



BRENTHAM NEWS

Chair's Notes

It's been a year since we last reported on the condition of the Tower of the Brentham Club, but happily, as Clive Evans reports later, some progress has been made. I will leave it to Clive to tell you this good news.

The Brentham Club, and in particular its tower, is the iconic building of our garden suburb. Originally known as the Brentham Institute, it was designed by George Lister Sutcliffe, principal architect for Ealing Tenants Ltd. from 1910. The original plans show a much more



ambitious project, with the existing building just one wing of a three-sided structure housing a large hall and hostel linked by a series of arches. Sutcliffe's original vision was never realised - though the footprint of the larger scheme remains as a car park and tennis pavilion.

From the very first, the directors of Ealing Tenants had plans for a social and cultural centre for the suburb. When the major part of the estate was laid out, it included the plans for the present Institute in a central position on the estate's north side. This acted as a "funnel" leading to its 12 acres of sports fields linked with the existing cricket pitch.

The Institute (interestingly, rather than a church) was to be the focus for cultural and sporting life on the estate. It was therefore designed on a larger scale than the surrounding houses, while keeping the Arts and Crafts features - small-paned windows, brick arches, and gable and dormer windows. This main building is of similar height to the surrounding houses - only the tower is allowed to break upwards through the rooflines.

In 1969 the council made Brentham a conservation area and because of the Institute's particular relevance, it was given Listed Grade II

status in 1972. The only other Listed building in the Brentham Conservation Area is St. Barnabas Church in Pitshanger Lane.

Sadly, although structurally sound, the exterior of the tower is not in good condition and is in need of a considerable amount of tender loving care. The room at the top, with stunning views of



the estate, also needs work to make it habitable and prevent further deterioration.

This building is an integral part of the estate and it is important that it does not fall into disrepair. The Club, a non-profitmaking members' association, lacks the resources to do this alone, and so I hope that residents will work with us and the Club to ensure that it remains the iconic focal point of the estate. *Richard Costella*

Great War Centenary

As a prelude to next year's centenary, on Thursday 3 October the Pitshanger Bookshop is hosting an evening of readings that throw light on the Great War. Moving extracts from the recently discovered war diary of Brentham resident John Noppen (Muriel Noppen's father) who served in the trenches will be included. There will also be a chance to browse the wide range of books being published especially for the centenary.

The PCA plans to restore the war memorial outside St. Barnabas church, and the Brentham Club is researching the records of Club members who served in the Great War. We hope to report on their findings in a later edition.



Trees and Hedges

It is sometimes necessary for trees to be removed and hedges to be re-planted, but these changes are carefully controlled in Brentham as green boundaries and mature trees are part of the environment originally designed for the estate.

Heavy pruning or felling of any tree or shrub with a trunk over 75 mm diameter needs permission from the council. This includes fruit trees, although normal seasonal pruning does not need an application. Sometimes a suitable replacement is required within a year of felling.

A Planning Application is required for all alterations to front, side and rear boundaries.



One reason for this requirement is to prevent the replacement of hedges with fences in front and rear gardens and along the pathways, particularly around the cottage properties. Sadly some residents still seem to be unaware that permission for alterations is needed and this can lead to problems that can be expensive to remedy. Do make a proper application as unregulated work is usually reported.

The type of work that might be allowed on your trees and boundaries will vary according to the exact location. The Brentham Society conservation team can advise on what is likely to be approved in your garden. We can also advise on suitable shrubs and how to retain privacy and security while renewing a rear hedge.

The good news is that several lost hedges have been replaced recently and that, although these



are saplings at the moment, some excellently chosen new garden trees promise to enhance the verdant character of the estate. *Pat Baxendale*

Bringing Brentham News To You

Thanks to all our street deliverers, who now include Elizabeth Rowell who kindly volunteered to deliver copies to Neville Road in place of Mike Gaunt, who has left Brentham.

Street Signs

The first few new street signs have appeared on the estate. These signs, which are based on designs provided by Brentham Society member Dave Hobbs, have been cast by a firm under an arrangement with Ealing Council. Thanks to money provided from Ealing Council's Ward Forum fund, we hope to see more appear over the next few months. *Alan Henderson*



Open Garden Day

This was another successful event, and although the sun didn't shine it remained dry. Around 120 enthusiastic visitors viewed eight very different cottage gardens, two open for the first time. After our unusual spring, many gardens had flowers blooming much later than normal.

Sally Kelly's plant sale was as successful as ever and teas and home-made cakes were provided by Vicky and Chris Snodin in Brentham Way. This year was the last for Brian Vaughan from Meadvale Road, who has moved out of London. As usual his garden was stunning, and we thank him for his huge contributions to good gardening in Brentham over many years. A big thank-you also goes to everyone else involved in making this annual event a success.



£1,102 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support. In their letter thanking the Brentham Society they stated "Your donation will support patients and families affected by cancer in Ealing so they won't have to face cancer alone."



Next year we would like to show more new gardens, so please start thinking in spring about opening your garden, as it does take some preparation, but the feedback from visitors makes it a very satisfying experience. If you are interested in opening your garden, helping with this event or getting more involved in gardening, do contact me. *Sheila Fowler*

Restoring the Tower of the Brentham Club

As reported in the Chair's notes, more than a year has gone by since we last commented on the state of the tower in Brentham News, and progress on repairs has been slow in the meantime. Happily, an agreement has now been reached between the Brentham Club (who own the tower) and the Brentham Society (who would like to see it restored) that they will work together to get the work done, and at the same time adapt the top floor of the tower to become the archive for Brentham Garden Suburb. It is hoped that this will lead to more educational visits by local schools and outside societies.

A Tower Taskforce has been established – led by Brentham Society member Clive Evans – which includes Alan Henderson (Brentham archivist) and Ray Goodearl (Club Committee representative). Its mission is to identify the work necessary to restore the fabric of the building, seek the necessary planning consent, raise the money and get the work done.



Work has already started on clearing the top floor – which is currently used as a store room. It is a charming room, with pleasant views across the estate, but it is reached by a narrow winding wooden staircase, which means it is unlikely ever to be open freely to the public, because of the fire risk. (Otherwise it would make a stunning cocktail lounge!)

There are extensive cracks in the plaster on the walls, probably caused by the bomb which landed in the Estate during WWII. However, the structure seems sound, so we hope that repairs will be quite simple.



As to the rest of the structure, the first step is to brief a suitably qualified surveyor to spell out the work that needs to be done. It seems clear that this will involve replacements to damaged bricks, but it is

less clear quite how many – should we try to replace any brick that is damaged or only the worst? What damage will be caused by the replacement process? How quickly do we need to do it? It is hoped that we will know the answers to these questions in the next few weeks. Once the extent of the work to be done is clear, we can set about raising the money, both from grants and from fund-raising activities. You will, of course, be kept informed of all this.

If you would like to help, feel free to contact Clive Evans.

[Our thanks to Dave Hobbs for all the photographs of the Club tower in this edition]

Open House Guided Walks

Brentham Society committee member Clive Evans has taken over the baton from Clive Hicks as informative guide round our historic estate for this popular annual event.



This year the walks will take place on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September, and include a look inside the Brentham Club and its panoramic Tower Room. Meet at the Brentham Club for a 10.30 a.m. start. Each

tour will take about two hours to complete.

Details of other walks and of buildings open to the public can be found in the Open House London booklet, which is available free from Pitshanger Library.

Solar Panels

Some Brentham residents have received cold calls from solar panel salesmen who claim that as their products are approved under a government initiative, the usual rules don't apply and their products can be installed on Brentham rooftops without seeking planning permission. This is *not* true: be warned!

Apology

In our last issue we passed on a report from elsewhere that caterpillars of the oak processionary moth, which is very destructive to oak trees, had been found in the grounds of the Brentham Club. We have since been assured by the Club that this is not the case.

Brentham News apologises for this error, and we are glad to learn moreover that the Club's ground staff are vigilant for any sign of this pest. There have been suggestions that it has reached the Ealing Golf Club grounds across the Brent, so we all need to stay on our guard.

From the Brentham Archive

Taking advantage of the wet weather on Bank Holiday Saturday afternoon, 24th August, to sort out some archive material (*Alan Henderson writes*), I stumbled across a cutting from the Middlesex County Times and wondered how the weather had been 101 years ago for the Grand Pageant of Merrier England:

CO-PARTNERSHIP FESTIVAL,
Brentham Garden Suburb
Meadvale Road, Ealing.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th, 1912.

Formal Opening by Mr. F. Litchfield,
At 2.15 p.m.

Grounds open to Visitors	- -	12 o'clock
Choral Contests open	- -	12 o'clock
Adjudicator. Mr. Allen Gill F.R.A.M.		
Old English Fair	- -	12 o'clock
Horticultural Show	- -	2.15 p.m.
Athletic and Comic Sports	- -	3 p.m.

OVER £100 OFFERED IN PRIZES.

Grand Pageant of "Merrier England."
WILL BE PRESENTED AT 4 O'CLOCK IN THE GROUNDS.

SELECTIONS DURING THE DAY BY THE
EALING TOWN PRIZE BAND.

Admission, 6d. Children under 14, 2d. Tickets purchased on or before Aug. 23rd, Half price.
Tickets can be obtained on application to Ealing Tenants, Ltd., 7, Winscombe Crescent, Ealing.

Work is progressing on the digitisation of the archive. With the help of Brentham Society member Martin Mortimore, all the architects' large colour plans have been scanned. We have now started on some of the more interesting black and white photographs, and are now in a position to offer prints for sale to help fund the work.



Most of the old photographs are of very good quality, and we have realised that by scanning at high resolution you can see that there is more in the photograph than you might have expected at first glance.

For example: many of you will be familiar with the accompanying photograph of Woodfield Avenue (also reproduced on page 65 of the Brentham Book). But did you spot the group of people standing outside No. 35? Who is the woman playing the banjo, and the other one peering down from behind her flower pots on the first floor to see what's going on? And what *was* going on?

For details of prices and prints on offer, contact the Brentham archivist, Alan Henderson.



Annual General Meeting

Thursday 24 October 2013, 8.00 pm
Brentham Club, Meadvale Road

Refreshments will be served

Nominations to serve on the Committee of the Brentham Society (seconded by two members of the Society, with the agreement of the prospective candidate) should be submitted in writing by **10th October** to the Secretary of the Society

Brentham Reading Group

Brentham's reading group meets on the last Monday of each month in the Conference Room at the Brentham Club to discuss a book chosen by members. New members awelcome. Contact Maureen Monaghan.

For Sale, Wanted, Offers

Architectural salvage: Original items wanted. Currently available: internal doors, a pair of glazed doors from a dresser and window furniture. Offers and enquiries to Heather

Car bike rack, adjustable, hardly used, available free. Phone Sue.

Britannia Waives the Rules!



As readers will know, the brief of *Brentham News* is to help to promote conservation in Brentham Garden Suburb. However, we couldn't resist straying just for once into *Hello!* magazine territory with this charming picture of Tanya Joyce, previously a Brentham May Day Britannia, pictured in Ludlow Road on her

wedding day. Tanya and her husband have now set up home in Holyoake House, and we wish them every happiness.

[Photograph by Pat Baxendale]

Honey Yet for Tea?



Brentham now has a second beekeeper, which is especially good news for gardeners with fruit trees to be pollinated. Also it's good news generally, as our vital bee populations have been dropping, possibly as a result of the use of pesticide sprays. Can we look forward to jars of local honey being on sale at future Strawberry Teas, like this year's one, pictured above?

Thanks to Barbara Murray for hosting this very popular annual event, to all the helpers and cake

makers, and to Alan Henderson for the photographs. More pictures of Brentham events are on our website, www.brentham.com

Annual Art and Craft Sale

Saturday 30 November, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Pitshanger Methodist Hall

16 local artists and craftspeople will be displaying and selling their work. Perfect for Christmas gifts. All entrance money will be donated to Ealing Samaritans.

Organised by Sally Kelly and Rosanna Henderson

Letter to *Brentham News*

Dear Editor

As a resident of the borough since 1935 and of Brentham since 1981, I have for many years been able to enjoy our festivities. We are lucky to have events organised by the Brentham Society, the May Day Committee and also by the PCA, with its Light Up the Lane at Christmas and the glorious Party in the Park.

What worries me considerably, however, is the apparent downgrading of the May Day celebrations. Last year, no police turned up to protect the lovely children, who included my six-year-old grand-daughter; the so-called local press has put in a no-show for two years running; there were no local dignitaries to be seen; and someone even forgot to unlock the gates at the entrance to the Club.

Please, people of Brentham, don't let our "village" vanish from sight. The children and helpers work so hard practising for May Day for weeks before the event, and they and the May Queens past and present should be properly celebrated. As a regular soldier who served in the Far East I treasure the way of life I returned to, and now I am approaching 80 I would like to see it remain for my family to enjoy.

Peter Cattermole, 58 Holyoake Walk

Brentham News welcomes letters from residents on matters of local concern. The appropriate addresses are on our back page.

Brentham Gardeners

The evening gardening group meets on the second Tuesday of each month from April to October. Members discuss gardens they have visited, gardening problems and exchange useful tips, plants and seeds. Contact Gina Jenkins.

The afternoon garden group meets on the third Wednesdays in September and October, and then from next April. New members welcome. Contact Maureen Monaghan.

For advice on any work you are planning to do to your property in the Brentham Conservation Area, contact Heather and Pat, planning@brentham.com

Published by the Brentham Society

Printed by Colormax West, Ealing W13 0SR

You can contribute to *Brentham News* by email
or by writing to the Editor
The next edition is due out in February 2014.

