



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

BRENTHAM NEWS ISSUE 155 SEPTEMBER 2005

(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.*

Brentham Society Chair's Notes

Looking back over the year since I became Brentham Society Chair, I have to admit to a slight feeling of frustration and impatience. So many things started, so much still to do!

The regular events in Brentham have gone off well, thanks to the usual commitment of the small band of volunteers who ensure their success - which is too often taken for granted. These are reported on elsewhere in this issue, though I must single out for special mention Barbara Murray's score of 25 not out in hosting the annual Strawberry Tea ever since its inception. A truly remarkable achievement! In addition, Wendy Sender brought a mammoth task to fruition when she completed the job of recording photographic images of every Brentham house, as reported in the last *Brentham News*. Our thanks are due to her as well.

Elsewhere, institutional bureaucracy (which affects the private as well as the public sector) has caused some problems and delays. The Club regeneration project, reported on elsewhere in this issue, has faced financing difficulties. We failed to get any satisfactory answers from the Grainger Trust (successors to the Bradford Property Trust) on security of the Denison/Ludlow green, or on the ownership of two main footpaths on the estate; we have had to abandon an attempt to get these adopted by the Council, as the cost would have been prohibitive. Our conservation area work in conjunction with the Panel has also been hampered by the acute shortage of staff in the Council Planning Department.

The Great Lime Tree Culling storm was fortunately narrowly averted, but the question of how the heritage of our trees is to be properly managed remains, as does the future of the Brentham lampposts now that responsibility for street lighting has been contracted out to a private firm. We aim to keep an eye on these last two items by entrusting individual residents with special projects to monitor and report on what is happening, so that we can co-operate with the Council and ensure we are fully consulted *before* action is taken which may damage the environment of the estate.

We do need more volunteers to help in all these tasks. If you can assist in any way, please do let us know, and come to the AGM in October to make your views known.

Tony Miller

Hedges, Alleyways and ASBOs

Legislation on oversize hedges (incorporated into the Anti-social Behaviour Act) came into force on 1st June 2005. You might be relieved (or disappointed?) to know that no ASBOs can be served in respect of complaints about hedges. If you would like *Brentham News* to clarify what this legislation does and does not cover, or to raise other concerns on the maintenance of hedges and alleyways or oversized trees, please contact the editor (see foot of back page).

Seeing Blue in Brentham



Sharp-eyed Brenthamites may have noticed that two blue plaques commemorating famous former residents have just been erected in Ealing. The first, on St Matthew's Vicarage on North Common Road, celebrates Dorothea Lambert Chambers, seven times Ladies' Champion at Wimbledon, and the Brentham Society was represented at the unveiling in July (*see picture*). Michael Balcon, the film producer, also now has a plaque at Ealing Film Studios, for which it is hoped there will be a formal ceremony in the autumn.

So why is there no plaque anywhere on Brentham? Doesn't Fred Perry, for example, deserve one as the last British Wimbledon Men's Champion? We think he does.

However, English Heritage, who now run the national scheme, have strict selection criteria. A principle one is that nominated figures must have been dead for 20 years or have passed the centenary of their birth. So while Fred certainly qualifies by reason of his achievement, he lived to nearly 86 before he died in 1995 so he is not eligible until 2009.



As it can take between two and five years from the initial suggestion to the erection of a plaque, we will be starting the process soon. All information on a nominee's links with an area are helpful, so if anyone has recollections or anecdotes about Fred's links with Ealing and the time he lived in Pitshanger Lane, the Committee would be glad to hear of them.

Tony Miller

Summer Events in Pictures



Cyclists about to set off on the annual family cycle to Osterley Park



Steve Pound presents Barbara Murray with a bottle of champagne at the 25th strawberry tea



Brentham May Day, led this year by a marching band from Wales

Brentham Club Regeneration

At last some progress to report. At the time of writing (early August) the Club's Regeneration Board is hopeful of getting at least one loan offer to fund its development plan. The front-runner is a commercial bank specialising in funding social and community projects. This is potentially excellent news for the Club, though several other hurdles remain, including a planning application. If an offer is made, Club members will vote on the plan early in the autumn before full community consultation can begin. The next version of the development plans will be produced and displayed, and the Brentham Society and the Brentham Planning Advisory Panel and local residents will be fully involved in the consultation process.

For new readers, the Regeneration Plan aims to transform the Brentham Club into a modern, family-friendly sports, social and community facility in an extended building that meets Brentham's sensitive conservation and environmental needs. If you have queries or comments meanwhile, contact Regeneration Board member Sue Elliott

International Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the V & A

In May about 20 Arts and Crafts enthusiasts from Brentham and environs visited the exhibition in a special evening tour organised by Brentham resident Diana Graves, a Metalwork Curator at the museum. After pre-tour drinks in the splendid Victorian Board Room and an introductory talk by a specialist curator our group viewed treasures of the Arts & Crafts movement in Britain, Europe, the US and Japan. Architectural drawings, paintings, textiles, furniture - including whole room reconstructions - sculpture and jewellery were beautifully displayed as Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending* played in the background, and Martin Mortimore filmed us for the Brentham DVD (see *Brentham News* 154). Then, to round off a perfect cultural and aesthetic experience, we piled into the shop to take full advantage of Diana's staff discount. The Brentham Heritage Society welcomes ideas for small group visits. Ring Sue Elliott, or Eleanor Cowie.



Mayday, Mayday (a call for help from the Brentham archivist)

The Brentham Archive has over 60 programmes for the Brentham May Day, the earliest from 1922, together with photographs and newspaper cuttings covering the annual activities and it is hoped that an exhibition can be mounted for the centenary event in 2007. But our archivist was on holiday earlier this year and hasn't got any material covering the 2005 festivities. If anyone has any spare photos, a copy of the *Ealing Gazette* of Friday 20th May, or a Brentham May Day programme they are willing to donate, please contact Alan Henderson.

Friend of Brentham **Betty Kelly** passed away peacefully on 28th June. Betty spent her early years and began her married life in Brentham before moving to Kent in 1948. Her father was Secretary of the Brentham Club and her sister was May Queen in 1922. Betty came to the Strawberry Tea with her son Michael in 2001, bringing memorabilia for the archives, and renewing friendships. Our condolences go to Michael who informed us of the sad news. *Rosanna Henderson*

Brentham Open Gardens Day

As I write about this year's Open Gardens Day it is steadily raining, which hopefully will prolong the late summer colour across the estate. Although June 12th was much cooler than in previous years, it was again dry. Eight gardens, of which four were first-time openers, provided interest and varied formats. This was a collection of typical Brentham gardens, such as the L-shaped garden, the irregular garden with hidden spaces, the straightforward oblong garden, and the split-level garden. It is interesting and encouraging for visitors to see how others cope with different kinds of sites and orientations, including some unpromising ones: the shady dry garden with limited light, the open sun-trap garden and the boggy garden. People used formal and informal planting of variegated foliage, grasses, topiary, colourful shrubs and bright annuals in pots and hanging baskets. Gardens are created by people who enjoy them for relaxation and as a hobby. Like all of us they have successes and failures in dealing with varying conditions and the unreliable elements.



Thank you to everyone who agreed to open their gardens in June, together with the many helpers on the day and the practical support given to me in organising this year's event, which raised over £200. The Brentham Society committee has resolved to donate half the proceeds to a local charity, possibly with gardening connections, and any suggestions would be gratefully received.

If you enjoy gardening, why not share the delight of your garden with others? Do contact me for a chat if you might be interested in opening your garden for the first time next year.

Nita Davis

More Planning Questions and Answers: Satellite Dishes

Q. What is the position on installing satellite dishes on Brentham houses? I thought that they were not allowed.

A. The Council's Planning Department are aware of some inappropriately placed dishes and are taking the necessary action. The following advice is taken from a guidance paper prepared by the Advisory Panel and the Conservation Officers. Copies from Heather Moore and advice from Ealing Council Planning Services.

You need planning permission to install a satellite dish in certain circumstances, and the presumption is it would normally be refused. Permission is necessary for a dish if it is greater than 90cm in diameter, if any part of it exceeds the highest part of the roof, if it is on a chimney, if it is on a wall or roof slope fronting a highway (including public footpaths), or if there is already a dish on that building.

A dish should be carefully positioned so as to **minimise its impact**. You are responsible for its selection, position and sympathetic appearance. The Council may require you to submit a planning application if it is considered that it has a detrimental impact on the conservation area. This is particularly important in Brentham where the buildings have been carefully designed and placed as architectural 'set pieces' and where side and rear views are open.

The following guidelines may be helpful. A white dish blends in on a white wall but shows up against a dark background (and vice-versa). A mesh dish is less obtrusive than a solid one. Performance is unaffected by a dish's height from the ground so it may be located low down on the building or in the garden. Cabling should take an unobtrusive route, avoiding the roof and architectural features. As an alternative to installing a dish you might consider joining a cable network to access TV broadcasts.

Heather Moore

Meet the Neighbours and Crack the da Vinci Code

One of the pleasures of living in Brentham, as gardening club members know, is meeting locals to pursue a mutual passion. Perhaps other interests could bring people profitably together, if they can make that crucial initial contact. A Brentham book club, rambler's group, garden shed society, babysitters' exchange, IT support group, exhibition visits group, power walkers' posse, pub quiz team...? If you have a special interest other Brentham residents might share and would like to be put in touch with them, contact the editor of *Brentham News* (details at foot of page 4) who will try (especially if you can give an e-mail address) to put you in touch with everyone who declares the same interest.

Change of Date!

The Brentham Society and Brentham Heritage Society AGMs will now be held on Tuesday 25th October, at 7.30 pm in St.Barnabas Millennium Hall
Guest speaker Bob Gurd of the Ealing Civic Society will offer reflections on "Conservation Areas: Museums or Living Communities?"

The Brentham Society Needs You!

The Brentham Society is run entirely by volunteers who work hard to conserve and enhance the Brentham Garden Suburb and encourage a sense of community in Brentham - an ideal shared by many Brentham residents, judging by the steady increase in membership over recent years. We need to ensure that the society continues to make a difference and we can only do this with your help. If you have as little as an hour or so to spare each month then we would very much like to hear from you.

For further information please contact Tony Miller, or Sean Cadogan. We currently have vacancies for street reps, newsletter deliverers and membership subscription collectors. There will be a free Brentham Society mug (of the china variety) for the first volunteer!

Information Packs for New Residents

The Brentham Society has recently updated its information pack for new residents. If you would like one, please contact me. We are looking at ways of "future-proofing" the packs to ensure that they remain useful and interesting to all residents. We plan to set up a working group to review these packs towards the end of this year. If you would like to help, please contact Sean Cadogan

Planning and Conservation Issues

If you are thinking of making alterations to your home, or need guidance on any aspect of planning and conservation, contact Heather Moore for an informal discussion, or contact Ealing Planning Department

Thanks

The Brentham Society committee would like to thank all of the street reps, collectors and deliverers for their help over the past year and wish one of our long-serving street reps, Frank Turner, all the very best for the future. Frank has recently moved into a retirement home in Windsor after having been born in Brentham in 1912 and lived here continuously ever since.

Secretary Needed for the Brentham Society

The job mainly involves arranging and taking minutes of Brentham Society meetings (usually 10 per year, plus the AGM), in consultation with the Chair, and distributing minutes by e-mail to Committee members. There could also be a limited amount of correspondence. For more details, please contact current secretary Eleanor Cowie.

Forthcoming Events for your Diary

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|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 September | Art classes start at the Brentham Club, all abilities, details from Pamela |
| 17-18 September | Open House Weekend, guided walks around Brentham |
| 20 October | Autumn Craft Fair, with Brentham Society stall, Methodist church, Pitshanger Lane |
| 25 October | AGM, 7.30 pm, St.Barnabas Millennium Hall |
| 26 November | Light Up the Lane, 5.30 pm onwards |
| December | Carol singing, dates to be announced |

We're very pleased that Sinton Andrews, principal sponsor of the **Brentham Book**, will make a sponsorship contribution to the reprint. If you spotted any mistakes in the first edition, please inform its editor, Wendy Sender, or email wendy@brentham.com

Chutneys for Charity

An inimitable Brentham resident has made a selection of chutneys from home produce to support the Shooting Star children's hospice. Available through Rosanna.

Published by the Brentham Society

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

