



BRENTHAM NEWS

A United Future for the Brentham Society - or Two Into One *Will Go!*

If you've ever wondered why a small conservation area like Brentham has two Societies - the Brentham Society (BS) and the Brentham Heritage Society (BHS) - then you're in good company. The BS and BHS committees have been asking the same question, and now we have the opportunity to merge into one.

The reason for creating the BHS in 1999 was sound at the time: we were raising funds for the centenary book and found that many grant-making bodies would only give to registered charities. So the BHS was formed, working alongside the Brentham Society in a broadly educational role, maintaining and extending the archive and website, and creating high quality resources like the centenary book, DVD, and schools pack.

The two organisations have worked side-by-side ever since on many successful projects - Fred Perry Day was the most recent - but there has been a price: many members or potential members are confused by the existence of two organisations with similar names doing what appear to be similar things; and because the two committees consist of largely of the same people, effort (and meetings!) are often duplicated. So recently the BS and BHS committees resolved, if the members agree, to merge the two societies into one. Maintaining a charitable structure and our precious charity status is important if we are to attract grant funding for future major projects.

Fortunately, the 2006 Charities Act now makes it much simpler for trustees of small charities like the BHS to change their objectives, so earlier this year the committee of the BHS, with the agreement of its members, took advantage of this change in the law to widen its objectives to include the main purposes of the BS. The objectives of the BHS, as registered with the Charity Commission, are therefore now:

For the public benefit for the following purposes in Brentham Garden Suburb:

(A) To stimulate public interest and care for the amenity, beauty and character of Brentham Garden Suburb.

(B) To preserve, protect and improve the amenity, beauty and character of Brentham Garden Suburb, including the features of historic, architectural, landscape and public interest there.

(C) To promote high standards of planning and architecture in Brentham Garden Suburb.

(D) To advance the education of the general public in the heritage, architecture and development of Brentham Garden Suburb, in particular by the collection and preservation of photographs, documents, films and other artefacts that relate to the history, architecture or development of Brentham Garden Suburb.

To create a new merged Brentham Society, we have to follow a formal procedure. At the AGM on Thursday 22nd October (note new date) BS members will be asked to pass two resolutions - set out as part of the AGM notice in this Newsletter. The first would formally wind up the Brentham Society and transfer its assets and membership to the BHS. The second resolution would adopt a revised Constitution (sent to you with this Newsletter) which would also change the name of the BHS to the BS. So the net result will be a new merged Brentham Society with charitable status that will in future do everything the two Societies now do under separate auspices.

Elections for the committee of the new Brentham Society will then follow. The creation of a new Brentham Society is a unique opportunity to encourage new people on board, as a planned new structure will be based on working groups that can co-opt people with special skills and interests. This is your chance to become more involved in shaping the future of our special environment and the community that lives here. An injection of new

talent, ideas and commitment will ensure that the new Society gets off to the best possible start.

The current committees of the BS and BHS believe that - with your support - the new streamlined and united Brentham Society will go from strength to strength, promoting and maintaining Brentham as one of the most special Garden Suburbs in the country.

So please make an effort to come to the AGM to ask questions and vote on this important change. Please also consider putting yourself forward (or persuading a neighbour!) to join the new committee.

Annual General Meeting, Brentham Society and Brentham Heritage Society

Thursday 22nd October 2009, 7.30pm
Brentham Club, Meadvale Road
Refreshments will be served.

The following Resolutions will be submitted to the AGM:

1. In accordance with Clause 9.5 of the Constitution, the members of the Brentham Society resolve to wind up the Society and to join the Brentham Heritage Society, with the funds of the Society being transferred to the Brentham Heritage Society.

2. In accordance with Section 74D of the Charities Act 1993 as amended by the Charities Act 2006, the members of the Brentham Heritage Society resolve to adopt the revised constitution (including the change of name to the Brentham Society) attached to the calling notice for the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Nominations to serve on the Committee of the Brentham Society (seconded by two members of the Society, with the agreement of the prospective candidate) should be submitted in writing by **15th October** to Eleanor Cowie at 76 Brentham Way.

Open Garden Day



This year the Brentham Open Garden Day attracted even more visitors than in previous years. The day was gloriously sunny and the gardens were shown at their best. Emma and Tim's lovely garden played host to the tea party where we enjoyed a large variety of delicious home baked cakes and friendly chat. Sally's efforts in propagating plants meant the plant sale provided yet more horticultural delights to Brentham residents and their friends. This year's charity was the Alzheimer's Society and, with the help of everybody's contributions, we collected an amazing £982.

We would like to say a big thank-you to all the people who opened their gardens or contributed to making this event huge success. We hope to continue with the Open Garden Day next year, so, if you would like to participate or make a contribution, please contact Gina Jenkins or Laura Mackiewicz.



More pictures by Paul Fodrio and Tule Lac Hobbs can be seen on the Brentham website, www.brentham.com

Brentham author Sue Elliott will talk about *The Children Who Fought Hitler* her new book, at 6.15 pm on 8th October at Ealing Central Library. Details on Ealing Libraries website under "Events".

Celebrating Fred Perry

Over a hundred people gathered outside 223 Pitshanger Lane on 11 July to watch the unveiling of a temporary 'Blue Plaque' to commemorate the centenary of the birth of tennis champion Fred Perry. Fred played his first game of tennis at the Brentham Club when he was 15, and lived at number 223 for several years as a youngster.



The Brentham Heritage Society's application for an official Blue Plaque for 223 Pitshanger Lane has been shortlisted by English Heritage and we hope it will be in place by the Olympics year, 2012.

Former school-friend Kaspar Hocking, now aged 96, travelled up from near Falmouth to perform the short ceremony in company with Steve Pound MP (see picture below), along with Ealing's Mayor, Cllr. Barbara Yerolemou, Fred's biographer Jon Henderson, and John Flynn, the Managing Director of Fred Perry Sportswear Ltd.

Steve Pound's entertaining speech paid tribute to Brentham's 'communitarianism', while regretting that it was no longer the hotbed of socialism it



was when Fred lived here. At the high point of the ceremony, Kaspar gave a sharp tug to the golden rope and the specially commissioned plaque painted by local artist Judy Gordon was revealed in all its glory. Then the

assembled company processed to the Brentham Club for a splendid cream tea and the presentation of the newly inaugurated Fred Perry Cup to the winner of the under-16 boys' tennis tournament.

A filmed record of the event will be shown at the Brentham Society & Brentham Heritage Society AGMs on 22nd October.

Jon Henderson, who is also the *Observer* newspaper's tennis correspondent, will be signing copies of his recent biography *The Last Champion:*

the life of Fred Perry, and talking about the Brentham tennis star who won Wimbledon three times, on Thursday 17th September at 8pm at the Brentham Club. Tickets at £10 (includes a glass of wine and £2 off the price of the book) are available from the Pitshanger Bookshop, Sue Elliott and the Brentham Club bar.

Brentham Strawberry Tea



Our thanks to Barbara Murray with her team of helpers for hosting once again in her garden at Winscombe Crescent, in perfect summer weather, a very well-attended Strawberry Tea.

Join us for a visit this autumn to that "magnificently cluttered time tunnel" and "retro fan's vision of heaven" which is the Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising, sited in Notting Hill. Watch www.brentham.com and noticeboards for the date in November, to be announced shortly.

Short Pause for Breath



Gathering clouds failed to deter an intrepid group of Brenthamites from cycling in record time from Pitshanger Park to the National Trust property at Osterley Park for tea on 19th July, returning along the Grand Union Canal towpath from Brentford.

Architecture corner - No.3

How well do you know the subtle design variations across Brentham? Can you identify the roads in which the three windows illustrated below are located? Send your answers to news@brentham.com and the name of the sender of the first correct entry received will appear in the next edition. Answers will be posted on the website www.brentham.com in a month's time, and in the next edition of *Brentham News*.



The four chimneys illustrated in the June 2009 edition of *Brentham News* are in Ludlow Road, Meadvale Road, Woodfield Way, and Woodfield Crescent.

Brentham Reading Group

Titles for September, October and November will be *White Tiger*, by Aravind Adiga; *The Secret Scripture*, by Sebastian Barry; African short stories by prizewinning African writers

Ealing Art Group

94th annual exhibition and sale of original paintings and craft work, PM Gallery, Pitzhanger Manor, Mattock Lane W5 5EQ.
Wednesday 7 to Sunday 11 October

Events at the Brentham Club

15 September: Pilates class, 10-11am; ballet for little ones, 3.45 pm
23 October: Real Ale Festival
7 November: Fireworks Night (doors open 6.30 pm)
21 November: Bollywood Night
4 & 12 December: Two Christmas Party nights. Tables of 10. Three-course festive dinner, live music and dancing, welcome drink of bubbly, party hats and crackers. Lots of fun, ideal for groups of friends, small office groups etc. Book now, £32.50 per head. Special Christmas menu throughout December.

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

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