



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

BRENTHAM NEWS ISSUE 160 JUNE 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

The Brentham Society exists, in the words of its constitution, to "encourage, preserve and improve the character of the Estate". This includes stimulating interest in the original form of the Garden Suburb, promoting community activities and the interests of its residents.

Support for the May Day activities is of course a central part of this. As reported later in this edition, the hard work of the small *ad hoc* committee which runs the day overcame the weather to stage not only the procession but also the full programme of maypole dancing, even if the sodden state of the field meant that it had to be completed within St Barnabas. Our thanks are due to the church as well as the organisers, for enabling the event to be triumphantly completed.

Keeping alive the traditional aspects of the community is not however our only objective. "Preserving the environment" has now acquired a meaning wider than ensuring that the architectural integrity of the original estate is maintained. While we battle to protect the setting of our houses by preventing inappropriate developments and a deterioration of the street scene through loss of trees, poorly designed lighting or badly thought out traffic calming measures, other changes, such as action to reduce global warming, have to be taken into account.

The welcome rise in awareness of the importance of "green" issues must go hand in hand with a recognition that there are no simple solutions to the problems of energy efficiency in older buildings. We have to look for ways to meet these challenges, and avoid bureaucratic imposition of new building regulations which could permanently damage the properties themselves. One local resident has recently reported that a council surveyor seriously suggested that the roof of his house should be raised by 150mm (6" to the original builder!) in order to accommodate the required level of internal insulation. Such potential vandalism must be resisted, and it will be an on-going task of the Society to work with the authorities to find satisfactory solutions to the very real problems of conservation, in both senses.

Tony Miller

Visit Charleston, stunning country home of the Bloomsbury Group

The Brentham Heritage Society is organising a trip to Charleston, the country home of Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant which became a retreat for fellow Bloomsbury Group artists and writers Virginia Woolf, E M



Forster and others. The beautiful house and gardens, near Lewes in East Sussex, is a permanent reminder of their creativity and reflects the Arts and Crafts decorative style of the years they spent there, with murals, furniture, textiles, ceramics, and works by Renoir, Picasso and Sickert.

The visit is on **Friday June 29th**. The price is £8, including a guided tour of the house and coffee. There's a café for lunch or you can bring a picnic to eat in the grounds. Like last year's visit to Kelmscott, we'll travel there by car - let us know if you can offer spaces in return for a contribution

towards petrol costs.

Brentham Open Garden Day 2007



Are you wondering what to do in your garden this year? Come along to the Open Garden Day to get some ideas. This year some previously unseen gardens can be visited, plus the return of some old favourites. As happened last year, a plant sale will take place and teas will be available. Proceeds from the sale of tickets, teas and the plant sale will go to charity.

The Open Garden Day will be held on Sunday 10 June from 2pm to 5pm. A programme with descriptions and a map will be available from addresses posted on the notice boards nearer to the date.

For more information, see the Brentham website. Any help with selling programmes, serving teas and/or making cakes would also be appreciated.

Brentham May Day

Heavy downpours on May 12th failed to dampen the enthusiasm of over a hundred young participants in Brentham's 101st May Day celebrations. Fortunately the weather relented enough near the scheduled start time for the procession, encouraged on its way by the Yiewsley and West Drayton Band, to make its circuit of Brentham and end up safely under cover at St. Barnabas church for the crowning of Queen Jessica Duckworth and the maypole dancing.

Thanks are due to Martin Mortimore and Dave Hobbs for the images reproduced below and on the Brentham website, www.brentham.com



Visitors this year included two from Hawaii, photographer Minako Ishii (right) and writer Rusty Kent. After seeing the Wikipedia entry on Brentham May Day they arranged to come here to capture our celebrations for a children's book which will compare Hawaii's / *Lei* Day - their traditional May Day event - with our own ceremonies.



Rusty was heard to say: "It's all so cute, I keep thinking I'm in a Harry Potter movie!"

Whatever's Going on Here?



It would be good to be able to report that Thames Water is making amends for leaky pipework, sky-high bills and last year's hosepipe ban by installing an ornamental water feature at the junction of Brunner Road and Pitshanger Lane (Pooh Corner as it is still known to some). But no, it was just one more mishap with the water mains, on a more spectacular scale than usual.

Photo by courtesy of Keith Hassan

Happy 100th Birthday, Hampstead Garden Suburb!

Our sister garden suburb in NW11, founded by Henrietta Barnett, began its centenary celebrations on 2nd May 2007. Exactly 100 years earlier, Dame Henrietta had cut the first sod on the site of what was later to become Hampstead Garden Suburb, and the event was graced all those years ago by visitors from Brentham who came to "braid the Maypole" and sing "May songs". For the HGS centenary, its Horticultural Society has created a specially-planted flowerbed (pictured below) which was inaugurated by the expert ribbon-cutting of the President of the HGS Society, Jonathan Ross.

A familiar note for any visitor from Brentham was struck by the maypole dancing, performed this time by pupils of King Alfred School. Less familiar in our corner of Ealing (so far) are the wheelie-bins, which are visible all over Hampstead Garden Suburb. Let Brentham beware!

Photos by Heather Moore



Brentham Goes Global!

Some examples of enquiries we have received from around the world:

The Athens-based author of a book about the development of garden suburbs in Greece and Europe, inspired by a visit here last year, wants to write about Brentham and include photos from the Brentham book.

A technical college in Vienna placed an order for the Brentham book and sent an employee to collect it. (Admittedly she was staying with her sister in High Wycombe at the time...)

An architect from a large practice in Portland, Oregon has ordered the Brentham book and DVD - it later transpired that his cousin lived in Fowlers Walk.

Dates for your Diary	Party in the Park
<p>Sunday 10 June Open Garden Day Sunday 24 June Strawberry Tea & Party in the Park Friday 29 June BHS Outing to Charleston, near Lewes, East Sussex Saturday 15 September & Sunday 16 Sept. London Open House Week- end, guided walks Thursday 18 October Annual General Meetings of Brentham Society & BHS December (date TBA) Carol singing</p>	<p>The Pitshanger Community Association's annual Party in the Park will be held in Pitshanger Park on Sunday 24th June. The proceedings will start at 1 pm and continue till 9. Fun for all the family, with all the usual attractions: stage acts, dog show, old-fashioned carousel, beer tent, along with the 'Pitshanger Popstar' talent competition.</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>Articles and pictures appearing in <i>Brentham News</i> may also be posted on the Brentham website www.brentham.com so contributors are asked to let the Editor know when submitting copy if in any particular case they would prefer this not to happen.</p>
<p>The September issue of <i>Brentham News</i> will include a special feature to mark the 20th anniversary of the great storm of 1987, and subsequent restoration work. If you have photographs of storm damage, or stories to tell, the Editor would be glad to hear from you.</p>	<p>The Brentham Club is asking well-wishers to buy a £10 brick (or more!) to help pay for extending part of its ground floor. Cheques payable to the Brentham Club can be sent to Chairperson Jenny Arnell at 38a Meadvale Road, W5 1NP</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 Brentham News, the next edition of which will appear in September 2007.</i></p>	

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

