



BRENTHAM NEWS ISSUE 159 FEBRUARY 2007

(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

*Now the New Year reviving old Desires
The thoughtful Soul to Solitude retires*

- or so claimed Edward Fitzgerald in *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. No such luck for your Chairman! The start of 2007 has seen us involved in no fewer than five sets of negotiations with Ealing Council about matters which affect the Brentham environment. Briefly, I can report:

The **Article 4 Direction**, about which residents were consulted in December, has at last been approved by the relevant Council committee, and came into force on 8 February. There will be formal notification about this; we will be happy to give more details if required.



Our **petition on the proposed 20mph area**, asking for Brentham to be excluded from the Birkdale Road - Mount Avenue zone, collected over 500 signatures. Presented by Sue Elliott on 16 January, it asked the Council to come and talk to us about more appropriate measures, and I followed this up at the Ealing Area Committee on 6 February. We have now been promised that Officers will be asked to look again at the plan and we hope to be having early discussions with them and the Pitshanger Community Association about other and better ways of dealing with traffic calming in the whole of the Pitshanger area.

The **CPZ re-consultation** being carried out in roads west of Lynwood Road/Birkdale Road has led some residents in Brentham to be concerned about a "creeping" area which would come right up to the conservation area boundary. We are now monitoring the process to ensure that we will be consulted about any extension in the present zone that goes beyond the immediate area bounded by Lynwood Road.

The first analysis of the **wheelie bin consultation** shows that there is a small majority across the Borough as a whole against any change from the present refuse collection arrangements, with over 50% in Hanger Hill ward against introducing wheelies. The Council will now have to decide how to deal with the results, particularly as there were several areas that did vote for them. It is probable that a hybrid scheme will be developed, which will entail further public consultation, in which we would certainly expect to take part.

Street lighting continues to be an issue, and we are in yet more discussions at the moment, with a meeting promised with the Leader of the Council. Together with the Conservation panel and other interested groups in Ealing, we are pressing for changes to the detail of the PFI contract with EdF. We want to see more suitable plans for lighting throughout Brentham, and to preserve at least some of our original cast-iron columns. There are cost implications, so it may be some time before we get a decision, but we will keep residents informed through *Brentham News*.

Tony Miller

Brentham Society Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again when we ask you to renew or consider taking out membership of the Brentham Society. The annual subscription remains only £2 per household. Please complete the enclosed membership form and return it with your subscription to your street representative using the envelope provided. (We should be grateful if you would return the membership form even if you pay by standing order). Should you wish to make a donation, please include this with your subscription in the same envelope. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Would you like to have a Brentham e-mail address?

You can secure your own snappy [name]@brentham.com address for the ridiculously low price of £10.

Details from webeditor@brentham.com.

Proceeds go to the Brentham Heritage Society to help fund its educational work.

Bowling at the Brentham Club



Have you ever thought of trying your hand at bowls? If so, put a note in your diary that there will be opportunities at the Brentham Club to come down and have a go on Thursday 3rd May and Friday 4th May from 4.30 pm onwards, and on Saturday 5th May from 10.30 am to noon. Just bring some flat shoes - the Club will supply the woods. On entering the grounds, go towards the hard tennis courts, look to the left and you will see the bowling green.

Bowls is a sport for all ages, and provides a highly enjoyable competitive activity even when the bones and muscles may be starting to be painful. You can become a good club bowler within a few weeks, and enjoy the thrills of chess-like tactical manoeuvring. The Brentham Club has flourishing mixed, men's and ladies' bowls teams, and in 2006 it provided the runner-up in the Middlesex singles final.

One lady became a Middlesex champion five years after taking up the sport. More players are needed to take part in local competitions, friendly games or just to come and enjoy themselves. For more details contact Bob Worley, Captain and Secretary of the Brentham Bowls Club, robertworley@btinternet.com

Brentham Open Gardens Day 2006

We certainly couldn't fault the weather! Sunday, 11th June 2006 was a beautiful hot summer's day. There were ten gardens, of which seven were first-time openers and this proved to be very popular. For the first time there was a plant sale in one of the gardens. We sold more programmes than ever (143) and even ran out of them! This year all proceeds went to charity. £473 was raised and the proceeds went to the Shooting Star House Children's Hospice in Hampton, specifically for the upkeep of its garden project. £115 was raised from the plant sale and went to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The gardens were an interesting and varied collection of new, mature, wildlife, cottage and Mediterranean style gardens and all looked beautiful in spite of the hosepipe ban that we had all been so worried about. It



is interesting 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 suntrap garden and the boggy garden.

There was tea and cake in one of the larger gardens, where people nattered to friends about the delights they had viewed. Thanks go to all those who opened their gardens and to all the many and varied helpers who made it such a success. The day ended with drinks and nibbles for all those involved, which rounded off the day nicely.

The Open Gardens Day this year is Sunday 12th June 2007. We would again like to open some new gardens as well as some of last year's. Any recommendations would be welcome, and volunteers to sell programmes, help with teas and make cakes would also be appreciated. The contacts for this year are Carole Fairclough and Laura Mackiewicz.

Brentham Heritage Society News

We have two main priorities for 2007. The first is preparing an application to English Heritage for a Blue Plaque for 223 Pitshanger Lane, childhood home of Fred Perry until his hat-trick of Wimbledon wins in the 1930s. Perry doesn't qualify for a plaque until 2009 - the centenary of his birth - but we're starting now because English Heritage asks for substantial biographical background and evidence that no other buildings

in London have a better claim. We're lucky to have help with this from Jon Henderson, a sports journalist currently writing Perry's biography. If any reader can contribute information (and some of you already have) please contact editor@brentham.com

Our other project is a publication explaining how and why Brentham architecture contributes to the estate's special character. This is still in the early planning stages but we want it to be a practical document full of illustrations showing how architectural features were created originally - and how they can be recreated, restored and maintained by today's residents.

Sue Elliott

MBE for Brentham resident



Congratulations to Carol Priestley of Ludlow Road (previously of Denison Road) who was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list in recognition of her services to science in developing countries and emerging economies. Early in her career she worked on improving mathematics and science education in Afghanistan, and she went on to take up assignments with the British Council in Bangladesh and Egypt. More recently she has led a project to enable developing countries to share scientific information and research. Carol regards her MBE as a tribute to work carried out by

colleagues and herself around the world to ensure that all people can access the information and ideas necessary to promote sustainable and equitable development.

Letter to *Brentham News*

I was worried to read in the December edition that the council may introduce wheelie bins for rubbish collection in this area. Wheelie bins would be a disaster for a number of reasons:

1. The black bag system works very well in my street (despite sightings of foxes etc.) Rarely is there a mess and the collection is super-fast and efficient - in fact I have never seen a mess in Winscombe Crescent. The refuse truck is in the road only briefly, and man-hours and street pollution are minimised.
2. The design of my front garden cannot accommodate a wheelie bin, and if it had to 'live' on the street it would bring the look of the neighbourhood down. Apart from the concern over the value of our homes, who wants to live with refuse at the front of their house anyway? I bring my black bags through the house from the rear garden on a Thursday morning - to do this with a wheelie bin would be all but impossible.
3. Wheelie bins would reduce recycling as people would just throw everything into them.
4. Plastic bins would take time to empty into the trucks, hence blocking streets.
5. They are too large for many of the single senior citizens who live on the estate.
6. They are a nightmare for the disabled.
7. Having seen some urban areas that use wheelie bins, they are blighted by them and the bins misused for 'knocking over' games etc.
8. Providing bins would impose a capital cost the Council can do without - if it ain't broke, don't fix it.
9. They become dirty and smelly inside.
10. Last but not least, the absence of wheelie bins is one of the reasons I moved here three years ago!

I know there are many others who feel the same. This is a well-maintained area and I hope our concerns get the appropriate consideration. In a different style of neighbourhood, with large driveways and garages, where the bins could be literally wheeled out on refuse day, it might work - but here many of the homes are terraced or have no driveway and the only option would be to keep them on the street. If bins are adopted they will be an eyesore and an environmental disaster.

Dr. Stuart Carter, Winscombe Crescent

Brentham Gardeners

Both garden groups had a good year in 2006, despite the heatwaves, the drought and the hosepipe ban, and we ended on a high note with a new event. Assisted by a donation of £50 from the Brentham Society we were able to engage a speaker from Capel Manor Horticultural College for an illustrated talk - plants for small gardens - which members found useful and enjoyable.

The hosepipe ban is now lifted and we are hoping for a more normal gardening year in 2007, though already the seasons are well advanced, with camellias flowering from early January. In 2007 we will be continuing to meet monthly: the afternoon group on the third Wednesday of each month from March to October, and the evening group on the first Tuesday similarly. The first afternoon meeting this year will be held at 29 Denison Road on 4th March at 2 pm, while the evening group will resume at 7.30 pm on 6th March at 3 Ruskin Gardens. New members are always very welcome, meetings are relaxed and friendly, and no gardening knowledge is required.

Maureen Monaghan

<p style="text-align: center;">The Brentham Society</p> <p>The Society is grateful to Kim Butler and Catrin Morgan for taking over the roles of membership secretary/street reps co-ordinator from Sean and Debbi who have fulfilled them very efficiently for an extended period. Sean will however continue to collect membership subscriptions for Neville Road.</p> <p>Thanks are due also to Barbara Murray, who has taken over from Debbi the role of contact person for the Friends of Brentham. As many Friends will know, Barbara is a long-standing Brentham resident who has hosted the annual Strawberry Tea for the last 26 years.</p>	<p>Visitors from Brentham will be especially welcome at the Hampstead Garden Suburb spring lecture, <i>From Spuds to Chelsea: Vegetable Growing and Gardening in Suburbia</i>, to be given by <i>The Independent's</i> Cleve West (<i>The Urban Gardener</i> and 2006 Chelsea Gold Medallist) at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14 March in the Free Church Hall, Northway, NW11. Non-members £3.50, refreshments available. On Saturday 31 March, the HGS Horticultural Society will hold its Centenary Spring Flower Show, 2-4 pm at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11, entry £1.</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 of the Brentham Society at planning@brentham.com to arrange an informal discussion, or contact Ealing Planning Department, ☎ 8825 6600</p>	<p>The Ladies' Bowls Section of the Brentham Club will be hosting a quiz on Friday 9 March. Entry fee £20 for a team of 6. .</p>
<p><i>William Morris in Hammersmith.</i> Dr Aileen Reid, author of the Brentham Book, will be leading a study morning on this topic at 7 Hammersmith Terrace on Monday 9 July.</p>	<p>The Brentham Reading group's February choice is <i>A Hundred Years of Solitude</i> by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and for their March discussion members will be reading Ian McEwan's novel <i>Atonement</i>.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><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 June 2007.</i></p>	

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You can send contributions to *Brentham News* by emailing news@brentham.com

