



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

BRENTHAM NEWS ISSUE 151 JUNE 2004

(Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham)

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

Air of Excitement at Brentham Club

Things are changing at the Brentham Club and the Brentham Society is closely involved in an exciting new vision for this neglected jewel in Brentham's crown.

For far too long there has been a 'Them and Us' divide between the Club and the local community, not helped by an ill-conceived development plan some years ago. Now the Club has a new Management Committee which is committed to reconnecting the Club to the community, and taking practical steps to reinvigorate the place, restore the building to its original glory, and provide quality facilities that Brentham and Pitshanger people will want to use and take pride in. On the Regeneration Board both the Brentham Society (Sue Elliott) and the Pitshanger Community Association (Ron Bloomfield) are represented, and it has finance, conservation, and Lottery funding expertise. The Board's remit is to produce a costed plan to reinvent the place for the 21st century without losing its unique historical and environmental features. The Board has been working and conducting research for almost six months and is ready to start sharing its conclusions and proposals.

Briefly, these are:

- Unless the Club becomes a much more appealing proposition, it will decline further and we'll lose a unique local asset. Doing nothing is not an option - this is our one opportunity to secure its future.
- The Board's vision for the Club is to make it a high quality sports, social and leisure facility that welcomes everyone.
- Its basic appeal must be to local people who will want to support it; therefore the Club has to look outwards and reconnect with the community.
- To provide the high quality facilities that people today want, the Board is proposing an ambitious development plan for the buildings and grounds, based on George Lister Sutcliffe's original 1911 plan, a beautiful building for which space was left but which was never completed.
- All development proposals are designed to be sympathetic to the Club's unique architectural heritage and its status as Metropolitan Open Land.

None of this will happen without the involvement and support of local people, especially those who live in Brentham. The Board is planning an open event soon to look at the proposals and take your views. Make sure you are there, and that your views are heard.

These are ambitious and radical plans to reinvent the Club and arrest its long-term decline. It is one of the key buildings that make up Brentham Garden Suburb and it would be brilliant if, in time for the Club's centenary in 2011, it could return to its roots as "*the social and intellectual heart of Brentham*".

Look out for details of forthcoming consultation events, or talk to Sue Elliott.



Garden groups news



For the 2004 season we have two groups, one meeting in the evenings (first Tuesday of the month) and the other in the afternoon (third Wednesday of the month).

Both groups have got off to a busy start. We have already had a plant exchange, a trip to collect manure (50p per large bag), and a trip to the Savil Garden at Windsor. A day trip to Hidcote Garden, Gloucestershire, is planned for July.

The evening group has proved very popular (15 people attended the May meeting), but new members remain very welcome.

Maureen McCarthy

Brentham open garden day, Sunday 13 June, 2.00 pm - 5 pm

Don't miss this popular annual event. This is your chance to walk around Brentham and visit ten gardens, all different, and perhaps get ideas for your own garden. Enjoy the early summer colour and lush green foliage. Afternoon teas will be available *en route*. Advance tickets with a street map and description of each garden will be available from 18 North View on Monday 7 June, 7 pm - 9 p.m. Tickets also available on the day at 13 Brentham Way, from 2 p.m.

Nita Davies

THE BRENTHAM MAYPOLE

The pole the children danced around last month is not the original maypole. That one had to be replaced a few years ago when it was discovered to be so rotten that it had probably been unsafe for some time. The May Day committee's first attempts to buy a pole were not successful. All the wood yards approached could not supply a long enough pole of the right dimensions, and complicated suggestions such as trimming down a telegraph pole were made. The English Folk Dancing Society was approached, "Where do other May Day groups get their Poles?" No one knew. Small practice poles that are used in school playground could be bought, but a real maypole shaft was a bit of a mystery. At last someone remembered hearing that the old pole was a ship's mast, and very soon a suitable pole was found in the Chatham dock yard, owned by a company that made flag poles out of old masts. It cost £300 and was towed to Brentham by the company boss who was delighted to supply a Maypole for the first time.

The pole is 20 foot long and tapers from the base. It must be set at least a yard into the ground, in a narrow hole. It is then braced with four struts that are held on the ground by long iron pegs. This must be set up early on in the morning by a team of healthy volunteers. The combination of children and a heavy lump of wood means that this needs to be done carefully, but sometimes enthusiasm for a firm pole has superseded other requirements, such as the year the erectors forgot to attach the ribbons before they planted the pole.

The original papier-mache crown is still used, but it has been backed with fibre glass and repainted. This year saw the re-introduction of the hoop that is suspended from the crown. This is a traditional feature of Maypole decoration, and can be seen in early Brentham photos. The wreaths for decoration of the pole and the procession pole are made the evening before, and attached in the morning. The ribbons are probably not the original set, as although faded, they are in very good condition. They are weighted with lead and old pennies. All the regular Mayday helper love the event and enjoy the children's participation, but most agree the best magic the day has to offer is the first few minutes when the pole is first erected on the empty field. If you listen you can hear the green man wake up. Just so long as someone has remembered to put on the ribbons.



Planning and Conservation Question Time.

About 60 residents packed the hall at Brentham Club on Thursday 18th March to ask questions of Charmian Baker, Conservation Officer, and Robert Coomber, Senior Planner, London Borough of Ealing. The council officers emphasised that they welcome the opportunity to talk over ideas before a planning application is made. Issues raised at this meeting by Brentham residents included roof and ground floor extensions, windows, guttering, adjacent developments and enforcement of planning rules.

Extensions into the roof space and at ground floor rear are allowed but need planning permission as they alter the external appearance of the house; applications for conservatories are considered on their merits.

UPVC double-glazing however is not allowed; it is an unforgiving material with a flat appearance. Many types of timber windows do not take double-glazed units because their glazing bars are too narrow and the appearance of the window is affected. Double-glazing also has a different reflective effect and alters the character of an area, while the heating cost benefits are questionable since most heat is lost through the gaps, not the glass. Draught exclusion will cure this and reduce heating bills.

Following the example of the Hanger Hill Estate, where there are approved designs for bricks and tiles, and having standard plans of the different types of Brentham windows were thought to be good ideas to save individuals trouble and expense when submitting drawings for planning consents. Whilst the Bedford Park logbook would also be a good example for Brentham to follow, the planning officers felt they would have to rely on the Brentham Society and local people to compile it.

On replacing plastic guttering with cast iron, the advice was that modern plastic has quite a different appearance, so cast iron should be retained, though cast aluminium has been allowed. The original cast-iron hoppers inscribed "ETLtd." (Ealing Tenants Ltd.) should be conserved as they are irreplaceable.

Unsympathetic developments in adjacent areas, e.g. Brunswick and Ainsdale roads, were felt to affect the conservation area. The planning officers are aiming to achieve better designs for house extensions and accepted that, at present, the Council does not notify the Panel or the Brentham Society of applications outside the conservation area.



The Council are however about to employ a compliance officer to strengthen the enforcement team. It was suggested that Brentham follows the Hanger Hill estate by nominating a community representative to link with the enforcement department, and that a running schedule of contraventions be kept by the Council's enforcement department.

During the evening Robert Coomber referred to Brentham as 'one of the three premier conservation areas in Ealing'. There is clearly great interest in matters of planning and conservation, as many attended and asked a wide range of questions. We hope to arrange other similar evenings in the future. For a fuller report of the questions and discussion, please phone Heather Moore on 8998 0234.

Wanted: Street Watchers

No, not Peeping Toms; just people to help keep Brentham streets clean and tidy! The Council has a scheme, known as the Street Watchers Initiative, for volunteers to be extra pairs of eyes for Environmental Services. Similar to Neighbourhood Watch, individual Street Watchers report items that need attention by the department, so that prompt action can be taken.

There is no need to sit in committees or lengthy meetings - only a willingness to look about and let the Council know when something needs doing. Helpers are given a "Welcome" pack explaining how the scheme works.

If you can help in this way, contact **Linda Corbishley**.

Pitshanger Lane "Clean Up" Day

Tuesday 6th July is to be a special day devoted to sprucing up Pitshanger Lane and its immediate surroundings.

Ealing Council's Environmental Services, working with its contractors Cardinal and in co-operation with local traders, will give special attention to the Lane to deal with any persistent litter, graffiti and general cleaning. Trees, side alleys and buildings will all get attention, in addition to the usual street scene.

Volunteers to help in this clean up are welcome. All helpers will be given the right tools for the job and properly supervised to ensure there are no health and safety problems.

More details will be available on posters to be displayed after a preliminary site visit on 23rd June. The work is expected to start at 8 am and be over by mid-afternoon. Helpers can give such time as they can spare, without any obligation to stay for any set period.

If you want to register in advance to help, please contact **Tony Miller**

Membership Subscriptions 2004

It is not too late to join the Brentham Society / renew your membership for 2004. Please return your subscription (in a sealed envelope) to your membership collector or to Sean Cadogan at 12 Neville Road. Don't forget to write your name and address on the envelope (to enable the collector for your street to get a membership card to you). The subscription for 2004 is still only £2 per household (but larger donations are always appreciated and put to good use).

Sean Cadogan

The 24th Brentham Strawberry Tea

Tea, cakes, strawberries and cream.

Sunday 27th June, 3.30 - 5.30pm
At 2, Winscombe Crescent.

For residents of Brentham and their friends.
£2.50 BS members, £4.00 others,
£1.00 children.

Brentham merchandise and jam for sale.
Bring and buy plant sale in aid of Downhurst.

Donations of plants welcome.

A Big Welcome to All New Residents

Having taken the plunge to move to the area, you may already know that Brentham is a very special place to live in (Where else could you buy a book on the history of your estate - possibly even your house - from your local newsagent?). Hopefully by now you have started to make friends with (or at least met) your new neighbours and they may have told you a little about Brentham. You may have heard (or perhaps you moved here for that very reason) that Brentham is a conservation area, but what exactly does this mean and how does it affect you?

The Brentham Society has put together an information pack for new residents, which we hope will answer many of the questions that you may have about planning and conservation. It also contains details of the various social events which the Brentham Society organises throughout the year, together with other local information that may be of interest to you (e.g. a brief history of St Barnabas church and a guided walk for those of you that would like to explore Brentham on foot!). The information packs are free of charge to new residents and if you would like one please contact your street representative (details at the back of this Newsletter) or Sean Cadogan on Tel: 020 8991 0333. Welcome to the area, we hope you enjoy living here as much as we do.

Sean & Debbi Cadogan

Original Brentham Roof Tiles

Cracked or missing tiles? Original replacements are hard to find, so the Brentham Society now has a small stock of original red 'Rosemary' and other original tiles for sale to residents. £1 each. Ring Sue Elliott.

Brentham Family Bike Ride

Sunday 18 July, meet in Pitshanger Park from 1.00 pm to set off for Osterley Park at 1.30 prompt. Suitable for all ages, mostly off-road route. Cream tea as the incentive! Further details from Alan Henderson.

Published by Brentham Society

Printed by NIMA Print & Design, Eastbourne

You can contribute to Brentham News by email: news@brentham.com

