



Brentnham Garden Estate, Ealing

BRENTHAM NEWS ISSUE 152 SEPTEMBER 2004

(Distributed to residents and friends of Brentnham)

This version of Brentnham News has been adapted for the Brentnham website.

Private telephone numbers and addresses and commercial ads have been deleted.

Sue Elliott Bows Out as Chair

With some sadness, I'm putting finger to keyboard for *Brentnham News* for the last time as Chair of the Brentnham Society. The Constitution says three years is the most anyone can serve in a row, and my three years - incredibly - are up in October, so it's time to hand over to someone else. I was inveigled into taking on the Chair 'just for a year' in 2001 and ended up doing the full stint.

It's been a busy and sometimes challenging time and I step down just as the Brentnham Club is at a critical point in its future. As a member of the Club's Regeneration Board, I've been privy to the detailed and professional approach the Club is taking to its future development. I believe change, with all the inconveniences it may bring, is essential if the Club is to regain its original role as a facility for everyone in Brentnham and Pitshanger. We want an attractive, well-run Club that we'll all want to use. As plans develop, I hope you will take part in the consultation process. I will remain on the Regeneration Board for the time being, not as a representative of the Brentnham Society, but keeping in close touch with the Committee.

I intend to stand again for the Brentnham Heritage Society, the educational 'arm' that produced the centenary book and will shortly be publishing a comprehensive photographic record of the estate. We welcome new Committee members to help share the load: if you are interested in standing for either the BS or the BHS (or both!) please contact the Secretary, Eleanor Cowie, on 8998 1792 for more information. Details of the AGM are on page 4. There's still lots to do. Thank you for your support over the past three years and for the many encouraging comments I've had about the Society's work for the common interest of Brentnham and its residents.



Brentnham Club - Regeneration Update



Over a hundred residents in the immediate vicinity of the Club came to a lively meeting in July to find out more about the Club's regeneration ideas and to air their views on the results of an initial feasibility study carried out by the Club's Regeneration Board. A full minute of the meeting was distributed afterwards (*if you were there and didn't get one, or you'd like one, contact Bill Nicolson, at the Club (8997 2624) or Sue Elliott (see below).*)

Major concerns expressed were the potential for an increase in traffic; the scale, siting and purpose of a possible extension to the main building; and the possibility of vehicle access via the cricket ground entrance in Neville Road.

The Regeneration Board took note of concerns and is now considering possible options and alternatives, alongside the original feasibility study ideas, which include an extended Clubhouse containing new community facilities and eight flats for sale or rent. No decision has yet been made on a preferred plan that will go forward for planning consent.

When all options have been exhaustively considered, there will be an open exhibition of the preferred plan (originally planned for September, but now likely to be later in the autumn) and another chance for residents to comment and contribute their own ideas about the facilities they'd like to see the Club offer. Meanwhile, local interest groups and individuals will continue to be consulted on an individual basis.

If you want to know more, or have specific concerns that you haven't already registered, contact Sue Elliott.

Brentham Open Gardens Day 2004

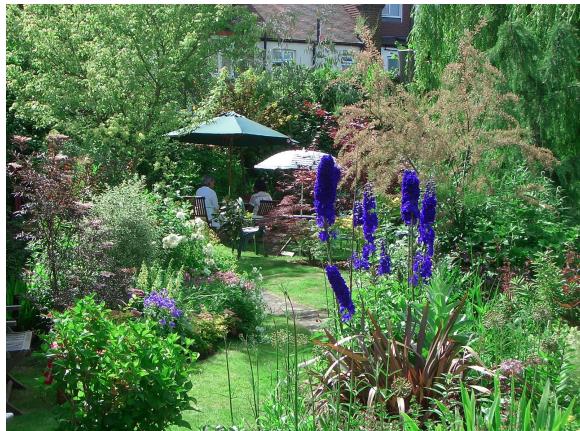
After days of cutting the grass, trimming the hedges, tidying up the borders and dead-heading all the flowers, Brenthamites woke to a sunny morning for the year's Brentham Open Gardens. Would that favourite rose be in full bloom, or was it at its best yesterday? Held in mid-June, the gardens were in the event full of early summer colour and fresh green foliage.



Until this year, I had not fully appreciated the thought, effort and time that is involved in opening your garden. As I walked around the estate during the afternoon, visitors commented on the splendour of the gardens, the hospitality of the garden openers and their enthusiasm in answering questions.



With 145 programmes sold, I knew how tiring this must have been. My sincere thanks are due then to all of you, including those who helped with the teas and sold the programmes. Particular thanks to Nicky Cadish for her help and advice, and to Pamela Webster who accompanied me around the estate when asking residents if they would be kind enough to open their gardens this year.



Finally, thank you to Michael McCarthy for taking photos - samples of which are featured here. It was fun working with you all to create an event enjoyed by so many.
Nita Davis

Discouraging foxes from your garden

Many people enjoy having foxes passing through their gardens, or basking in a sunny corner. And after all, foxes were here before ever Brentham was built. But cubs at play can wreck beds of plants, and the adults' method of marking territory as their own can make it necessary to poop-scoop your lawn every day, besides removing that chicken carcass or disposable nappy Reynard dragged out of someone's black bag - all of which can seem hard if you never chose to have animals on your premises. Or you might just find it unnerving for you or small children to be confronted by a fox.

So what can be done? Two products (apart from lion dung, which I haven't tried yet) are available. Firstly there is Renardine, a noisome dark fluid which allegedly, like the intolerable smell of skunk, keeps foxes away when disposed at fox entry points around your perimeter. Wholly ineffective, in my experience, and not actually such a bad smell: which perhaps explains why foxes quickly come to disregard it, and pass even a Maginot-line array of Renardine dispensers without visibly quickening their pace.

The second product is Animal Chaser, an electronic box which emits high-frequency sounds when instructed by a passive infra-red detector. When the fox comes within range, its body heat is detected and sounds excruciating to a fox but inaudible to humans are produced. So we acquired one, and it seemed to work. Until one day I saw not one but two clearly untroubled foxes sitting grooming themselves right in front of the device. Closer inspection revealed that the cable powering the unit had been bitten through.

Smart creatures, foxes. Does anyone know a reliable source of lion dung?

Michael McCarthy



News of residents past, present and commendably active

Following the "Welcome to New Residents" feature in Brentham News 151, we received the following from new resident Teena Lyons.

After moving here earlier this year we have been astonished and grateful for the community spirit around here. Not long after we arrived, our treasured Persian cat Matilda disappeared. Well-meaning friends said this was inevitable as we had moved house and introduced a new-born baby at the same time. However, knowing Matilda for so long - she had been with us for ten years after we fell in love with her at a Persian rescue centre - we just didn't believe this to be the case. After years as a house cat she had developed a new lease of life in Brentham and we thought she had simply lost her bearings after slipping outside.

We plastered the area with posters and were overwhelmed by the response. Although we were dubious that we would ever see her again, we quickly realised she was indeed at large. Eventually we tracked her down to a road just yards away and one final call from a kind-natured resident allowed us to be there at just the right time to find her and bring her home. She returned to the family and recovered from her ordeal thanks to the good nature and generosity in this area.

The launch of the Brentham book is still having repercussions, as the following account by former resident Judy Sharman shows.

While on a short stay at Ealing Common where my sister now lives, I was lucky enough to arrange a visit to our old family home at 67 Meadvale Road. I had moved from there to a flat at 89 Woodfield Road in 1965 before retiring to Salisbury in 1981.



Judy Sharman (centre) in Pam Webster's garden

I was very excited as it was my first return for 40 years. I first met the Websters in 2000 at the Brentham book launch, where I was introduced to them by our mutual friend Stella Bloxam. My father had rented the last remaining house in the row in 1911 when my eldest sister was only 11 months old, and by the time I came along in 1923 we made a total of six in the family. So it was a very full house, and one with less space than it now has as there used to be a coal-house projecting into the living room. It looks so beautiful now, and so much lighter and brighter as to be almost unrecognisable, apart from the lovely parquet floors in

the hall and the living room which still look good after nearly ninety-five years. The gardens front and back show Pam's expertise in displaying flowers at their very best. Revisiting the house made a very interesting occasion, for which I offer my thanks to all those involved.

Pitshanger Lane Clean-up Day

As trailed in the last Brentham News, Ealing Council's Environmental Services team duly did its stuff early in July. They concentrated on street cleaning and removing graffiti from commercial premises and street furniture. All the benches were cleaned and re-varnished (mainly by Ken Goatham of Ealing Dance Studio, and Brentham resident Tony Miller, pictured below). Graffiti on private property were not touched as individuals can apply at any time for this to be done free by the Council team. Other items were noted for the Street Maintenance team to follow up later.



Disappointingly there were few other volunteers (Where were you?) and the pre-publicity did not seem to have worked. Nevertheless the exercise seems to have been worth it and many passers-by commented favourably on what was being done.

ProHelp London

This is a charitable organisation which provides professional skills to the voluntary sector, and won a national 'Collaborative Action Award' in recognition of the work it does. ProHelp London is run by local Brentham girl Rosanna Henderson and has provided assistance directly to Brentham Heritage Society and Pitshanger Community Association. For more details visit www.ProHelp-London.org.uk

Snappy Brentham dresser seeks a good home

An original Brentham dresser donated by a resident (but in need of some repair) could be yours for a small donation to Brentham Society funds.

If interested, contact Alan Henderson



<p style="text-align: center;">Brentham Society Brentham Heritage Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 14th October 2004 at 7-30pm Main Hall, Brentham Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Look out for details, including guest speaker, on Noticeboards</p>	<p>If you are interested in joining either Committee as a working member, please contact Eleanor Cowie for more information. Your written nomination, seconded by two (paid-up!) members of the Brentham Society/Brentham Heritage Society (as appropriate) and setting out briefly what you think you can bring to the Committee/s needs to be with Eleanor by Thursday 30th September for the Brentham Heritage Society and Thursday 7th October for the Brentham Society.</p>
<p>The Brentham Society Committee has up to eight members and may co-opt two further members. These existing Committee members are prepared to stand again:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sean Cadogan Richard Costella (Treasurer) Eleanor Cowie (Secretary) Tony Miller Heather Moore (Planning) Martin Mortimore Barry Murphy</p> <p>Sue Elliott (Chair) is resigning.</p>	<p>The Brentham Heritage Society As a registered charity, its Committee has certain obligations to the Charity Commission and has to have at least four and up to nine members. These existing Committee members are prepared to stand again:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sue Elliott (Chair) Richard Costella (Treasurer) Eleanor Cowie (Secretary) Heather Moore</p> <p>Alan Henderson is resigning.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Attention Music Lovers!</p> <p><i>We've asked for more cultural activities at the Club, and here is one.</i></p> <p>'Champagne Opera', a highly-rated group of professional singers who've appeared at Covent Garden and the English National Opera, will perform highlights from classic operas and musical shows in this specially arranged evening on Saturday 9th October at the Brentham Club.</p> <p>Tickets are £28 each and include buffet supper and half a bottle of wine (sadly not champagne...) Details and bookings on 0771 422 3452, or to Jeff, the Club Manager, on 8997 2624.</p> <p>Bring your friends and make up a table for a top-quality evening's entertainment brought direct to Brentham.</p>

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

Or by writing to: The Editor 47, Meadvale Road W5 1NT

