



**BRENTHAM  
NEWS  
ISSUE 158  
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(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

Conservation of the unique character of Brentham was a founding principle of the Brentham Society when it was set up in 1970, following the estate's designation in 1969 as one of Ealing's first Conservation Areas.

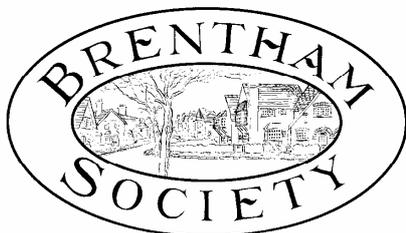
An early achievement was persuading the Council to use its powers under Town & Country Planning legislation to make Brentham subject to what is known as an Article 4(2) direction. This was achieved in 1975. It means that a range of what would otherwise be automatic "permitted development rights" became subject to the need for planning permission. This now covers any enlargement, improvement or other alteration to properties, including things such as changes to doors and windows, exterior painting, boundary hedges or other "means of enclosure" and hard standings.

After 30 years, it was inevitable that the rules needed revision. To clarify its application to new developments such as satellite dishes, as well as to take account of more recent Planning Acts, a revised Article 4(2) was prepared last year by the Conservation Officers in conjunction with the Conservation Panel and the Society. After a full twelve months of struggling with bureaucracy, we are pleased to report that this has finally been approved.

The aim is not to stop change, but to see that all alterations are carried out in a manner which will (in the words of the Act) "preserve or enhance" the character of the conservation area. We still have to ensure that developments meet these criteria and that desirable work, such as that proposed for the Brentham Club, is sympathetic to its surroundings and other rules (the Club is a Grade II listed building).

There are also many elements of the local environment which are not covered. One is the sensitive question of the renewal of street lighting, planned replacement being due to start in Meadvale Road in the next 12 months. This is to be done under the PFI contract with EDF, about which we have several misgivings, and we are still in discussion with the Council about this. More later!

Tony Miller



**Annual General Meeting,  
Brentham Society &  
Brentham Heritage Society  
Thursday 26th October 2006,  
7.30pm  
Brentham Club, Meadvale Road**



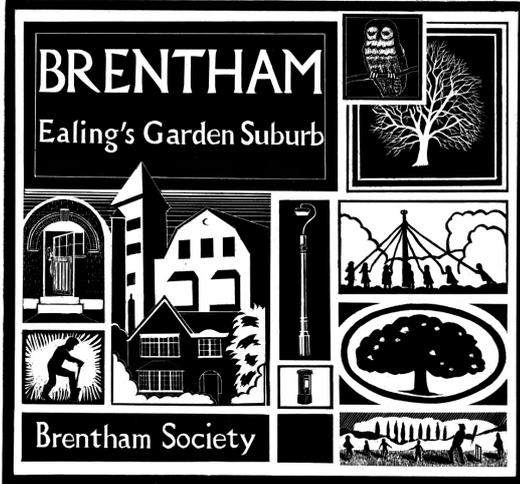
Nominations to serve on the Committee of either the Brentham Society or the Brentham Heritage Society (seconded by two members of the appropriate society) should be submitted in writing to the Secretary by **11th October** for the **Brentham Heritage Society** or **18th October** for the **Brentham Society**.

Before the AGM, Dr. Jonathan Oates, Ealing's Local History Archivist, will give an illustrated talk based on his new book  
***Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Ealing***

*Refreshments will be served*

## Japanese Survey Rates Brentham

Earlier this year, you may remember getting a questionnaire through the door from Professor Hiroko Saito of the Faculty of Real Estate Sciences, Meikai University, Japan. Prof Saito, who is researching the effect of community effort on housing quality and value, was delighted with the response - 136 returns from about 400 questionnaires sent out. So thank you to everyone who responded and special thanks to Hiromi Holdsworth for helping out with translation. Prof Saito has now sent us the results, which she hopes will be as interesting to us as they are useful for her.



Her questions all relate to people's attitude to living in Brentham and what they think most affects the quality of our living environment. The headline results confirm that we appreciate Brentham's special qualities and value efforts to conserve and enhance them:

97% think Brentham's living environment as a whole is *Good* or *Very Good*

95% believe planning guidelines are necessary, but one in three think some of them should be changed

96% are pleased to live in a Conservation Area and 79% believe their house is more valuable than a comparable property outside Brentham.

There's useful information for the Brentham Society and the Brentham Heritage Society too:

88% believe the Brentham Society helps improve the local living environment.

In particular people value 'maintenance of the special character' (89%) and 'green spaces' (81%)

Publishing the Brentham book, liaising with Ealing Council and discouraging hard surfacing of front garden were also rated highly

Less positively, barely half the sample ever attended Brentham Society events, reflected by the low-ish 55% who think events and activities are important to improving our environment. But there's a ringing endorsement for *Brentham News*: 88% think it's important in helping improve the living environment, and 91% find it *Very* or *Fairly Interesting*. So we're doing something right!

To see the full survey results, contact [editor@brentham.com](mailto:editor@brentham.com) Artwork shown above is by Bernard Johnson.

**The Brentham Story, our superb DVD, is now also available on  
VHS tape at £12 from Martin Mortimore**

### Muriel Noppen

Miss Noppen's family moved to Ludlow Road in 1924, when she and her twin brother were a few weeks old. She attended Notting Hill School and Ealing Art School, and then served in the Wrens as a flight mechanic. After the war she worked as a commercial artist for several London advertising agencies.

An energetic and eccentric character, she pursued various interests: membership of her church, travel and amateur dramatics. She had a great love of public ceremony and royal occasions. Manoeuvring her small car around Brentham, and later a bicycle, Miss Noppen was a well-known figure and few local events took place without her. In recent years ill health had made life very hard for her, but she remained determined to be independent and to stay in her cottage, which retained original Ealing Tenants fittings, furniture and decoration.

Her funeral at St. Barnabas was attended by many friends and neighbours, who were moved by the address by Fr. Carl Le Prevost, who paid tribute to her indomitable spirit in the face of difficulties.



## Brentham Family Cycle

On a very hot Sunday 16 July, fifteen intrepid Brenthamites cycled down the byways, footpaths, towpaths and cycle tracks from Pitshanger Park to Osterley Park where they had a well-earned tea before cycling back. In all they covered 14-and-a-half miles.



## George Barnes, 1924-2006

George developed an early passion for flying, and though under-age he joined the RAF during the Second World War. However, during training in Canada he contracted the rheumatic fever that affected his health all his life, and was hugely disappointed to be invalided out and miss active service. Postwar he took a course in optics which set the pattern for the rest of his career, during which he and his professional partners built up a chain of opticians in the City. After his first wife died he met and married Anne in 1974.



George was a man of strong character and exacting standards who gave constant support and entertainment to all those around him. He loved telling anecdotes as much as he loved riding his motorbike, sailing and being engagingly outrageous. He gave lavishly in time and effort to supporting the Brentham Society. George was up for almost anything: amateur film-making, dressing up as a walrus-moustached Brentham Pioneer at the Haven Arms founders' centenary, joining the annual cycle ride, installing Brentham's street noticeboards, posting new flyers, and impersonating the Spanish waiter from *Fawlty Towers* at strawberry teas. But unlike Manuel, George was anything but a waste of space, as the Hanwell Carnival, the Meadow House Hospice and the Samaritans came to know, for he was ever ready to help others.

As he grew older he grew mellower, learning to see life more from other people's perspectives, though he still loved the fun of a lively argument, often for its own sake. He was a much loved, totally irrepressible, larger-than-life character, and Brentham will miss him.

## Brentham in the 1940s

Recollections of an earlier phase of Brentham life have come in from residents and former residents who kindly sent them to the editor or the website. (Posting this material there may of course draw in further fascinating material from far and wide.) One contributor recalls buying sweets (rationed in wartime to 4 ounces per person, with a couple of extra ounces thrown in for good measure) from an allotment hut behind the Brunswick Road houses. Mrs Jean Spangaard (*née* Rowe) remembers the scarcity of road traffic on the estate, and that streets were provided with galvanized bins in which residents were invited to deposit potato peelings and the like for fattening pigs to feed the beleaguered nation.

Langdon Jones recalls the massive oak which stood (until around 1957) at the corner of Holyoake Walk and Pitshanger Lane. It had a wooden frame attached, with alternate black and white stripes to warn oncoming vehicles. Unfortunately, as traffic along Pitshanger Lane increased, the decision was taken to remove the tree. Residents were unhappy to see it go, because it was a prized local landmark. [*Does anyone have an old photograph of it? - ed.*]

Lang also recalls the rather scanty school meals of this period of austerity, the two air-raid shelters, forming grassy humps, in the field at the rear of North Ealing Primary School, and the headmistress' two beehives. His father also kept bees, owning five hives, so Lang was liable to be stung both at home and at school, and developed an allergy to bee venom. On one occasion his foot became so badly swollen that he

was unable to wear shoes and missed a day's school. Ironically, though the sting had been inflicted by one of the headmistress' own bees, his absence was considered by her to be entirely out of order!

Neither were pupils excused during icy weather from doing PT outdoors in their vests. Supervising teachers were so well muffled up, Lang recalls, in multiple layers of warm clothes that only their vaporous breath revealed the human being within. Indoors, classrooms remained indistinguishable from those to be seen in Victorian photographs, with inkwells set in wooden desks whose occupants were required, on pain of incurring the teacher's acute displeasure, to keep unoccupied hands in laps at all times.

*More recollections (and photographs?) by readers with long memories of Brentham would be very welcome. See contact details at foot of page, or log on to the Brentham website, [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com)*

<p>It's not too early to think about Christmas!</p> <p><i>The Brentham Story</i> is now available on both DVD and video.</p> <p>An ideal gift for distant friends and relatives. Available at £12 from the Pitshanger Bookshop or direct from the BHS by contacting <a href="mailto:sue@brentham.com">sue@brentham.com</a></p>	<p><b>Can you help the Brentham Society?</b></p> <p>It needs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A new membership secretary</li> <li>2. A co-ordinator of street representatives</li> <li>3. Someone to look after the Friends of Brentham</li> <li>4. A street rep for Holyoake Walk</li> <li>5. A membership collector for Holyoake Walk</li> <li>6. A newsletter deliverer for Woodfield Crescent</li> </ol> <p>Offers please to Sean or Debbi</p>
<p><b>Ealing Art Group's 91st Annual Exhibition and Sale</b> of Original Art &amp; Craft will be held this year, for the first time, at the <b>PM Gallery, Pitshanger Manor, Walpole Park Thursday 9th - Sunday 12th November.</b></p> <p>Admission free.</p> <p>Openings: Thurs 1 - 5 pm, Fri 1 - 9 pm, Sat 11 am - 5 pm, Sun 1 - 4 pm</p>	<p><b>The Autumn Craft Fair</b> will be held at the Methodist Church Hall, Pitshanger Lane, on <b>Saturday 18 November.</b></p> <p>Donations of cakes for sale on the Brentham Society stall, alongside the Brentham book, DVD, mugs, bags, tea-towels etc. are especially welcome.</p>
<p><i>Are there other local events or activities you know of which might interest other Brentham residents? If so, you are very welcome to submit them for inclusion, if space permits and at the Editor's discretion, in a future edition of Brentham News, the next edition of which will appear in February 2007.</i></p>	

