



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.*

The last edition of **Brentham News** was a first – the first in colour, so thank you for all the positive feedback we've had. It was an experiment, which is why this edition is back to plain old black & white, but it has given us ideas about what we might be able to do in future. Colour is expensive, so we've ruled it out for every edition, but we'd certainly like at least one **colour 'splash'** every year, with two in black and white, and perhaps several one-sheet 'news updates' to keep you informed between editions. What do you think? Let the Editor know.

There's another first in this edition. Brentham News has not traditionally sought or carried paid-for advertising, but we are now including an **advertisement from Grimshaw**, in recognition of the firm's valuable sponsorship that has enabled us to enlarge and enhance the newsletter in so many ways.

Inside we also give you the top line **Residents' Survey results**, which not only tell us what you think about our current efforts on behalf of Brentham, but give us an important steer for future priorities, so make sure you come to the AGM in October to hear more about the results and join in the discussion.

Finally, we were heartened by the number of people who wanted to get more involved in the work of the Brentham Society and Brentham Heritage Society. What we desperately need now is new Committee members to carry on the work of the two Societies and inject new vigour and ideas. If you've ever thought you might like to do your bit for Brentham, ring me to find out more.

Sue Elliott (Chair Brentham Society)



**Brentham Society & Brentham Heritage Society
Annual General Meeting
at The Brentham Club**



**Thursday October 16th 2003
7-30pm**

All welcome – refreshments will be served

Results of the Brentham Residents' Survey

We're giving extra room in this issue for the results of the Brentham residents' survey conducted earlier this year, designed to test how aware you were of the work of the Brentham and Brentham Heritage Societies, whether you valued it, and what you thought we should be doing for the estate and its residents. We had 197 returned questionnaires from the 680 distributed - a good 29% response rate and higher than the last survey, done in the 1990's. Thank you to everyone to took the trouble to respond – some of you in some detail – and special thanks to Trevor Skelton of Ludlow Road who analysed the replies.

What follows are just the headline results. For the full story, come to the AGM on Thursday 16th October, where they will be presented in more detail and we can discuss how to translate the results into action.

What your responses told us about you

- There are twice as many Brentham households with retired people responding as with children under 16. Of the responding households, nearly a quarter of adult residents are retired.
- Average time respondents have lived here is 18.5 years.
- 1 in 5 respondents have lived here for less than 2 years but the same number have been here over 30 years.
- 72% of respondents were members of the Brentham Society. 20% weren't, which means that 8% weren't sure!
- About a quarter of respondents expressed interest in getting more involved by volunteering help and specialist skills like IT, financial and marketing.
- 40% of responding households are happy for us to contact them by email.

What you like about living here

- Greenery, the architecture, friendliness and sense of community, and Pitshanger Lane shops all ranked high.

What you think about the Brentham Society and Brentham Heritage Society

- Unsurprisingly, there was much higher awareness of the Brentham Society (going since 1970) than the more recently established Brentham Heritage Society, though many respondents valued the work of both.

What you think should be priorities for future projects

- Of the suggested list of activities/projects, information sheets about caring for/repairing/restoring your home was the clear leader, followed by more planning advice.
- 60% of you were concerned about traffic and want more controls.
- You are least interested in creating links with other Garden Suburbs, and you aren't very interested in social events either!

- There were dozens of other ideas - 20 from one Denison Road resident alone – including a tradesman database (see page 4), fox control, restoring red phone boxes, helping the elderly with hedge-cutting, campaigning against aircraft noise (and satellite dishes!), a wildlife monitoring weekend, sponsored bird boxes – and a residents' arbitration service to resolve disputes.

Planning and Conservation

- Protecting Brentham's unique character was ranked extremely highly by a large majority (86%) of respondents. Only 2% thought this wasn't very important.
- 63% believed current planning controls were exercised appropriately; with about the same number thinking they were too lenient (12%) or too strict (13%).
- 6% of you spontaneously said they were applied too inconsistently, a charge we answer on page 4.

The Brentham Club

- Ideas for new Club activities and attractions included a gym, pool, music and art events, archery, 'total refurbishment' and 'a more welcoming atmosphere'. All comments and suggestions made have been passed on to the Club Management Committee.

Brentham News

- You like it! 94% of you think it is very or fairly interesting.
- And you have ideas for what else should go in it, including personal profiles of longstanding residents, more on planning, Club information, renovation tips, readers letters, advance information of houses for sale, what's happening at local schools, crosswords, more news, more history and more small ads!
- 'More articles by residents' – yes please! If there's something you'd like to see, please consider Doing It Yourself. We can't have a Letters column if nobody writes to us.

Merchandise

- You quite like what we do already and some of you think we shouldn't get too commercial (perish the thought).
- Ideas included historic prints, postcards, videos, house number plates and gates.

What we learned from the results

- Unsurprisingly, you are more interested in improving your immediate home environment than in communal activities and projects. There is real demand for information about restoration and repair. (*So see Stitch in Time, page 4.*)
- We need to explain the Brentham Heritage Society's remit and activities better.
- Planning issues are a major concern for many of you and we need to give more information and advice.
- You care about Brentham's common areas (greens, alleys etc.) and want to see them looked after.

Overleaf we try and answer some of the questions posed.

Some questions answered

Why can't you produce databases of recommended tradesmen?

We do hold names that residents have used but we can't recommend people. Keeping an up-to-date database is like nailing jelly – firms move, go out of business, lose good people, change management and get so booked up their standards drop. And often residents are reluctant to 'share' good tradesmen once they've found them!

Planning decisions are inconsistent!

Yes they are sometimes. This is because decisions inevitably involve an element of aesthetic judgement and because, though some houses may look superficially similar, they may need different treatment due to their situation and surrounding previous developments. So no two planning decisions are ever the same (and unfortunately they are occasionally enforced differently by the Council) but the Brentham Society and the Advisory Panel are very conscious of the need for broad consistency and try to achieve it wherever possible. For more background information about what is taken into account in planning decisions, look at Advisory Panel member John Kelly's piece on the Brentham website.

Why don't you campaign against satellite dishes?

Satellite dishes are allowed on Brentham under certain conditions (see recent Planning Q & A in issue 146), so we have no grounds to stop them.

Why can't we have more residents' news, profiles, letters, crosswords, small ads etc. in the Newsletter?

We'd love all of these. Over to you!

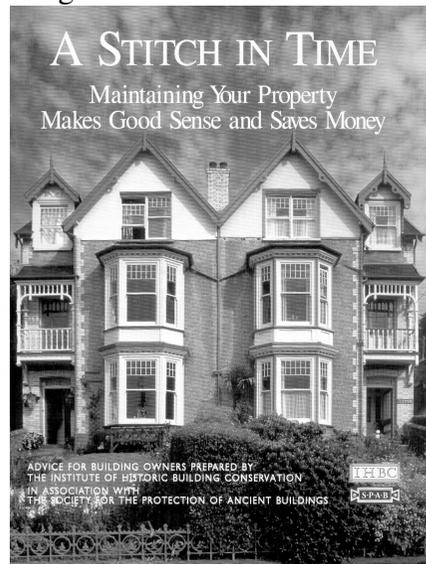
Thank you again for contributing to the survey.

See you at the AGM in October

Improving your home

A Stitch in Time

..... is the title of a booklet of advice on property maintenance written for owners of older buildings by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) in association with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and supported by English Heritage. It contains interesting articles and some sound advice as well as useful addresses and books for further reading.



For those of you on-line it is downloadable from the IHBC's website (www.ihbc.org.uk) in PDF format. To personal Brenthamite callers, obtainable in printed form free of charge from reception at Acanthus Lawrence & Wrightson architects, Voysey House, Barley Mow Passage, Chiswick, W4. By post, for £3.00 (to cover p&p only), from Lydia Porter, IHBC, Jubilee House, High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6HA..

Free copies will also be available at the AGM in October

Conservation News

We were concerned to read an article in Ealing Gazette on 18th July in which Brentham Garden Suburb was listed as an area not thought to meet the right criteria for conservation area status. Charmian Baker, Conservation Officer at Ealing Council, assured us that this was a case of mis-reporting. In a survey of Ealing's conservation areas a number of alterations and additions were proposed for consideration, among them were Mount Pleasant Road and Woodfield Road, which had been suggested and discounted as additions to the Brentham Garden Suburb. There is no threat to our status as a conservation area.

This autumn we are planning to use outline guidance from English Heritage to write an appraisal of our conservation area. It will define the special architectural and historic interest of Brentham and will be very useful in the development of new planning guidelines. When completed it will be sent to the Conservation Officers of Ealing Council for comment and then hopefully adopted by the Council.

Brentham Doors

5 or 6 original interior doors - in very good condition (a bit warped over the 100 years – but that just adds to the charm) – honey pine, painted white on one side. Sadly they have to go, as they have to be replaced by fire-check doors as part of a planning application building regulations. Anybody interested? Call:

Mary Ward

Brentham Heritage Society News

- Work has started on applications to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for the Listing of Holyoake House and 11 Winscombe Crescent.
- We've now sold over 1600 copies of the Brentham book – an amazing achievement – and excellent reviews are still appearing, the latest was in The London Journal.



Copies available from:
The Pitshanger Bookshop or direct
from the Brentham Heritage Society
(£25+£4.50 p&p – cheques to BHS)

- The schools pack based on the book and designed for local primary children is now ready and will be on trial by teachers this autumn.
- Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our submission to English Heritage to have 'blue plaques' erected to commemorate Frederick James Gould and Fred Maddison two distinguished former residents of Brentham.

For further information on these or any BHS activities contact:

Wendy Sender

Visit to a Sweet Suburb!

In May, sixteen Brenthamites made a charabanc journey (OK, it was a minibus) up to Bournville, south of Birmingham to combine a visit to George Cadbury's famous factory-in-a-garden suburb with a tour round Cadbury World. The 'sweet sixteen' fooled nobody: they may have pretended they were interested in the development of the garden suburb movement, but we all knew they were only on the trip for the free samples...

In the event the visit to Bournville turned out to be fascinating. The Bournville Village Trust is a huge and complex operation, managing 8,000 properties there and in nearby Shropshire. We saw its human face in the form of Gloria, the Trust's Head of Community Affairs, and two very informative tenants, Trevor and Malcolm. After coffee and biscuits (chocolate, naturally) we had a lightening tour of the estate, which is made up of several parts, developed at different times throughout the 20th century. We were particularly interested in the Bournville Tenants part of the estate, started in 1906 after George Cadbury learned of the work of Ealing Tenants Ltd. at Brentham. There were many echoes of Brentham in the Arts and Crafts style houses - hedges, common areas and interesting architectural details - but there were also many more examples of bad replacement windows than we have here. This was a great pity as it spoiled the estate's special look.

Returning to Bournville Village, with its central green and picturesque Rest House (given to the Cadburys on their Golden Wedding by grateful workers), we got an unexpected visit to the tower where Bournville's distinctive 48-bell carillon was being played. 'Played' is something of a misnomer: the player has to hit the wooden 'keys' hard with his fist in rapid succession to peal the bells and they make the most amazing sound which wafted throughout the neighbourhood. (Think The Waterglade Centre chimes to the power of a hundred). Back to the Estate Office for a splendid lunch, then Trevor - a retired Cadbury worker of 36 years standing - accompanied us across the road to Cadbury World, filling us in on all the choco info not provided on the tour. Together we ploughed through plastic jungles and sat in silly cars wiggling through the magic land of cocoa beanies and came out with an assortment of freebies feeling slightly sick. But we learned about highly automated wrapping and packing and indulged in nostalgia at all the old TV ads and brands of yesteryear (who over 30 could forget *Only the Crumbliest*, *Flakiest Chocolate* and boxes of *Contrast?*). In the museum we saw chocolate boxes going back 100 years, some touchingly donated '*in memory of my Nan who enjoyed the contents in 1927*'. The tour ended with the obligatory visit to the Factory Shop where we all pretended our purchases were for children/grandchildren/godchildren - anyone other than ourselves. It was a sticky end to a great day.

Images of the Bournville visit



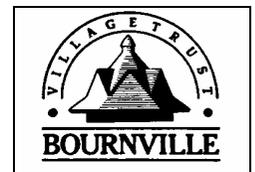
Interesting architectural features not dissimilar to some of those seen in Brentham houses.



Hitting the wooden keys of the 48 bell carillon



Visiting Brenthamites with Bournville Trust's Head of Community Affairs Gloria Gain (2nd from the left) and Tenants Trevor and Malcolm in the background



Our next visit

Following the success of the visit to Bournville and our earlier visit to Bedford Park in March, a visit to Letchworth (which celebrates its centenary this year) and Welwyn Garden City is planned for Saturday 27th September. The Letchworth visit will include a special exhibition on the architect Baillie Scott. Watch out for the next edition of Brentham News for a report on the visit if you weren't able to come along.

Brenthamites Reunited

Following the article in Period Living & Traditional Homes (see page 13) we've heard from Mrs Joan Harding (née Over) whose father was an active member of Brentham Club and great friend of Fred Perry. Joan has some memorabilia, which we hope she'll lend to the Brentham Archive.

Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Ramsay Hughes, one of Brentham's oldest residents, who we hear is in Central Middlesex hospital after a suffering a fall at home.

Gardening News

Garden Group, 2003 season

In our second year, we started meeting fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons at the end of March and have had a lively and interesting programme. We decided early in the season to alternate sessions between meetings in members' homes and visits to local public gardens.

So, we have visited Chenies Manor, Dorneywood, Chelsea Physic Garden and Kew, as well as two special day trips to Beth Chatto's (see below) and Great Dixter.

By now, we know each others' gardens really well and would very much welcome new members. With this in mind, next year we are planning to include some evening meetings in the hope of attracting some new faces and gardens. Do get in touch if you are interested, we continue until the end of October. Remember, no gardening knowledge or smart garden is required. Indeed, maybe you would like to explore how to tackle your overgrown plot! Also, if you are very busy, why not just come along when you can or join in the visits?

Contact:

Maureen McCarthy

or any of the group members you might know.

Visit to the Essex Lady

Beth Chatto, who is regarded so highly by gardeners all over the world has created a unique garden near Colchester, Essex. At the beginning of May members of the Brentham Gardening Group visited this 'Green Tapestry'.

It is hard to believe that this garden started from acres of unproductive farmland and is in a corner of South East England where the rainfall is dangerously low. Today the garden is a simple and natural mixture of trees, shrubs, perennial plants and bulbs with an impressive contrast of colour, shape and form. The close planting of shrubs and perennials create a low maintenance garden (something we all aspire to).

Beth Chatto's enthusiasm for plants and her art of planting is immediately obvious. She has designed a collection of different rooms including a dry garden, a shade garden, a woodland garden each connected by open walks with gentle green slopes and plants that offer more than colour and alternative foliage.

Time must be left to wander around her large nursery of the unusual plants seen throughout the garden. Do you buy what you like or what will be suitable for the climatic conditions and location of your own garden beds?

With a boot full of plants we set off back to Ealing, happy with our day; hoping that the weekend will be dry

so that a little bit of Beth Chatto's "magic" will exist on the Brentham Garden Suburb.

Anita Davis



Anita Davis and Maureen McCarthy enjoy Beth Chatto's Garden

HONEY FUNGUS DISEASE (ARMILLARIA)

Since my alert in the last newsletter the gardening group have gathered information and discussed the matter at length. The various horticultural institutions publish fact sheets and the Internet offers a wealth of advice and guidance. But, essentially it boils down to a few facts and guidelines.

Honey fungus is a fungal disease affecting the roots of trees and shrubs, which leads to die back. There is no cure. Advice on hedges (main problem on this Estate) is to dig out affected plants, stumps and roots plus one unaffected bush on each side. Some sources suggest replacing surrounding soil or leaving for 1 year, but it is not clear if this helps. However, it is essential not to replant with susceptible plants like privet. Resistant species are yew and box (and shrubby lonicera seems to do well).

Armillotox treatment of surrounding plants and soil is said to provide some protection. But the key to prevention is to encourage healthy plants - so feeding, watering and pruning should help. Spread can also be prevented by creating a vertical barrier 30-40cm deep using pond liner or similar.

Symptoms - sudden death of a bush, loss of leaves.

Diagnosis - examine base of dead stump, scrape away bark and affected plants will have a white skin with a mushroom smell. There are not necessarily black bootlaces on the roots or honey coloured mushrooms.

If you think you might have the problem, contact me and I can let you have a copy of the fact sheets, which will give more information, particularly on non-hedge plants.

Maureen McCarthy,

Brentham Open Gardens Day

We were pleased to welcome a party of visitors from Hampstead Garden Suburb to this year's open gardens (see pictures in our colour edition next year) event and were delighted to receive the following article from Marjorie Harris, Chair HGS Horticultural Society

"On 13 July, on the kind of brilliantly hot, sunny afternoon when only mad dogs and Englishmen are about, four intrepid explorers from Hampstead Garden Suburb Horticultural Society set out along the North Circular Road to find a place called Brentham in the

London Borough of Ealing, which was holding an open gardens event.

We knew that Brentham had been founded a few years before our own Garden Suburb, but this did not prepare us for our first sight of it as we turned a last corner from ordinary suburbia and were suddenly stunned by a sharp thrill of recognition - ahead of us lay our Suburb, but *not* our Suburb. Many of the houses were similar to ours, the road layouts were just like ours, and nearly everyone had hedges just like ours.

At the first garden we were given our route map to help us find the other seven open gardens and one allotment on display. The feeling of familiarity continued as we looked down the list of addresses - we too have a *Holyoake Walk*, a *Neville Drive*, a *Ruskin Drive*, a *Brunner Close*. Two of us had bought our houses through 'Coparts', the housing co-partnership, in the 1960s; we too have an Adult Education Institute, but our clubhouse, the pictures of which look very similar to Brentham's, was bombed during the second world war and later rebuilt as a small, rather ugly, single-storey building.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visits to the gardens. It was amazing how different they all were from each other and how cleverly space, shape, texture and colour had been used to best advantage. Of course, the fact that so many were enclosed by a privet hedge, just like our own gardens, meant that we could empathise with the benefits and drawbacks of what hedges do to

plants, and it was nice to meet so many fellow-gardeners.

Coincidentally, over tea and cake in Holyoake Walk, we discovered that Maureen McCarthy had taken part in our Horticultural Society's open gardens and guided Suburb tour in May this year with a companion from Brentham. She recognised one of us who had acted as a guide, and realised that she had drunk tea in my garden too.

It was very interesting to see the pesticide-free allotment plots between Brentham Way and Brunner Road, especially since two of our party also have allotments. We gather that not many of the original allotments are still in cultivation. In our Suburb, the allotments committee of the Residents' Association administers allotments, and, although there are problems with take-up and a lack of access to water on some of them, several are still thriving and well-used.

Thank you Brentham gardeners for your hospitality. We will be back! We hope you might come and visit our open gardens in HGS next year."

Marjorie Harris

Brenthamites would also be welcome on Tuesday 28 October at 7.30pm, when the renowned herb-grower Jekka McVicar will be giving an illustrated lecture to the Horticultural Society at the Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11. Tickets £3 contact: **Diane Berger**

Your letters

The editor welcomes news, views or comment on any Brentham issue
The following two letters were received following articles in the last Brentham News

From Pam Turner of Ludlow Road

Moira Millerick's article on wild life in the last edition of Brentham News was most interesting and I certainly have noticed the decline in hedgehogs, frogs, bats and so-on, only to be replaced by foxes and magpies of dubious welcome.

As far as birds are concerned, nine months ago I would have agreed with Moira's comments, but since then I have observed considerable increase through the winter and spring of many of our favourites. Sparrows have seemed far more plentiful (even a white one amongst the flock for a while) and, after an absence of several years, pairs have nested in the eaves, both front and back, and they love to sit on the gutters tweeting with great gusto.

Unusual visitors in the winter were a flock of long-tailed tits and in the spring a few coal-tits, though neither visited many times nor for long.

I too had missed the blackbird's song, apart from one rather halting one for several years. However, this spring the early mornings and long evenings have been full of luscious song of two or three together. Also a songthrush visited my large Mahonia a couple of times when the berries were ripening in April-May, but I have not heard the song, except once in Pitshanger Park and once in a garden at the top of Princes Gardens where a large sycamore probably provided a good nesting site.

When I first came to Brentham in 1974 the garden was full of greenfinches, far outnumbering sparrows, but these declined after a few years and I have seen none since. However, this spring I did hear one a couple of times though did not catch sight of it.

Dare we hope that things are improving for the small birds after all?

From Darren G of Holyoake House

Following Barry Murphy's account of the heron's adventure in the last edition of Brentham News, I saw a heron flying south in approx the same place (same one?). I had only read the article that day and so it was in my mind. I was admiring the giant beast when he starting flapping like mad. A crow had launched an attack from the trees, and was closing in fast. After watching them both performing an odd sort of dance consisting of a lot of flapping in small circles, it dawned on me what was happening. They were climbing as fast as they could, the heron keeping ahead of the crow, but only just with flurries of close activity. It was like a bizarre cat and mouse chase and lasted forever as the battle took them up to a fair altitude. Finally the crow gave up and the heron carried on south, no doubt exhausted but unbruised! It seems that the heron has found a solution to the problem, at least for a single crow anyway.

Its funny how life has a way of biting back. I was fortunate to witness the humiliation of the bully crow (I like to think it was the same one) only the next day. 3 huge seagulls had entered the arena and our crow flew into action and launched at one of the gulls with a full frontal attack, top marks for aggression! However the gull was a huge one, much larger than the crow, and a supreme athlete and an amazingly powerful flyer. He circled the crow over and under about 3 times at warp speed then gave him a clout, but the crow didn't stop and wanted to carry on. The 3 gulls quickly circled him and jostled him around and basically beat him up until the crow, feeling completely out of his league, landed on the ground with a lot of squawking. The gulls carried it on for another few minutes by flying in a large circle skimming the crow at each lap to wind him up. A fine taste of his own medicine!

Obituaries

We are sad to announce the recent death of well-known local resident **Marian Aldridge**. Although not living on Brentham Estate – she always insisted that her house in Brunswick Road opposite the end of Fowlers Walk was built on a plot originally planned as part of the estate. To many she will best be remembered as May Queen in 1952 returning to participate in the Silver Jubilee parade in 1977 and again for the Golden Jubilee in 2002 and was looking forward to celebrating 100 years of Brentham Mayday in a few years time. She was proud to be associated with Brentham and will be a loss to the community.



In the 2002 MayDay parade



The Brentham Society and May Day Committee sent a very pretty wreath in the form of a May Queen's crown to the funeral and attached a card with the design shown. The service was well attended with many Brenthamites present.



**Outside their bungalow
"Ferndale" in Armthwaite,
Cumbria.**

Both Arthur's parent's families lived on Brentham and he regarded himself a true "thoroughbred Brenthamite".

We believe Ferndale was the name of one of the houses in Woodfield Road where his grandfather lived.

Arthur and Margaret Allport both died tragically following a motor accident earlier this summer near their home in Cumbria. Brought up in Denison Road, it was Arthur who inspired the Brenthamites Reunited column of Brentham News and gave us many contacts during our research for the Brentham Book. He would regularly phone us with new snippets of information; such as how, through the Brentham Book, he'd been able to make contact with an old family friend Enid Solaris (née Davey). He and Enid met up again after 55 years in Spring 2002 and Enid recalls Arthur's liveliness and memory especially of Ealing days and his work at the Bank of England. They had moved from London to Cumbria when he retired and Enid says he had become very much part of village life – just as you'd expect of a good Brenthamite!

Our sincere condolences to his son Alistair.

OVER THE GARDEN HEDGE

News, views and gossip

Naked Ambition

Watch out the naked ladies of Rylstone WI, subject of this month's storming cinema release, *Calendar Girls*, starring Dame Helen Mirren. One of the ideas that flowed from the very enjoyable Haven Arms BBQ in August (well, it was very hot and quite late on in the proceedings...) was for a 2004 *Brentham Boys* calendar, featuring popular Brentham activities carried out by our menfolk in all their manly glory. Much jollity ensued from a discussion among the ladies about which particular modesty-saving items might be pressed into service. Garden implements? A hand-made garden gate? Or perhaps a Brentham Society membership card?

Ealing's Gate Modern

Ealing North MP Steve Pound was in sparkling form as he opened Pitshanger Park's splendid new main gates, recreated from the dilapidated originals with money raised by the Pitshanger Community Association, supplemented by Council funds. Christening them "Ealing's own Gate Modern", Steve declared the gates open. Aesthetes among the assembled throng appreciated his wit, even if the rest of us took a while to get it.

Weapons of mass destruction

The Brentham Society had a call recently from a gentleman

looking for documentary proof that the gun he clearly remembered playing on as a child in Brentham actually existed. Apparently his son thought he was fibbing. We were able to refer him to an extensive chapter in Aileen Reid's book on the war years which confirms that the Brentham Club and Ealing Golf Course were the site of no less than four anti-aircraft gun emplacements. So you are completely vindicated Mr. Lowen!

Their Little Piece of History

Thanks to Sian Healey and Keith Ansell of Brunner Road, Brentham got some welcome national coverage in the August edition of *Period Living & Traditional Homes*. Sian and Keith bought their house from former Brentham Society Chair Mark Greenwood, so they got the full lowdown! And there's a nice reference to veteran Brunner Street Rep, Frank Turner too.

Trevor's Treasures

We hope Trevor Skelton's inspired idea for a community art gallery in Pitshanger Lane could soon be realised in the former Knock on Wood. As well as adding a new dimension to the Pitshanger shopping experience for all of us, it would offer a fantastic showcase for local artists of all kinds. But it will need a strong core of volunteer assistants to 'person' the premises if it is to open for business. For more details contact: **Trevor Skelton**

Summer Activites Round Up

The family cycle in June was well attended with some new faces joining the regulars. Congratulations have to go to newcomer Brendan Gann who at only 5 years old cycled the whole route there and back whilst his younger sister Freya took the easy option of a child seat on mum Tonia's bike.



Brentham Cyclists

5 year old first timer Brendan Gann with 78 year old regular cyclist George Barnes outside Osterley Park tea shop - ready for the return ride

The annual Strawberry Tea was another success and thanks again go to Barbara Murray for lending us her garden.



Barbara (2nd from left front row) with her band of helpers at the Strawberry Tea

As well as providing strawberry teas, Barbara is a great jam maker and her kitchen in Winscombe Crescent is often a hive of activity.

Have you heard this word around?
That Barbara's out to make a pound,
She needs the cash for charity,
And set her mind with clarity.

She's selling lots and lots of pots
Of boiled up fruit in great big lots.
Of boiled up fruit? I hear you say.
Yes! Barbara's making jam today.

She started with determination
To reach her goal and destination.
And being Barbara all will know
When she goes fast, she don't go slow!
She's scrounged the jars from all around
And filled them up with pound on pound.
She kept a record of her cooking
Then made some more when we weren't
looking

The last I heard was quite absurd –
Five hundred pots without a word.
The total pots keep on increasing
But fruit supplies are now decreasing.

So gardeners with surplus fruit
Now know just where to send this loot.
Don't leave it on the ground to rot
Help Barbara fill another pot !!!

ON the web, the Brentham News Group has at last seen a flurry of activity over the last couple of months. Exchanges have included topics on the use or otherwise of Vivian Green, litter, vandalism within the Brentham Club grounds and graffiti. On the graffiti front one correspondent believes that the early pioneers of Brentham were very forward thinking in their insistence of hedges – the best anti-graffiti defence system!

Why not join the group – visit
www.brentham.com
to find out how

BRENTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Compared to other parts of the Borough there is not a great deal of crime, on our Estate but this is of no consolation at all to those unfortunate enough to have been affected by it. However we shouldn't be complacent and I hope that, this largely common sense advice is of some use.

Two types of crime that are currently common on the Estate are car crime and plant theft. The theft of plant pots from front gardens is something you cannot do much about, short of cementing them to the paving, not very practical. Anything external to the house is at risk. Last Christmas, for instance, someone even helped themselves to outdoor decorative lights.

It is difficult to restrict access to front gardens but back gardens can be secured by fitting bolts that can be secured by padlock, to garden gates. Make sure that garden sheds are locked. A few years ago there was a spate of burglaries in which tools taken from garden sheds were used to break into the house to which the shed belonged and to neighbouring houses

Most burglaries are from the rear, and householders whose properties back onto open land, such as those in Meadvale Road (even numbers) should pay particular attention to security at the back. Elsewhere there are the back alleys and consideration should be given to providing lockable gates. These have proved a great success elsewhere but do require the consent of the residents affected. They would also be expected to contribute, at least in part, to the cost.

As for protecting property in the house, alarms can be fitted, but have a tendency to go off when not required to the desperation of the neighbours. Monitoring schemes are expensive but may be worth investigating especially if the on-going costs can be set off against insurance. Most burglaries are "opportunistic" and carried out within minutes so anything that delays the burglars increases the chances of them getting caught or leaving evidence.

One tip I was given is to hide the remote control units of TVs, video recorders, DVD players, hi-fi etc. Most modern equipment is useless without them and universal replacement remotes normally require the originals to program them. In deterring burglary it does not pay to be house-proud. If everything is tidy and in its place, then the burglar will know just where to look. Of course if your home is a real mess, then it may be some time before you realise you have been burgled in the first place!

Property can be marked either with an abrasive stylus or where this would spoil the item, an ultra violet marker pen. This identification mark should be house number and post code. If ultra violet pens are used it should be on areas not normally exposed to light e.g. the back of pictures the bottom pieces of china. Items. The pens can be obtained at most major stationers. Although property marking will not prevent property being stolen, it will enable recovered items to be identified.

Car crime, is always going to be a problem on an estate where there are few garages and most cars have to be kept in the street. Obviously they should be locked with any valuables out of sight. Alarms and "tracker" devices are fine but expensive. As with house alarms, car alarms do have a habit of going off by themselves. **Paul Fodrio NHW Coordinator**



For advice on home security, you can arrange for a visit by the local home beat officer : **Contact Neil Roberts.**

For more technical advice such as on alarms or monitoring systems, you can speak with the Crime Prevention Officer:

Contact Bob Maspin.

Brentham Ladies Choir



Amongst the many cultural activities in our local community, the Brentham Ladies` Choir has been running successfully for many years. Meeting at the Pitshanger Methodist Church Hall, under its musical director Paul Hazell; the choir sings a variety of light classical music and `Songs from the Shows`. It presents its own Summer and Christmas concerts and also entertains at various Residential Homes during the year. Anyone who likes to sing for the sheer pleasure of singing is very welcome to join – there are no auditions.

If you would like to know more, just call at the Methodist Church Hall on any Thursday (term time) between 1.30 – 3.15pm. or contact **Pat Watts**