

BRENTHAM SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, 14th March 2017, 8.00 Brentham Club
For year ending August 2016

Members in attendance: 48 plus Committee

Committee members present: Virginia Mallin (Co-opted), Geoffrey Baxendale (Co-opted), Richard Costella, Clive Evans, Alan Henderson (Co-opted), Martin Mortimore, Tony Miller, Patrick Mylon (Co-opted), Ann Wolf

Apologies: Andy Akerman

1. Introduction and Welcome

RC welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the time of the AGM had been changed from Autumn to Spring and introduced Virginia Mallin, who had taken over as Chair of the Brentham Society. RC introduced the guest speaker, Sarah Rutherford, who was going to give an illustrated talk on "The Arts and Crafts Garden". Sarah Rutherford was head of English Heritage Historic Parks and Gardens Register and was now a freelance consultant, creating conservation plans. Her book "Garden Cities" contains several references to, and photos, of Brentham. In a change to the agenda, after her talk Sarah would present the Brentham Society's Front Garden awards.

2. Talk by Sarah Rutherford

The Arts and Crafts Garden

3. Garden Awards

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

Spring - Heather Moore, 127 Fowlers Walk,

Summer - Jane Neville, 30 Brunner Road

Autumn - Ted Nye, 42 Holyoake Walk

Rose Bowl - Jacqui Nemecek, 14 Denison Road

Vicky Snodin said that, sadly, wheelie bins in gardens did detract somewhat from the overall appearance of houses on the estate but she and her fellow committee members (Colette Donovan, Gina Mallin) had very much enjoyed looking at the gardens during the past year.

4. Refreshments

5. Minutes of the 2015 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.

One resident (Pam Turner) asked if it would be possible to see the minutes before the meeting as it was a lot to read in a short time. RC said that the minutes

of the AGM were published on the website beforehand. However, a hard copy could be sent to those residents without access to a computer if they informed a member of the Committee that they would like one.

6. Committee Reports

(a) Chair: Richard Costella/Gina Mallin

RC said the estate now had wheelie bins, although BS campaign to get the Council to provide smaller sized bins where possible had been successful. RC thanked Adel Golding for all her hard work running the campaign. However the question of where to store the bins was a difficult one to resolve. Camouflage was probably the best solution if the bins had to be in front gardens, so that the look of the estate could be maintained.

RC thanked Mike Gandon, Membership Secretary, for his work during the year. Membership numbers were down slightly this year maybe due to the increase in subscription fee. He thanked Martin Mortimore for his work on the Brentham News. The Strawberry Tea had once again been a great success and RC wanted to thank the McAllister family for hosting this event. Open gardens too had been a well supported event and Clive Evans had had a good turn out for Open House weekend back in September.

RC then handed over to GM.

Gina said she was embracing her new role as Chair with great enthusiasm as the Brentham estate was such a wonderful place to live and deserved to be supported. She said the following ideas were things she wished to promote and expand:

She wanted to maintain good contacts with Ealing Councillors, Planning and local estate agents.

She hoped to be able to enhance a sense of community by having greater dealings with other groups in the area such as the PCA, Traders, and the Brentham Club. For example publicising things like recycling initiative by Cinnamon café in Pitshanger Lane. (People can collect the café's used coffee grounds to put on their gardens).

Sarah Rutherford's talk had made her think that it would be a good idea to start a National association of Garden Suburbs and this was an idea she was interested in taking further.

GM said that she was hoping that perhaps it would be possible to make the planning criteria for the conservation area more public and accessible via a booklet or even a video.

She said that in an effort to get a better idea of what residents wanted a survey would be delivered to homes in the next few weeks about life on the estate. There would also be an online version on the website and she hoped everyone would be able to find time to complete it.

She hoped that residents would come and see her if they had any concerns. She was also looking for ideas for future events e.g. wine tasting, Italian lessons, Titanic and other talks, or even organise a Brentham Festival.

She also wanted to take the opportunity to promote the Brentham Society's merchandise which was on sale and included, for the first time, some tea towels printed with Brentham archive material.

She ended by saying that she had a lot of people to thank. The Street reps for all the work they do, the volunteers who organise the Open Gardens day, the other committee members for helping ease her into her new job and Sarah Rutherford for her excellent talk.

(b) Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer RC gave this year's report. Finances were in a good state with a small surplus this year. No significant items to report.

(c) Planning

RC said that Heather Moore, a long standing Committee member, was stepping down this year. As the person responsible for giving planning advice to Brentham residents RC thanked her for all the invaluable work she had done over that time.

RC said the BS was planning to post and update a monthly list of Planning Applications on the Brentham website. There had been approximately 59 planning applications submitted in the last year, the majority for extensions and loft conversions.

RC said that the recommendation of the Windows Working Group was with the Ealing Council's Planning Department. As the Council was about to update its Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans for the borough he thought that there would not be any feedback until this was completed. In the meantime the present policy of considering each application on a case-by-case basis would continue. A resident asked if there would be any consultation between the Council and the Brentham Society during the Appraisal review process. HM said that there would be.

(d) Tower Restoration Project

RC said that Stuart Thompson the new Chair of the Brentham Club had kindly agreed to talk about plans which were under discussion by the Brentham Club Committee and which would, if carried out, have consequences for the Tower Restoration project.

Stuart said that last summer the Brentham Club had been one step away from financial disaster as there had been under investment in the Club for some time. The Club Committee felt that it was necessary to think how finances could be better managed and, hopefully, increased. Stuart pointed out that the Brentham Club building was very large and only about 20% of it was used. However the Club had to comply with legislation for 100% of the building. Therefore a possible solution would be to shrink the footprint of the Club by converting the front part of the building, including the tower, into flats which could be rented out. The Club already had one flat. This would create an income which could be ploughed back into the Club. However, the Committee's plans would obviously have repercussions for the Tower Restoration project which Clive Evans, Brentham Society Committee member, had been organising. He asked CE to say a few words about the situation.

CE said that a few years ago, when the poor state of the tower had been raised he had suggested that the Brentham Society should try and raise some money to repair the tower because the Club had no money to do so. In return the Brentham Club would lease the top floor of the tower to the Brentham Society to house the Society's archives. £75,000 was needed. To date £37,000 had been raised. The Brentham Club had then said it would give £20,000 towards the renovations. The Club Committee had now come up with a new plan to develop the building by turning half of it into residential flats. This meant that the original proposition had now changed. CE said that the Brentham Society would now have to rethink what to do with the money that had already been raised. Should the money be returned to donors, or would people want to continue to support the restoration project in some way? At the moment the money was sitting in a Community Bank account. However, one of the major donors had been the Pilgrim Trust and one of their conditions was that the building should not be sold for at least seven years. Although the building was not going to be sold it was going to be changed and rented out. Should the Tower Restoration funds be used towards what was, in effect, a commercial venture? CE also pointed out that the Pilgrim Trust had said the work should start soon and clearly the Club would be unlikely to move that quickly. The housing of the Brentham Society's archives was also a factor that had encouraged some people to donate money. If the tower was going to be a flat what would happen to the archive material? Club Chairman said the Committee was very anxious to house the archives somewhere in the building, CE said there were lots of things to discuss on the best way to proceed regarding the Tower Restoration fund. Further information would be sent out once some ideas had been formulated as to the best way forward.

7. Election of Committee 2016-17

The BS Constitution allows for between four and nine members and up to four co-opted members. Heather Moore had resigned from the Committee. The following members of the previous BS Committee and recently co-opted members were willing to stand again:

1. Virginia Mallin (Chair)	66 Fowlers Walk
2. Richard Costella	64 Brentham Way
3. Tony Miller	6 Winscombe Crescent
4. Martin Mortimore	54 Fowlers Walk
5. Clive Evans	50 Denison Road
6. Ann Wolf	10 Neville Road
7. Patrick Mylon	5 Neville Road
8. Andy Akerman	55 Meadvale Road
9. Geoff Baxendale	18 Ludlow Road

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 as full committee members.

The meeting was closed at 10.15 p.m.