



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

BRENTHAM NEWS ISSUE 156 FEBRUARY 2006

(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

The year has started without the dire predictions of extreme winter conditions being realised - yet! Nevertheless, rocketing fuel prices and forecast of worse to come *are* realities, and this has an impact on all of us. Greater care in how we use energy and prevent waste through unnecessary loss of heat in our homes is now urgent. The *Brentham News Update* last November mentioned Powergen's home insulation scheme, warning that loft insulation may need extra roof ventilation. The Conservation Panel has followed this up with some detailed guidance (see page 2) which we recommend to anyone contemplating such work. It's a good example of how to balance improving and updating our homes with care for both the fabric and appearance of the estate, a fundamental aim of conservation.

Also in conjunction with the Panel, we have been continuing work on updating the Brentham Design Guide. Unfortunately Charmian Baker, the Council's Conservation Officer who has played an active part in this, has now moved on. We should record our thanks to her for all her help and encouragement during her time in Ealing.

Looking forward, in May we will be celebrating the centenary of the Brentham May Day. We would like to make it a special occasion, and this year we want to encourage residents to enter into the spirit by supporting the small organising committee with the event, putting out decorations, and lining the streets in Edwardian costume (go on, let your hair down!) Please offer help to Pat Chapman or Pat Baxendale, the earlier the better.

Finally, while on the subject of help we owe a debt of gratitude to Eleanor Cowie for her unstinting work as Secretary of the Brentham Society, and especially for her seemingly endless fund of knowledge about the Society and its workings. We are glad she will continue as Secretary to the BHS, and welcome Pippa Kelly to the BS Committee in the role of Minutes Secretary. More volunteers are always wanted and much appreciated, and in particular we need a successor to Richard Costella who has done a full stint as Treasurer.

Tony Miller

Brentham - the Movie!

Hundreds of hours of shooting last year of Brentham events and characters are now being whittled down to 40 minutes of pure magic in the high-tech edit suite of Martin Mortimore's Fowlers Walk home. Editing and post-production will take several months but the finished result - a 40-minute documentary DVD of Brentham's origins, history and community life plus 'bonus features' and interviews - will be unveiled and on sale at a special launch party for all residents, planned for April. Look out for further details nearer the time. If you can help at the launch (serving drinks, cloaks, setting-up, selling Brentham merchandise) please contact Rosanna Henderson.

Brentham Garden Awards

Thanks are due to Brian Vaughan for once again judging the gardens, assisted by Gill Silvester and Maureen McCarthy.

The **spring** award went to 37 Woodfield Crescent: an open corner plot used to best advantage with a wide range of plants in a narrow mixed border. A very well-tended garden. 71 Woodfield Road, 71 Meadvale Road and 42 Denison Road were runners-up.

The **summer** winner was 51 Ludlow Road: a large corner plot imaginatively planted for colour and seasonal interest. 26 Ludlow Road, 9 Denison Road and 42 Holyoake Walk were runners-up.

The **autumn** winner was 10 Neville Road: a small but stylish front garden using clipped bay trees, ferns, and glazed pots filled with burgundy-coloured petunias. 67 Meadvale Road, 5 Ludlow Road and 20 Brentham Way were runners-up.

The **Rose Bowl** for overall excellence was awarded to 39 Brentham Way (pictured left, in autumn) for a beautiful balance of colour and leaf-shape in a well-organised garden featuring topiary and providing all-year interest.



New Street Lighting in Brentham

In 2002 the Brentham Conservation Panel were asked to comment on options for street lighting in Brentham. At first sight the *Victorian* model (lower right) appeared to be the obvious choice for Brentham, being similar to the original gas lamps installed on the estate. But after viewing lamps already installed in other areas it was felt that the later period swan-necked *Strand* (upper right) was a better choice. The *Victorian* is styled to resemble an old gas lamp, but is set on a much higher column, emits a more brilliant light than the old electrified gas lamps, and will be placed at closer intervals, to meet the illumination standards now considered necessary.

While this model might look appropriate in roads such as Brentham Way, in narrower roads, particularly where there are short front gardens, it could be detrimental to the street scene and the amenity of the houses. Conservation of scale and proportion is as important as form and structure. The higher *Victorian* lamps look out of proportion to small cottages and do not reproduce the same soft, low effect of the original lighting. There is a danger that an over-cute, toytown effect will result, as in model villages where everything is slightly out of proportion, and that the four-sided lamp will shine directly into some upper-storey windows. The *Strand* design is similar to a turn-of-the-century electric lamp that was designed to be set on taller columns. Although such lamps were never used in Brentham, the Panel felt that if high columns are unavoidable it is better to use a suitable period design that looks graceful at that height. The shade-and-pendant *Strand* also casts its light downwards, lessening the risk of nuisance to nearby houses and general night-sky light pollution on the estate.

Although the original lamps were green, the panel preferred black. Originally most Brentham houses had green-painted timber, but now most timber is black or white, so the uniform quality of the street colour scheme would be better retained with black lamps. It is also easier to over-paint graffiti on black.

Decisions of this type are not easy as there is no perfect, historically correct installation on offer, so the best compromise is a matter of opinion. Either model would improve on the present lighting, and the Panel do not feel that it will be a disaster if the council installs the *Victorian* lantern.

Pat Baxendale



Conservation Areas: Museums or Living Communities?

Bob Gurd, Chair of Ealing Civic Society, posed this question at the AGM of the Brentham and Brentham Heritage Societies where he was the guest speaker. Bob summarised the history of Conservation Area legislation and outlined the threats such areas face, showing local examples from a recent tour of Brentham and focussing particularly on extensions, hard standings, replacement windows and lighting. He acknowledged the problem of defining 'enhancement' and believed that the planners did not always apply a commonsense interpretation of the term. Another major problem was the enforcement of planning law, given Ealing's shortage of planning staff. Bob encouraged residents to reinstate hedges where these had been removed, and confirmed that when lampposts are replaced, new areas of tarmac will not be laid. On double glazing he argued that it was better to use sympathetically-designed secondary glazing than to replace existing windows, and Pat Baxendale offered to supply details of a company specialising in secondary glazing.

There is a full report of the Brentham Society and BHS AGMs on the Brentham website, www.brentham.com

Roof Insulation

Several householders in Brentham may be taking advantage of the Council-supported home insulation programme (Heatstreets) being run by Powergen. If you are having your roof re-covered, or are installing roof insulation, there are some important points you should bear in mind to ensure that there are no subsequent problems, particularly with issues of ventilation in the roof space. The Brentham Conservation Area Advisory Panel has produced two guidance notes, "Recovering Roofs" and "Loft Insulation and Roof Ventilation", which draw attention to matters that you should consider. Copies can be sent or emailed to you by contacting John Kelly of the Advisory Panel, or Heather Moore of the Brentham Society or planning@brentham.com).



Bins are not pretty things...

One of the reasons Brentham still looks attractive and civilized is because we don't have huge green wheelie-bins mucking up our front gardens, as in many London boroughs. So it's a shame to see dustbins appearing in some front gardens when it's easy enough to bring rubbish through, or round the side of, your house. Bins belong at the back.

100th Brentham May Day



Please help make this year's Brentham May Day especially successful. Volunteers are needed to design an eye-catching programme, to help with dance rehearsals, and to sell programmes on the day. Also, contact details are still needed for some past May Queens because they will be invited to walk in the procession this year. If you can help in any way, please contact Pat Chapman.



Website News

The Brentham website has reached a new milestone - 5,000 visits logged. The relaunched site, with 1,300 additional pages, seems to have attracted more visitors after an article appeared the January 2006 *WestSide* magazine. The website includes historical information for every Brentham house and *building*, including the name of the architect and the date the plan was approved, but more can be added if you know something interesting about your house. Did someone famous live there? Is it one of the few that were built with an oak floor? Email your information to wendy@brentham.com. Incidentally, do you know which house in Neville Road was named after the Devon birthplace of Brentham's 'founding father', Henry Vivian, and was inspected by the royal party when the Duke of Connaught opened the Brentham Institute on 27 May 1911? (Answer is on p. 4 and the website photo survey pages.)

You can have your own Brentham email address for £10. They look like this: nameofyourchoice@brentham.com so for example jane.hardy@brentham.com. The address is yours to keep and mail is forwarded to your existing email address. If that changes, tell us and we will change the forwarding. Interested? Email wendy@brentham.com



Frank Turner, 1912-2005

Frank lived in Brentham for almost all his life, and was our oldest inhabitant until his recent move to a retirement home in Windsor. As a boy living in Ludlow Road he began his long association with the Brentham Club, where he played a wide range of sports and became a friend of budding tennis star Fred Perry. He served in North Africa during WW2, and after his battalion was captured he went on the run from the enemy, eventually making his way back to England. Post-war he returned to work in banking, becoming manager of the NatWest at Ealing Common. Frank was happily married for 60 years to Joan, who died in 2000. He was a true gentleman who always had a smile and a twinkle in his eye, and a familiar figure in Pitshanger Lane. He will be greatly missed.

Brentham Garden Groups

The two groups were again well attended in 2005 and met monthly throughout the spring and summer. The evening group visited one another's gardens for discussions and enjoyed Brian Vaughan's presentation on the history of the rose, and Sally Kelly's demonstration of her propagation techniques. The afternoon gardening group had bi-monthly outings, visiting private gardens in Harrow, Capel Manor at Enfield and the Saville Garden at Windsor. For 2006 we have received £50 from the Brentham Society to invite a speaker, and suggestions for a topic will be welcome. Evening group meetings restart at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 4 April at Laura's, 15 Fowlers Walk, and the afternoon group at 2 pm on Wednesday 12 April at Maureen's, 28 Holyoake Walk. New members are very welcome, especially for the afternoon group. Gardening knowledge or hosting meetings not necessary.

Maureen McCarthy

Brentham Club Regeneration

At present, regeneration efforts are taking a pause for reflection as the Club's Management Committee consider how best to proceed. Though the Committee accept the case for regeneration and support the vision for a refurbished and extended Club, it has not been possible to raise finance for the outline scheme recommended by the Regeneration Board through a single bank loan. Other financing routes, and perhaps other options and designs, may now have to be explored. We'll keep you posted as and when there is further news to report.

Sue Elliott

Emery Walker's House, Hammersmith

Last year the former home of Sir Emery Walker, typographer and friend of William Morris, was briefly opened to the public. It has possibly the UK's best-preserved Arts and Crafts interior. The threat that the house might be sold and the contents dispersed appears to have receded, thanks to efforts led by Dr Aileen Reid, author of the Brentham book and Curator of 7 Hammersmith Terrace, It has been reprieved and will open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays between 6th April and 28th July 2006. For more information visit www.emerywalker.org.uk.

Sadly, Maureen ("Mo") Aarons who was the first Treasurer of the Brentham Society in the early 1970s has passed away. An obituary will appear in the next edition of Brentham News.

<p align="center">Brentham Society Membership Renewals</p> <p>Please renew or consider taking out membership of the Brentham Society, using the envelope enclosed with this issue of <i>Brentham News</i>. Membership is increasing year on year, and now includes 49% of Brentham households, while the subscription remains a modest £2 per household. If you have one, we are also asking you this year to provide an email address, so the Society can inform you promptly of upcoming events, but we guarantee not to pass it on to third parties.</p>	<p align="center">Charity Collections and Sales</p> <p>Congratulations to Brentham carol singers who collected £233 for the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust. And to Ludlow Road residents whose table sale on a cold, rainy day last November raised £500 to relieve victims of the Kashmir earthquake.</p> <p>Sally Kelly's annual charity plant sale (to benefit the Motor Neurone Disease Association) will be held at 2 Ruskin Gardens on Sunday 26th March, 1-4 pm.</p>
<p>Original internal stripped wood 4-panelled Brentham door for sale, H 196cm, W 76cm, D 4 cm. Any reasonable offer considered. Mr & Mrs Heaven</p>	<p align="center"><i>Answer to the question on page 3: 11 Neville Road</i></p>
<p align="center">Brentham Community Events and Activities</p> <p>The first meeting of the Brentham Reading Group will be held on Wednesday 15 February in the bridge room at the Brentham Club. Walter Wyeth of the Pitshanger Bookshop will lead a discussion of Evelyn Waugh's novel <i>Scoop</i>, and future plans for the reading group can be agreed.</p> <p>Want to get fitter in 2006? Come along to the Tuesday morning Walking Group, who meet at 8.00 a.m. at the Meadvale Road gate of Pitshanger Park for a 30-minute circuit of the park. Not so much power walking, more of a brisk stroll. For further details contact Rosanna.</p> <p>Join the Brentham contingent on Monday 20 February at a concert performance of Gershwin's <i>Porgy and Bess</i>. BHS Secretary Eleanor Cowie will be singing in the choir and Mark Forkgen, Music Director of Ealing Youth Orchestra, will conduct the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Hear best-loved solos and choruses like 'Summertime', 'I Got Plenty o' Nuthin', and 'It Ain't Necessarily So', and Michael Tippett's arrangement of five familiar spirituals. Tickets from the Barbican Box Office, ☎ 7638 8891 or online at www.barbican.org.uk</p>	<p align="center">Can You Spare 30 Minutes a Month?</p> <p>Volunteers are needed to serve as one of the street reps for Neville Road, Brunner Road, or the bottom of Brentham Way. You deliver a welcome pack to any new residents, and act as a point of contact for residents in your street. We also need a membership subscription collector for Neville Road. Offers of help to Sean or Debby will be very welcome.</p> <p align="center">Planning and Conservation Issues</p> <p>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, ☎ 8825 6600</p> <p align="center">Bringing Brentham News to your Door</p> <p>Our thanks to retiring <i>Brentham News</i> distributor Peter Cattermole. If you can complete our loyal team by delivering to Winscombe Crescent, please contact Michael McCarthy</p>

