



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

NEWS

*This version of Brentham News has been adapted for the Brentham website.
Private telephone numbers and addresses and commercial ads have been deleted.*



Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Brentham News. I am delighted to bring you details of our programme of events for our centenary year. With your support we trust it will be a great year, which every resident will remember.

Thank you to residents who have paid their membership promptly: for those of you still to pay, I would urge you to do so soon to make our centenary year a record one for membership. If you've lost the envelope or don't know who to pay, contact Rosanna Henderson.

Brentham looks particularly beautiful in the spring; we are able to enjoy the new leaves, blossom on the trees and lots of spring flowers. Some residents have planted bulbs around the base of street trees for all our enjoyment. It is therefore with some sadness that I have been asked to mention the problems of dog fouling and rubbish. Dog fouling is a particular problem in the alley between Brunner Road and Brentham Way. Hopefully this mention will prompt owners to clear up after their dogs so we can enjoy the view rather than watching where we walk! The rubbish problem is caused by people

putting refuse sacks outside the boundary of their property perhaps with the good intention of helping the bin-men. The sacks are often torn open by animals leaving a trail of litter in the street. There are bye-laws and reminders on the sacks stating that rubbish should be kept on one's own property until collected. And may I remind whoever it is, that the bins by St Barnabas Church and by the Green opposite the Club are for litter, not household waste.

Don't forget, you live in a Conservation Area with Article IV Direction. This means you need planning permission to do most things to the outside of your property. To save you potential problems, seek advice before commencing any work. Ring the Planning Department of Ealing Council or Pat Baxendale (Conservation Area Planning Advisory Panel)

Brentham May Day is something we all enjoy but which we may take for granted; it happens every year but it doesn't **just happen!** We urgently need helpers for rehearsals and on the day. Please can you help? Contact Pat Chapman or Wendy Sender.

I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter and enjoy our Centenary
Heather Moore.

HISTORY (RE-) CREATED in



Henry Vivian and the Brentham pioneers (see page 59 of the book) 'returned' to the Haven Arms on March 6th 2001 - 100 years to the day after their inaugural meeting to establish Ealing Tenants Ltd - to mark their historic achievement. Sporting authentic(ish) Edwardian costumes and a variety of dubious moustaches, this formidable gathering – including engraver Edmund Roe and plasterer Hubert Brampton fresh from their labours - met in the Snug of the Haven Arms to sup ale, dine on rabbit pie, and plot the formation of the estate we know and love.

An appreciative audience of womenfolk (including a new-fangled and vociferous 'Suffragette' who had somehow infiltrated the occasion) and sundry supporters enjoyed Vivian's spirited address, which we proudly reproduce here:

“A hundred years from now, I predict that March 6th 1901 will be celebrated as a momentous occasion. The occasion on which, Gentlemen, you were far-sighted enough to vote into existence Ealing Tenants Ltd, ushering in a new era of Co-partnership housing. My vision is of broad sunlit allotments; of plasterers

as pioneers; of carpenters as crusaders; of workers as owners. Between Capitalism and Communism lies a Third Way. Believe me, we're going to be hearing a lot more about this in times to come. Our third way will be the Brentham Way. Standing together, we can invest in our futures and in each other. I want each of us to say not that: “This house is mine”, but: “This estate is ours!” I see a community being forged and a style of architecture which will look as good in 2001 as the day it was built. We shall be the envy of the nation. People will come in charabancs and motorcars from far and wide...”

At this point Mr. Vivian's moustache looked in danger of falling off, so a vote of thanks was given to John and Chris of the Haven Arms for providing a splendid setting and authentic 1901 menu for the re-enactment.



Bevan Jones as Henry Vivien presents John and Chris of the Haven Arms with framed photos while Cllr Phil Portwood and Brentham Society members look on.
(Photo: Shane Dempsey Ealing Gazette)

Brentham Heritage Society News

If we thought we could have a nice rest after the phenomenal success of the Brentham book launch, we were sadly mistaken. Under Wendy Sender's vigorous leadership, the BHS committee has been busy since publication, not only with follow-up work on the book, but with future plans for extending knowledge and appreciation of Brentham and conserving its unique archive.

Since the New Year the BHS has:

- 📖 Distributed free copies of the Brentham book to 15 local primary and secondary schools, and received some very appreciative responses.
- 📖 Sent out a questionnaire about an educational resource pack about Brentham: what age-range it should be aimed at and what it should contain.
- 📖 Solicited reviews of the book from over 30 newspapers, magazines and specialist journals, with over a dozen very positive reviews published so far.
- 📖 Hosted a 'site visit' from officers of the Local Heritage Initiative, following their grant.
- 📖 Assisted the Deputy Features Editor of *BBC Homes & Antiques* with a research visit and interviews with longstanding residents. (The result was a 5-page colour spread on Brentham, *Estate of the Art*, in the April edition.)

📖 Sought expert advice on preservation and conservation measures for the archive of plans, photographs and documents, and researched conservation materials to keep it in good condition.

📖 Established links and exchanged information with a garden suburb in Adelaide, Australia – Colonel Light Gardens.

But, in the nature of these things, there have also been some disappointing setbacks: two companies involved in distributing the book nationally have gone into liquidation – owing the BHS over £1000. The most we can hope to see back from the Receivers is half this amount. This is especially galling as the funds for the book were so hard-earned.

The good news is that the book has been selling far better than we'd anticipated. Pitshanger Bookshop alone has sold over 300. So much so that we'll have to think seriously about investing in a reprint later this year – so maybe the fund-raising isn't quite over yet!

If you want to know more about the work of the BHS, or can offer help:

Sue Elliott
Wendy Sender

Copies of the book @ £22-50 are still available from Alan Henderson

*Once Every 100 Years -
1901 -
Brentham Centenary Weekend*

The Centenary....

.... of our garden suburb gives us a great opportunity, and excuse, to do something really special. The weekend of the 23/24 June has been chosen as the focal point of our celebrations and a full programme of activities is already taking shape. The objectives of the weekend are really quite simple:

- To celebrate the founding of the garden suburb we have all chosen as our home
- To make opportunities for neighbours to meet and get to know each other better
- To create memories for each of us in all age groups
- To have fun and encourage the sun to shine

Saturday – Edwardian Picnic



On Saturday afternoon at we will be turning Ludlow/Denison Green into an Edwardian picnic site. There will be music (not amplified) and some gentle attractions with as many reminders of our history as we can bring together. But the real purpose of the event is to make it possible for all of us to spend a pleasant few hours with neighbours we normally only see clipping the hedge, parking the car or walking to the bus stop. There will be special activities for children and adults. A very big welcome and a comfortable seat will be available for senior residents of Brentham. Assuming the weather holds, the picnic will culminate with us putting together the giant photo-map and raising a celebratory glass to Brentham. All Brenthamites are encouraged to bring a picnic and join in the fun and we hope to see as many of you as possible in Edwardian period costume.



- Let's do something special

- 2001

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June

Our Houses

Wouldn't it look splendid if we "dressed" our houses for the weekend with bunting, balloons and Union Flags? In good time some "how-to" leaflets will be prepared and distributed with suggestions on simple and inexpensive ways to make our homes look like they too are celebrating their centenary. We will also give ideas on how to get that Edwardian look for ourselves – it's easier than you think – see the photo on page 2!

Sunday – Open Garden Day

This year we are combining the popular Open Garden Day with the traditional Strawberry Tea. An Admission Ticket, which can be purchased in advance, will give you a detailed route map with descriptions and entry to all gardens on show. It will also be the ideal opportunity for people to walk around the estate to see all the "dressed" houses. You can call in for afternoon tea and cakes at one of the show gardens or take refreshments in the traditional style at the Strawberry Tea. If you wish to 'open' your garden please contact *Nicky Cadisch*

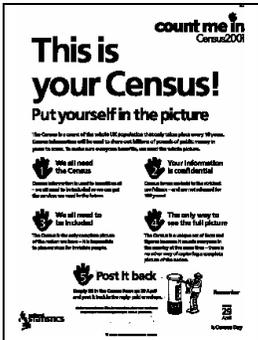
This is the weekend with more daylight available than any other in the year so let's make it a weekend to remember, where we have some fun and get to know better the people with whom we share Brentham. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Ideas, suggestions for any of the activities over this special weekend will be most welcome. We are looking for enthusiastic people to help us put all our ideas and plans into action – if you can help in any way, please contact

*Barry Murphy
or Rosanna Henderson*

The Big Picture

You will by now have all filled out your census form. No doubt you saw the publicity material accompanying your form “*Put yourself in the picture*”.



What picture you may well have asked. Well – the Brentham Society would like to attempt to capture that picture for future generations and record it in the archive.

Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could mark our 100th birthday with a picture of Brentham and its people - a snapshot of the whole of the garden suburb, and everyone who lives here.

Snapshot Of Brentham 2001

Like some of those in the current archive (below), dating from the early years on the estate, it will provide an invaluable source of historical information.



6 Brentham Way



38 Meadvale Road

We're asking everyone in Brentham to step outside and take a photograph of their own house and all its inhabitants over the Brentham May Day weekend (19/20 May). Then we invite you to bring the photo to the Edwardian Picnic and place it on the giant map of Brentham Garden Suburb. Together, we will create a 15-foot square map showing all the faces and buildings of Brentham, 100 years after the Suburb's founding.

This idea will only become a reality if you join in. So, talk to your neighbours about it. If your next-door house is empty, why not snap it too and bring it along. We'll also need people to help us fill in gaps on the map and to help snap people who don't have cameras. If you'd like to get together with neighbours and snap two (or more) homes together, that's fine, or ask a committee member to help. How you'd like to create the photo is up to you - all we ask is that the final print size can be trimmed down to about 5" x 3".

If you decide you don't want to be on the map, just let us know - we don't want anyone to feel they're being included against their will.

This project is a chance for us all to create a completely unique record of Brentham and its people on our 100th birthday. We've only got one chance to do this - please help us make this happen.

Rosanna Henderson

Brentham Green Open Space

The Brentham Society, in conjunction with Ealing Borough Council, has arranged for some refurbishment works to be carried out on the green opposite the Brentham Club as part of the our Centenary celebrations.

The work began on Saturday 21st April with the cutting down of the overgrown vibernum bush and the installation of two new oak benches, one donated by the Council, the other purchased by the Society. The date was chosen to mark 100 years since the cutting of the first sod for the building of the Brentham Estate.

During May the Society will renew the existing timber post and chain fencing and the Council will install a Hoggin path alongside the existing hedge in June. Following the works the Council will fill and seed hollows, introduce an ornamental grass-cutting regime and under plant the existing hedge with daffodils during October.

We look forward to seeing a number of residents basking in the sunshine during the coming year!



Our thanks go to those who helped on the 21st, Kryz and Tony Mackersie for organising the refurbishment and to Ealing Council for all their support.

Gunnersbury Exhibition

A big thank you to Elizabeth Rowell of Neville Road who has lent us a beaten brass house name for the exhibition on Brentham that will be held at Gunnersbury Park Museum later this year. She rescued the house name, with distinctive art nouveau lettering, from a pile of rubbish when she moved into 19 Woodfield Crescent in 1978. Elizabeth was the only person to respond to the request for Arts and Crafts objects for the exhibition. To mount the display we'll need more objects. Do you have something that might be suitable?

We're looking for household items that would have been made by Brenthamites between 1901 and 1914. We know that Arts and Crafts classes were held in Brentham from 1909 onwards. Among the most popular were the carpentry classes where residents made 'garden-suburb-style' furniture - the photograph on page 107 of the Brentham book shows women competing in a woodworking competition. Residents also produced metalwork - door-knockers, door knobs set on a floral style plate, brass plaques, fire irons, Challenge shields, and metal letterboxes. Brentham women were also known for their practical and decorative needlework.

If you or someone you know has something that just might fit the bill, please give me a ring!

Wendy Sender

Other news

During an encounter in her professional capacity, Rosanna Henderson took the opportunity of thanking HRH Prince of Wales for writing the forward to the Brentham Book. He was interested in hearing of its success and said he hoped his contribution had helped!



(Photo: Patrick Pope)

For an opportunity to view and acquire craft and original paintings (some by Brentham residents) at



affordable prices, visit Ealing Art Group's exhibition at St Mary's Church, Perivale Lane: Saturday 5th - Monday 7th May.

Brentham Society membership

Don't forget your membership subscription this year gives you a free three-month trial membership of the Brentham Club. For those taking up the offer the club is laying on a social evening on **Friday 4th May** to give you an opportunity to meet other club members and to hear about all the sporting activities, which you may like to join.

Brentham Merchandise



Sue van Raat at the Spring Craft Fair

Mugs: @ £4-50 each or 2 for £8

Sweatshirts: (M,L,XL) @ £12

Canvas bags: (long or short handle) with Brentham Tree design @ £4-50

Notelets: (10 illustrated cards with envelopes) @ £2-50

Contact: *Sue van Raat*

Brentham Cycle



This year the family cycle to Osterley Park will be on Sunday 15th July. For young and old an enjoyable afternoon out with a cream tea as a reward. For further details see the posters or contact:

Alan Henderson