



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

NEWS

ARE WE MAD, SAD, MISGUIDED - OR ARE WE ON THE RIGHT TRACK?

YOUR VIEWS COUNT

Belated New Year good wishes to all Brentham residents.

This is an important edition of Brentham News because it comes with an opportunity for you to give us feedback on what you think about the Brentham Society and the Brentham Heritage Society, their work and future plans.

The two Societies spent their autumn meetings discussing potential new projects and priorities for 2003. But there's little point in investing time and effort in new projects unless the people who live here think we're on the right track and support what we're doing. To find out what you think, we've produced a questionnaire (enclosed with this newsletter) that is easy to follow and fill in. Many thanks for help with this to new resident Trevor Skelton of Ludlow Road and his colleagues at GlaxoSmithKline.

Now it's over to you. We need a good number of returns so that results really reflect the full range of peoples' views. Don't bin it or leave it mouldering in a drawer; let us know what you think by filling it in and

returning it by the end of March. The results will be analysed with professional help, and reported in a future issue, but more importantly, they will influence our work over the next two years...

..so tell us if we're on the right track!

Brentham Residents' Questionnaire

Tell us what you think!

We'd like to know what you think about the work of both the Brentham Society and the Brentham Heritage Society and what you would like these local organisations to focus on in future. Please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire which will help inform future projects. All replies will be treated in confidence.

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO YOUR STREET REPRESENTATIVE ON OR BEFORE 28TH MARCH

Thank you!

The return of all those returning completed questionnaires with correct details will be entered in a prize draw to be held at the Brentham Society/Brentham Heritage Society AGM in October 2003.

Brentham Garden Suburb is one of Ealing's most attractive and important Conservation Areas. Built in a distinctive architectural style with a semi-rural feel and a strong sense of community, it has become one of Ealing's most sought-after residential locations. The Brentham Society and The Brentham Heritage Society exist to ensure it stays special.

The Brentham Society was set up as a residents' and conservation society in 1969, just before Brentham became a designated Conservation Area. It aims not only to represent the interests of residents in respect of the total environment of Brentham, but to conserve its unique architectural, environmental and community features. It does this by giving advice to residents and to Ealing Council on planning applications on, or affecting the estate; by organising regular social and community activities for residents; and by working with the Brentham Heritage Society to further interest in and knowledge about Brentham Garden Suburb.

The Brentham Heritage Society is a registered charity, set up in 1999 as a charitable offshoot of the Brentham Society to help with fundraising for the book Brentham: a history of the former garden suburb 1981-2001. The aims of the Brentham Heritage Society are broadly educational. All BHS activities must benefit not only local residents, but the general public too. Main achievements to date, apart from the book, have been developing the Brentham Archive, setting up a website, arranging an exhibition at Gunnersbury Park Museum, producing a resource pack for local schools, arranging public talks by experts, developing links with other garden suburbs, involvement in major conservation matters, and help with Brentham May Day.

Included in this issue:

- ◆ Your New Committees for 2003
- ◆ 2002 Financial Report
- ◆ Website & Cable TV Cabinets - updates
- ◆ Life in Arts & Crafts houses
- ◆ Gardeners Corner
- ◆ New to the archives
- ◆ Brenthamites Reunited
- ◆ Neighbourhood Watch, News, views and gossip, Events and small ads
- ◆ ... and a new competition

Brentham Society & Brentham Heritage Society Committees 2003



Sue Elliott – Chair of BS and member of BHS - is a self-employed media consultant and has lived in Brentham Way with her partner Bevan for 16 years. She started out delivering Newsletters, then got involved in fund-raising for the centenary book and setting up the Brentham Heritage Society. Since then, she hasn't been able to escape, becoming Chair of the Brentham Society in 2001. If you have to live in London, she says, Brentham is the very best place to be!



Wendy Sender – is Chair of BHS and lives in a Victorian house in West Ealing with her husband, two children, two gerbils and an indeterminate number of frogs (in the garden). A freelance editor, she produced the facsimile reprint *The Pioneer Co-partnership Suburb*. More recently she led the project to publish 'The Brentham Book' (aka *Brentham: a history of the pioneer garden suburb 1901–2001*). She hopes that if you are reading this and can play a brass instrument or the drum, you'll think about joining the Brentham May Day procession - 17 May (see page15)



Richard Costella - the new Treasurer of both the BS and the BHS - is an accountant by profession, and is married with a teenage daughter. His wife, now retired, formerly worked in Ealing Central Library. Originally from Bristol, they have lived on the estate since 1979, first in Fowlers Walk and latterly in Brentham Way. When not working or carrying out the duties as Treasurer, Richard is a transport enthusiast, and takes every opportunity to sample transport systems around the country and elsewhere



Eleanor Cowie – Secretary of both BS and BHS - has lived in Brentham for just over 13 years. For many years she worked in audience research at the BBC, but since retiring has become more involved in the work of the Brentham Society, beginning by helping with picture research for the Brentham Book and also helping to catalogue the archive of Brentham photos and documents, which is a never-ending task. In her 'spare' time she goes walking and sings in London Concert Choir, which gives concerts on the South Bank and in various London churches.



Ian Brocklebank – BS - is an architect who specialises in the repair and adaptation of historic buildings, but other than that is really pretty uninteresting (so he says). He promises he will one day bring his house up to the sort of standard that he does for other people's buildings, but it's all a bit much of the same, so "I do an awful lot of procrastinating". Some people may have seen him tinkering with his motorcycle at the bottom end of Ludlow/Denison green



Alan Henderson – BHS and Editor of Brentham News – has lived on Brentham since 1984 having bought a house in Fowlers Walk from Richard Costella. Alan is married to Rosanna and moved to Meadvale Road for that extra bedroom which is now filled with the Brentham archives! Both Alan and Rosanna are keen walkers and cyclists and lead the annual Brentham Family Cycle to Osterley Park.

Heather Moore – BS and BHS – grew up in Ealing and moved in to Fowlers Walk in 1977 where her grandmother had lived since the house was built in 1914. Heather went to school at the 'gun site' on A40 and later to North Ealing School and is now a teacher herself. She loves living in Brentham, feels very privileged to do so, and is keen that the special character of Brentham is not lost. A former chair of BS Heather has been involved with BS for about 12 years.



Graham Fox – BS – has lived in Brentham Garden Suburb for nearly 20 years, originally in Holyoake Walk and, for the past 11 years, in Brentham Way. Graham's main interest, with regard to the Brentham Society, is the maintenance of gardens and hedges, which do so much to retain the Estate's "green" character. Graham was involved in the refurbishment of Vivian Green and is pleased to see that the numerous bulbs planted are starting to come through.



Barry Murphy - BS - lives in Brentham Way with his wife Jane and son Matthew. All 3 have always lived in Ealing. Barry went to St Benedict's School, as does Matthew, and Jane was a pupil at North Ealing School and St Anne's Convent. Barry sees the Brentham Society as a great way to help build a community and protect our environment.



George Barnes – BS – first moved to Brentham in 1974 without realising the special significance of the area. Before retiring George was a practising optometrist in the City of London. Hobbies include sailing, motorcycling and collecting the old age pension! George maintains the Brentham notice boards while his wife Anne and he get involved in various other Brentham events. They have no plans to move out of Brentham, after all, as George says, it takes only 25 minutes to get to the West End and about the same time to be out in the countryside – it couldn't be better!



Sean Cadogan – BS – moved into Neville Road in 2002. Both he and partner Debbie work for Department of Trade & Industry – Sean being a specialist in forensic computing. Sean is taking over as Membership Secretary and coordinating street representatives.



If you spot this man – please inform any committee member!

There are many others around the estate – too numerous to mention individually - who help and contribute to the smooth running of the work of the committees. All of us on the Brentham Society and Brentham Heritage Society committees thank them and look forward to the results of the survey to help us decide how best to move forward in the next few years.

We are looking for new Street Reps for Denison Road, the lower end of Brentham Way and upper Fowlers Walk.

If you're interested – please contact **Sean Cadogan**

Financial Matters

The Brentham Society had a healthy year to August 2002. Although subscription numbers were down, this was offset by generous contributions from renewing members and by a donation from the Brentham Way Jubilee street party. There was a drop in income, following the Centenary year, partly due to running out of merchandise, but this has now been rectified and the new design of mugs is on sale (see back page). Income from the Strawberry Tea returned to normal levels.

Expenditure on Vivian Green included a plaque, engraving of a bench, and fencing, 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 cash balance now stood at around £3,000.

The Brentham Heritage Society had a quieter year, the main income being from book sales. Money has 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 are due to Sue van Raat for the work that she has put in as Treasurer of both Societies for the past few years. The new Treasurer, Richard Costella, has commented

that the files handed over are in excellent shape, and he will have a hard time living up to her standards and reputation!

Carol Singing

Total amount collected £215-49.

Donations have been made to the Retinoblastoma Society and to St David's Nursing Home.

Thanks to Ellen Jackson, singers, collectors and hosts and all who gave so generously.

Membership 1998-2002

Having been Membership Secretary for five years Rosanna Henderson is now handing over the membership baton to Sean Cadogan. During her term, society membership reached over 300 households on the estate with several people making additional contributions, which are always gratefully received. There has been a substantial growth, over the period, of former residents becoming members – now representing 12% of the total membership - and many have re-established their links with Brentham by attending Society events and visiting old friends. Rosanna would like to pass on a big vote of thanks to all the Membership Collectors who have helped her over the past five years with subscription collection and made her job much easier.

Membership 2003

is now due
and still only

£2

per household

Brentham dot com

In November 2000, while a dedicated team of volunteers were making last-minute preparations for the launch of *Brentham: a history of the pioneer suburb 1901 –2001*, Peter Sender was working round the clock to bring the Brentham website (www.brentham.com) to life. Less than 24 hours before the book launch, the website was up and running. Since then it has been visited more than 1440 times.

Websites are an effective way of communicating with others all over the world, and as the principal aim of the BHS is to promote Brentham, developing the website is a key objective for the BHS this year. By the time you read this, a sub-committee will have met to discuss the many ideas for making it more lively, comprehensive and user-friendly.

At present the site is in its infancy. It offers a brief history and chronology, news items, information on the Brentham and Brentham Heritage Societies and links to related sites. There is a facility for searching the site and a forum for the exchange of views of Brentham interest.

Among 'pages' we'd like to add are:

- ◆ Photos of Brentham streets and houses
- ◆ Planning guidelines
- ◆ Brenthamites Reunited – a way of putting Brenthamites past and present in touch with one another
- ◆ Articles from *Brentham News*

If you have any ideas or contributions to make, or would like to help edit the website do get in touch!

ideas@brentham.com

Cable TV Cabinets: the Saga Continues...

Following a suggestion made at the AGM, the Brentham Society approached local MP Steve Pound to see if he could bring any influence to bear on removing these unsightly bits of street furniture. Steve contacted Ealing Planning Services and received a sympathetic, but not very encouraging, response from Planning Director Noel Rutherford. His letter says:

“...NTL are not subject to the normal town planning enforcement regime, nor to the need to apply for planning permission for their cabinets, even in conservation areas as important as Brentham. The time scale involved in dealing with their prior notifications (when they do submit them in advance) is short, particularly in light of the need to carry out proper consultation in conservation areas, and has proved difficult to meet, just as it did with mobile telephone masts. Moreover, the wording in relation to the prior notification process is open to misinterpretation. It was this ambiguity, which in these cases led to the Council failing to meet the deadlines that might have permitted it to exercise greater control. There is no requirement on NTL to install their cabinets underground; indeed they are very resistant to such suggestions. The best we have been able to achieve is a modest improvement in the design of some of the cabinets.”

The best news in the letter was that the Council's Anti-Graffiti Unit will request NTL to remove the graffiti. However, if NTL (who, according to the business pages, are a company in trouble) take as much notice as they have of previous representations by the Council, we shouldn't hold our breath.

How life was lived in arts and crafts houses

Few Brentham residents can have failed to wonder about the people who occupied their homes previously. What sorts of lives did the original occupants of our homes lead, and what were the conventions they accepted or reacted against? What were the ideas that influenced the ways such houses were designed, furnished and used, and what kind of a statement might opting to live in an arts and crafts house once have made? **The illustrated talk, which author and lecturer Wendy Hitchmough gave at the last annual general meeting of the Brentham Society,** illuminated some of these intriguing questions.

She began by reminding us that the arts and crafts movement did not simply create a style. It was based on a philosophy, which valued the craft tradition and aspired to a way of life, which honoured creativity, and the functional use of materials and spaces. Thus windows at Philip Webb's ground-breaking Red House in Bexley were placed where the house's interior most required daylight, and not just to create a pleasing exterior.

There were strong social conventions in the later nineteenth century regarding the planning of houses and the uses and decorations of different rooms. However, architects like Edwin Lutyens and Baillie Scott who worked in the arts and crafts idiom opened the way to ignoring these rules. The larger houses they designed were often second homes for clients who wanted to escape from conventional rigidities and build

their own private utopias. Unprecedented gestures like placing flower borders on the previously austere approach side of a house signalled that an "artistic" freedom had been claimed and that conventions were in abeyance. More modest homes, built in the arts and crafts style for estate workers or commuters, similarly announced by using that style that they exempted themselves from the pressures of middle-class life and its strict codes of behaviour.

One of the most radical innovations of the arts and crafts style was the living hall. In conventional houses, the hall was a mere waiting room, an intermediate space set apart from the living quarters and often designed more to impress than to welcome visitors. Architects like Philip Webb and Norman Shaw made the hall a social space at the heart of the home, adapted for different functions including dining, relaxing and entertaining guests.

Some conventions, however, might live on in those medium-sized arts and crafts houses, which still preserved a drawing room. Here the family (the ladies first) assembled after dinner, and guests were entertained as they made their social calls between 3 and 6 pm, as late-Victorian convention dictated. Closer friends visited during the morning. Visitors congregated around the fireplace (flanked only by shallow recesses so that no-one felt isolated) or the piano or a window-seat. Tea was served, and marriageable daughters flirted decorously with eligible bachelors.

Dining rooms were regarded as a masculine space, as opposed to the

feminine sphere of the drawing room. Textures were heavier, colours more sombre, and the orientation was to the east, not the south. The laid table (built of oak, not mahogany in an arts and crafts home) was the focus of the room, and the seats around it reflected a fixed hierarchy, as did the family portraits on the walls. If the dining room was warmer, the family might linger there in winter instead of braving a cold drawing room. Kitchens were kept some way off, to exclude cooking smells, and were functional workplaces, the realm of servants, a coal-fired kitchen range, dressers and a central table, which served as working surface. Arts and crafts designers like Voysey provided more ample servants' quarters than was the contemporary norm, realising their value in retaining mobile staff.

The master bedroom in arts and crafts houses most commonly had twin beds, with the wife placed to her husband's left. Bedrooms doubled as a social space for the owners of the house, but subject to the convention that in the bedroom a husband was his wife's guest. His own undisputed realm was his dressing room. Ladies retired to their bedrooms during the day to write letters.

The darker aspects of family life also influenced arts and crafts interiors. Sick family members were often nursed and died in the home, so hygiene was important and white-painted joinery was favoured. Beds were placed with their heads to the wall to favour the circulation of air. Bedrooms were equipped with hip-baths, but except once a week bathing involved the use of cold water alone.

Wendy Hitchmough pointed out that we are only just beginning to understand the ways of life in these arts and crafts houses. It would be mistaken to assume uniform patterns, unaffected by the vagaries of individual families. It would also be mistaken to impose 21st century assumptions on these lives and these houses, even though the latter were described as "modern houses" in the contemporary magazines, which first brought them to public notice.

Report by Michael McCarthy

(Wendy Hitchmough's book "The Arts and Crafts Home" was published by Pavilion Books in March 2000).

Doors looking for a home

Brian Cook of 204 Pitshanger Lane has very kindly donated some doors to the Society:

1. Good original Brentham door: 4-panel; mouldings one side only; 760 x 1960 x 40mm; needs refurbishment
2. Original Brentham door from cupboard or similar: 4-panel; unmoulded; 605 x 1920 x 28mm
3. Nearly new door: 4-panel; moulded both sides (but not Brentham pattern) 725 x 1975 x 34mm

Available to anyone interested: suitable donation to Brentham Society funds appreciated.

Contact: Ian Brocklebank

House Swap?

The owner of a very attractive and unusual 4-bedroom Brentham house is looking to downsize to a medium-size 3-bedroom property but doesn't want to move off the estate. If anyone in the reverse position is interested in exploring the idea of a house swap, please contact the Editor for the vendor's details.

Gardeners Corner

2002 Brentham Society Garden Awards

(announced at the AGM)

Spring Award

33, Brunner Road

A strong structure of shrubs frame the front door although a relaxed and natural spring effect has been achieved with white cherry blossom and a carpet of blue bells and periwinkle. Simple but very pretty.

Runners up

- ◆ 46, Denison Road
- ◆ 57, Meadvale Road
- ◆ 79, Woodfield Road

2003 Front Garden Competition

Brian Vaughan will again be judging gardens in 2003. From this year professionally designed front gardens will also be eligible for awards

Summer Award

33, Ludlow Road

This small front garden has been consistently colourful. It peaked from early to late summer with tall spines of lupins, hollyhocks and verbasum. A rose arch dominates the front gateway and a large hydrangea provides the background to this very Victorian cottage style garden.

Runners up

- ◆ 10, Ludlow Road
- ◆ 58, Holyoake Walk
- ◆ 37, Woodfield Crescent

Autumn Award

111, Fowlers Walk

A large raised bed frames a sweeping path filled with many colourful shrubs and herbaceous plants, including Tradescantia, Rhus and Dogwood. Two hanging baskets of pansies have been placed either side of the door to great effect.

Runners up

- ◆ 39, Brentham Way
- ◆ 25, Woodfield Avenue
- ◆ 11, Woodfield Crescent

Rose Bowl

45, Woodfield Crescent

This garden has been consistently well cared for, with many interesting plants used in a variety of ways. Topiary has been used to great effect and other choice plants such as grape vine and clipped Bay make this garden a living sculpture. Lemon Petunias and mixed Lobelia in glazed ultra marine terra cotta pots provide a colourful background to this very stylish garden.

Congratulations to all winners and runners up. Enjoy 2003

Gardening Group Meetings

Recommence at 28 Holyoake Walk at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 26 March, when we will discuss our plans for the year. New members are very welcome to join us. Gardening expertise is not necessary.

Maureen McCarthy

BRENTHAM ALLOTMENTS

A year or two ago the future of the Brentham Allotments & Gardens Society or BAGS – a non-profit-making society associated with the 250 allotments tucked away behind Brunswick Road – looked bleak. The band of volunteers who had run it for many years were stepping down, and the then chairman appealed through this newsletter for volunteers to come forward to ensure the survival of BAGS. Now, three years later, it's a very different story. BAGS is thriving. All 250 plots have been allocated and there is a waiting list. Many of the allotment holders live in Brentham, and they represent a broad cross-section of the local community.

BAGS was set up to serve the interests and needs not only of allotment holders but also local gardeners (see page 15 for details).

Allotments have a long history, stretching back to the 17th century when the enclosure of common land left the poor without space to graze sheep and raise vegetables. The parish allotted small parcels of land to people for the purpose of growing food for their families, hence the term "allotment". They came to prominence during the two world wars, when many of the parks in Ealing were turned into allotments run by local associations, and allotments provided a significant proportion of the nation's food. Changes in farming and food production in the sixties and seventies led to a dramatic reduction in food prices and this, coupled with increased leisure activities, led to a decline in the popularity of allotments. Today they are an

endangered species, as developers look for land for housing, retail and industrial use, and local authorities consider the value of the land they hold.

Despite the threats, there is something of a renaissance in the allotment movement, and many sites in Ealing and across England have considerable waiting lists. Several things are driving this change: scares about food production (eg BSE, e-coli and salmonella); concerns about diet; the desire for choice (supermarkets appear to offer considerable choice, but in practice provide a very small fraction of the variety of vegetables easily grown locally today); and the need for escape (most allotment gardeners list "getting away from it all" as a significant reason for having a plot). There are many good things that can be said about allotments, but perhaps the most important reason for supporting them is that once they're gone, they're gone for ever, and with them the knowledge and skills which we are beginning to reassess and value.

Trevor Gill

Chairman, Brentham Allotments & Gardens Society

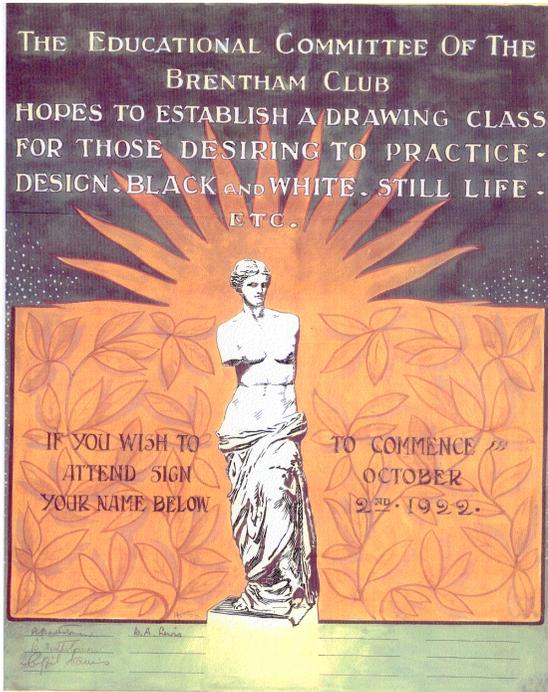
Spring Clean Your Alleyways.

The paths that run between the backs of houses belong to everyone and many are regularly used for access to homes and allotments. Some have been deliberately overgrown to discourage less welcome use. That's fine if everyone agrees. If your alleyway is needed for access, be thoughtful of others and keep it clear of garden, building or other rubbish and clip hedges so that residents who want to use them can do so without having to negotiate an obstacle course!

New to the Archives

Keith Hutton, whose father Henry Charles Hutton - a Brentham resident between 1912 and early 1930's and a prominent member of the Club, recently contacted the Brentham Society.

Henry Charles Hutton was born in Yorkshire and served as an apprentice chromolithographer at Bradford School of Art. He was Captain of the Brentham Hockey Team and brought his artistic skills to bear in many spheres. Two fragile examples of his creative work have been kindly donated to the archive along with membership cards and photos of the Hockey Team.



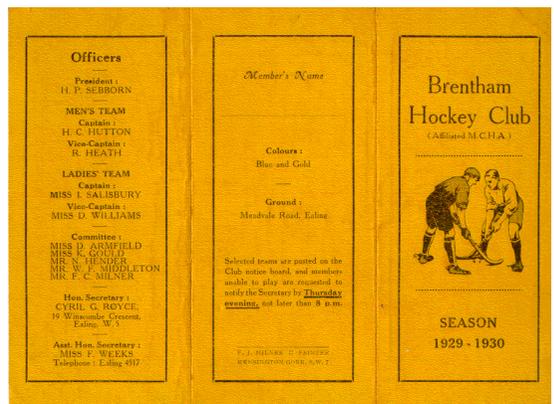
One of Hutton's posters, advertising drawing classes to commence 2nd October 1922

The other poster in the archive publicised the Brentham Choral Society's production of "Merrie England" on Saturday 25th April 1914.

Brentham Hockey Club - circa 1928-1929
Henry Charles Hutton
back row second from right.



1929-30 season membership card
Fixtures included Civil Service, Old Ealoniens
and Watneys!



The Brentham Archive continues to grow – if you have anything you think may be of interest – or know of someone who might have – please get in touch. We will ensure your material is well looked after or, if you prefer, take photocopies and return originals to you.

Contact: Alan Henderson

Brentham's first Radio Ham?



**A.W.Glasse of No 11 Denison Road (circa 1920)
on his Triumph motor cycle
Donated by daughter Yvonne Henwood**

Before formal radio licences became the practice – A.W.Glasse requested permission from the GPO to “conduct experiments” in wireless reception. The permitted aerial was attached to a mast on his allotment in the shadow of St Barnabas Church. Copies of the correspondence with the GPO are now in the Brentham Archive.

Later, having bought their house from Ealing Tenants, A.W.Glasse then turned his attention to changing the interior to include a large living room, achieved by joining two previously very small rooms.

Perhaps this was one of the first planning applications dealt with by the then Ealing Borough Council Surveyor's Department ? Yvonne Henwood (now living in Reading) was interested in the Planning Q&A article in the last issue of Brentham News and was pleased to see that current Brentham residents also find pleasure in “responsibly” enlarging their treasured properties.

Radical Brentham resumed and refreshed

Four Brentham residents formed part of a larger weekly lecture and discussion class that ran for three months during the latter part of 2002, under the title “Democracy and Its Discontents.” We met under the aegis of the Workers' Educational Association, to which our thanks are due for making the venture possible, in the Methodist hall in Pitshanger Lane, and thus revived the **Brentham tradition of holding education classes** on political and economic subjects.

Questions, which were opened up for discussion, ranged from fundamental questions of political philosophy (By what right do governments exercise power over us?) to problems of definition (What is democracy?) to the psychology of political convictions (Where do our fundamental beliefs come from?) We also considered topics like the European Union, the media, globalisation and the Internet, all in relation to the various threats and opportunities they offer to democracy.

Unanimity on large political questions was hardly to be expected, but they were debated in an atmosphere of unflinching respect for the opinions of others. Friendly exchanges of views and information can only make the world a better and more tolerant place, and lively discussions continued after each class in a café on the left (or was it right?) bank of Pitshanger Lane. We may not have changed the world by resolving the discontents of an imperfect democracy, but perhaps we brought a slight air of Les Deux Magots to Ravané.

Michael McCarthy

Brenthamites Reunited

Following previous articles in this column we've heard of more gatherings of old friends. Last summer **Frank Turner** met up with **Joyce Patterson and Betty Goddard** at the Brentham Club for lunch. Joyce sent us this photo of the happy occasion.



Frank's Harem (for the day)

Frank enjoys catching up with Joyce (2nd from left) and Betty (2nd from right) reminiscing about the club in the good old days!

Betty Black (née Ridley) wrote to us earlier last year but we were unable to include her contributions in the last issue due to lack of space. She was able to help with the whereabouts of some of those friends we were looking for and we passed on a copy of her letter to Arthur Allport (who started this whole thing off - Ed)!

The Ridley family moved to 48 Denison Road from Norfolk in 1924 when Betty was six weeks old. Her father was MP for Clay Cross Derbyshire (see page 191 Brentham Book). They subsequently lived at 6 Winscombe Crescent and then 67 Brentham Way. When she married,

Betty set up home with her husband at 95 Fowlers Walk (in the cul-de-sac). Last summer Betty returned to Brentham and met up with Barbara Murray and Ramsey Hughes.

Betty, who now lives in Hatch End, Middlesex, was very good friends of the Copestake family of Neville Road – particularly Mary and Daudie (Audrey), the youngest of five children. Mr Copestake was the chief grounds man at the Brentham Club. Unfortunately Betty has lost touch and would welcome any news of any of the family. Can you help? If you can please contact the Editor and we'll be happy, as always, to pass on details.

=====
It is with sadness that we report the death of long term Brentham resident **Margaret Arnison** (née Warren).

Margaret, born at home in Woodfield Crescent in 1914, passed away in September 2002 aged 88 having lived in Brentham Way for 44 years.



After leaving St Augustine's convent school, often accompanied there by friend Ramsay Hughes, she became a dental nurse. Margaret was later to join the Townswomen's Guild, enjoyed helping at St Barnabas' church bazaars and visited residents of Downhurst Nursing Home. Her daughter Sheila and son-in-law Colin now live in the very house where Margaret grew up.

BRENTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Brentham Home Beat officer Neil Roberts has just sent the following details of crime on the Brentham Estate for the six months between mid July last year and mid January this. The good news is that the overall amount of reported crime is well down. There has been no reported crime at all in Brentham Way, Brunswick Road, Ludlow Road, Neville Road, North View, Pitshanger Lane, Ruskin Gardens, Winscombe Crescent, Woodfield Crescent and Woodfield Road. Again I would like to thank PC Roberts for producing these figures at very short notice.

Brunner Road	2 thefts from motor vehicles. Theft of 2 hanging baskets.
Dennison Road	Theft from motor vehicle. Theft of Christmas lights.
Fowers Walk	Indecent exposure in August.
Holyoake Walk	A common assault involving school children.
Meadvale Road	Burglary.
Woodfield Avenue	Criminal damage to motor vehicle.

BOROUGH POLICING REPORT

I thought it might be of interest to include a few items selected from the report made by the Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Peter Goulding at the last meeting of the Ealing Community and Police Consultative Group.

- Vehicle crime is still an issue owing to the numbers involved, however there have been some good successes in some of the targeted areas.
- He is working with colleagues to respond to environmental issues such as abandoned cars and street lighting, and in association with the Local Authority identifying the priorities
- 6 of the new Community Support Officers will shortly be joining the Borough and meetings have been taking place as to their deployment.
- 4 Officers have been allocated to work specifically with local High Schools dealing with street crime and youth offending, in association with the Education Department.
- The 17 year old killer of a young lad outside Acton High School has been jailed for 5 years.



In the next Neighbourhood Watch page I hope to include an item on the work of the Ealing Community and Police Consultative Group.

For more information or to find out more about Neighbourhood Watch:

Contact: Paul Fodrio

Co-ordinator Brentham Neighbourhood Watch

OVER THE GARDEN HEDGE

News, views and gossip

Light Up the Rain

Persistent heavy rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the hundreds of people who thronged Pitshanger Lane shops for the annual Light Up the Lane evening before Christmas. Despite soggy sausages and saturated stewards, everyone stayed cheerful. Even the police on road closure duty managed some jokes through dripping helmets. This popular event is now so widely known in Ealing and environs that if the rain hadn't kept some people away, the PCA may have had crowd-control problems rather than the more prosaic challenge of keeping performers and local dignitaries safe and dry on a perilously slippery stage.

Selling Like Hot Cakes

After what seemed a very long time empty, it's great to see the old Sugar Loaf replaced by a swish new bakery offering delicious continental goodies like brioche and cholla literally 'baked in the back', where you can see what's happening. And thanks too, to the new proprietor who kindly donated cake boxes for the Brentham stall at the autumn Craft Fair. There are still one or two empty shops in the Lane, which seems a waste. One Brentham resident suggests taking them over temporarily at a peppercorn rent for use as a showcase for local artistic talent. If you have seen this done elsewhere or know someone who can help make it happen, get in touch with the Editor.

Brentham makes Page 1 of The Currant Bun

Not Page 3, we hasten to add... but thanks to Brentham Way resident Mike Fairbairn, who is Production Manager at *The Sun*, that road's splendid Jubilee Street Party (see last issue of Brentham News) is immortalised in a brilliant 'limited edition' of that influential organ, run off the presses specially for residents.



This features photos of the revellers and some classic soaraway editorial too, e.g. "...*this was the day when they stood shoulder to shoulder to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in simply Sun-sational style with a super street party that had them reeling in Ealing.*" (Needless to say, before moving to print production, Mike had been a journalist on the paper!) Thanks Mike for producing a unique memoir of a special day and a lively addition to the Brentham archive.

Visit the gardening supply shop on your doorstep

The shop, which is open to members of BAGS (Brentham Allotments and Gardens Society) every Sunday morning, sells seeds, fertilisers, compost and a variety of fungicides and insecticides at competitive prices. Some gardening equipment is available for hire. The shop, situated on the Brentham Allotments site (entrance Brunswick Road), is open on Sunday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon.

New members welcome - £2/year

Contact: Trevor Gill

Bedford Park Walk.

Sunday 30th March : 2-4pm
meet outside St Michael's Church
by Turnham Green Underground
if rainy, inside the church.

Contact: Wendy Sender

BRAIN OF BRENTHAM

Saturday 22nd March

If you know the capital of Albania or the chemical symbol for tin or, if like me you enjoy guessing -- then here is a date for your diary.

We are organising a quiz supper at the Brentham Club for both Brentham Society and Brentham Club members. It is a fun raising rather than a fund raising event and the objective is to cover costs and give any surplus to charity.

Tickets will cost about £8 and that includes your meal. You could invite neighbours or friends and book a table (8 places) or you could buy tickets in smaller numbers and we will make up the tables.

Full details will be available later this month but to register your early interest **call Barry Murphy**

PS The answers are Tirana and Sn
PPS Any donations of raffle prizes would be most welcome.

PLANT SALE

Sunday 30th March: 1-4pm

Small plant sale with proceeds to charity.
2 Ruskin Gardens

Volunteer Reading Help
Registered Charity No. 296454
www.vrh.co.uk

Contact: Sally Kelly



*Promoting Art &
Craft in Ealing*

Saturday 12th April
Spring Sale
Millennium Hall

Weekend 26/27 April
Paintings Exhibition
Café Rouge,
Strand-on-the-Green

Contact: Celia Busby



Copies are still available from
The Pitshanger Bookshop or direct
from the Brentham Heritage Society
c/o 47 Meadvale Road W5 1NT
(£25+£4 p&p – cheques to BHS)

HELP WANTED

Do you play a brass instrument or the drum? Are you between the ages of 8 and 80? Can you be persuaded to bring a cheerful note to the Brentham May Day procession on 17 May?

Contact: Wendy Sender

FOR SALE

2-seater teak Garden Bench
for a donation to Brentham Society funds

Contact: Sue Elliott

Dates for your 2003 Diary

watch for details on notice boards nearer the time

Pioneers' Evening

Thursday 6th March

Brain of Brentham Quiz Night

Saturday 22nd March
(see page 15)

Plant Sale

Sunday 30th March (pm)
(see page 15)

Bedford Park Walk

Sunday 30th March (pm)
(see page 15)

Bournville & Cadbury World

(End of May – date to be confirmed)

May Day

Saturday 17th May

Family Cycle

Sunday 15th June

Strawberry Tea

Sunday 22nd June

Garden Day

Sunday 13th July

London Open House Weekend

Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st September

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 16th October

Autumn Craft Fair

Saturday 15th November

Carol Singing

(December – dates to be confirmed)

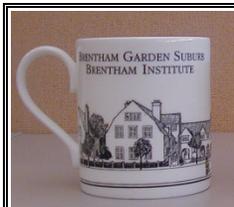
**Putting Brentham on the Map
Can you beat this?**



Pat Mitchell of Southampton modelling a Brentham Bag in Amber Fort, near Jaipur, India - September 2002

Send your photos to the Editor.

Brentham Merchandise



Two new mug designs



£4-50 each or
£8-00 a pair

Mugs, bags and a range of other merchandise available from
Richard Costella



COMPETITION