proposed that unless there were any objections, an en bloc vote should be taken. All were duly elected.

7. Garden Awards 2015

RC thanked Vicky Snodin for organizing this year's garden awards and asked her to announce the results which were as follows:-

Spring Award

101 Fowlers Walk – the judges were delighted by this wild Spring garden, a sea of white wild garlic and clouds of forget-me-nots with the pretty viburnum in full flower. An exuberant picture.

Runners Up – 13 Winscombe Crescent, 14 Denison Road, 194 Pitshanger Lane, 67 Meadvale Road, 46 Meadvale Road.

Summer Award

26 Brunner Road – The judges loved the swathe of beautiful pastel delphiniums dominating this small but very attractive front garden. The curves of the path and beds reflect the brick curve over the front door. Mauve scabious and a lavender hedge added to the picture. The daisy edging down the side of the house brightened the scene throughout the summer.

Runners Up – 14 Denison Road, 10 Ludlow Road, 26 Ludlow Road, 115 Fowlers Walk, 50 Meadvale Road, 67 Meadvale Road

Autumn Award

44 Denison Road – This was a pretty mix of pink and white Japanese anemones, a red hydrangea, pink sedum and crocosmia which created a colourful scene. There was a lovely hanging basket and an amazing display of pink cosmos and dahlias surrounding the tree in the pavement by the garden.

Runners Up – 11 Ludlow Road, 20 Ludlow Road, 26 Ludlow Road

Rosebowl

67 Meadvale Road – a lovely courtyard garden full of interest all year round using a variety of pots. In Spring the primula and magnolia stellata were particularly attractive and in Summer the judges loved the pale yellow rose over the door, pink roses in pots and a pretty hebe. A pale pink fuchsia, pink Japanese anemones, white and pink geraniums in pots and many attractive evergreens made a pretty scene in Autumn. A sophisticated and restful garden throughout the year.

Congratulations to all the winners.

7. Members' Questions

One resident wondered if anything further had happened regarding the idea of running a "Brentham Festival" each year. RC said no action had been taken as no volunteers had come forward to organise such an event.

Some residents wondered what the time scale was for reconvening the working group on double glazing. RC said he wanted to do it as soon as possible , hopefully within the next month.

A resident said that at the last AGM the idea of getting money from the National Lottery for the Tower Restoration Project had been mooted and she wondered if this had been followed up. However, Simeon Gann said that the National Lottery required objectives which were beyond the Brentham Society's means, such as adding extra value to the community, so we had been unable to pursue it. However RC said the Fred Perry Association had presented £8,000 to the fund. More funds would need to be raised for refit of interior.archive room. Not quite sure how much money would be needed but probably only a couple of thousand pounds.

Geoff Baxendale wanted to bring to the meeting's attention the fact that the film "The Brentham War Diaries" had received an award from Community Films. He wanted to thank Martin Mortimore and Ian Hamilton from St. Barnabas Church for all their work.

Martin Mortimore said he was concerned about the fact that the Council was no longer notifying people when their neighbours put in planning applications. HM gets notification of applications and he wondered whether it was possible for BS to inform residents in some way. RC said applications were still going to be put on lamp posts but sometimes they get taken down or put on wrong lamp posts. Meeting agreed that BS needed to try and find a way of putting relevant planning information on its website for residents' information. RC said BS Committee would work on this.

Martin Mortimore said that in his role as editor he was interested in hearing from anyone with thoughts on articles for inclusion in the Brentham News.

The meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m.