



Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham Garden Suburb

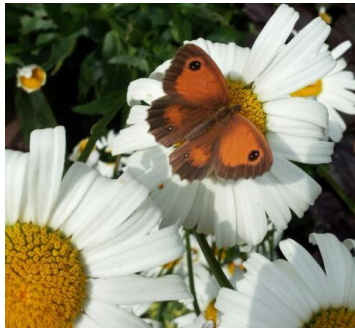
BRENTHAM NEWS

*This edition of Brentham News has been adapted for the Brentham website
Private telephone numbers and addresses and commercial ads have been deleted*

Chair's Notes

Brentham gardens are lovely. On the whole we are not blessed with large gardens, but what we lack in size we gain in variety and the ingenuity of residents to make the best out of what they have. Some residents go for the minimalist approach; others seem to manage to fit a huge number of different plants into the space. Some are brightly coloured, others with more subtle hues. Each one is different, and it all goes to add to the experience of living here.

There are two separate garden groups on the estate, one meeting in the day time, the other in the evening, both aiming to share experience and advice. The allotments, both on the estate and close by, give opportunities to do more than can be done in gardens alone and show what can be done with even a modest piece of land.



For many years now there has been a residents' garden competition on the estate, with prizes presented annually at the Brentham Society's AGM. Prizes are given for each season, with a

Rose Bowl for the overall winner. This award was won last year for the garden at 1 Ruskin Gardens, which was described in detail but concluded "always subtle and elegant, this garden gets better every year".

All gardens are entered automatically in the competition, and for the past few years the judging panel of Sally Kelly, Nita Davis and Gilda Kelly have walked the estate, peering over gates and hedges and noting the developments of each garden throughout the year. We are grateful to them for the hard work they have put in to make this competition an integral part of our year.

Sally, Nita and Gilda have indicated that they will not be able to continue this after the conclusion of the current year, so in order for this important competition to continue we are looking for a volunteer or group of volunteers to take over. This is a great opportunity for

someone interested in gardens to take part in this annual event. If you think you would like to give it a go, please contact *Brentham News*.

On the question of hedges, the unusual weather this year has meant that they have grown far more than normally. Some of them have encroached on to the pavement more than is usual. In



addition, as many of the street trees have been lopped back during the year, they

have sprouted growth at street level, and in some places pavements have been blocked by a combination of trees and hedges.

If this has happened near to you, can we ask you to get the shears out to keep the pavements clear? Also, overgrown rear hedges can impede the access of neighbours to the rear of their properties, and need to be kept under control. If you know that a neighbour is having difficulty with their hedges, volunteer to help. It's all part of the community spirit which makes Brentham a great place to live.

Richard Costella

Local Hospital Services under Review

NW London NHS is consulting on plans to cope with tight budgets by downgrading some hospital services in the area, including the closure of four out of nine A&E departments. Under its preferred option, the A&E departments at Ealing, Central Middlesex, Charing Cross and Hammersmith hospitals would close, and intensive care, emergency surgery, paediatrics and maternity units would be moved from some local hospitals. The nearest



A&E department for Brentham residents would be at Northwick Park hospital.

There is a growing campaign against these changes. Brentham resident Anita Sharda, of the Save Our Hospitals Campaign, writes:

"It is encouraging that all political parties on Ealing Council oppose the proposals, and the Save Our Hospitals Campaign is working closely

with them and with Hammersmith & Fulham and Brent Councils. There will be a march on the 15th September 2012 and the petitions will be presented to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health who can intervene and stop these changes.

“You can sign the Ealing Council petition on line at www.ealing.gov.uk/soh or in public libraries or street stalls. Alternatively, sign the SOH petition online at <http://tinyurl.com/Ealing-sos-petition>

“You can also write to your local GP or local MP, and join the March on the **15th September 2012** from Southall Park or Acton to Ealing Common. Further details of the march will be posted on the Ealing Council and the SOH websites. You can respond directly – up to 8 October - to the NW London NHS consultation document. This can be accessed at <http://www.healthiernorthwestlondon.nhs.uk> “

Brentham Residents in the News

Congratulations to Marek Stella-Sawicki of Brentham Way who was awarded an MBE for "services to the Polish community and to charity" in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Congratulations also to James Moss and to Sue Elliott, both likewise of Brentham Way. James' name was spotted in the credit titles of the television series *Midsomer Murders* as Director of Photography, while Sue Elliott has brought out on a new edition of her book *Love Child*. It deals with adoption and the search for birth mothers, and is available from Pitshanger Books and in Asda supermarkets.

Other roads in Brentham, please try to keep up!

Crime Prevention

The Hanger Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team would like to remind residents that on the warmer days of late summer and early autumn they still need to be vigilant when leaving their homes, even temporarily. Windows, including those on first floor, should be closed when no-one is at home. You are advised always to keep keys in a safe place and especially not to leave car keys near the front door within plain sight. As far as possible, avoid leaving valuables such as laptops and mobile phones where they are visible through the windows, front or rear.

Please be vigilant and watch out for yourselves and your neighbours, especially in communal entrances and on driveways and alleyways. Remember if you see something suspicious happening to please call 999. If you would like to report an incident that has already taken place, you can call our new non-emergency number, 101. The team also offer free Crime

Prevention Surveys to all residents. If you would like to book a survey, please call 020 8721 2947.

Brentham News has learned of a recent theft in Meadvale Road: two bicycles were taken from a locked garden shed, and an ungated alleyway was used to spirit them away. Be warned!

Community Safety

The Council has restructured its Community Safety Team and has created a “one stop shop” to cover all incidences of crime, anti-social behaviour, noise and licensing issues. The intention is to get over the frequently-made complaint about being transferred around departments when reporting such issues.

The new dedicated team can be reached on 020 8825 7600 or communitysafety@ealing.gov.uk

Brentham's Blue Plaque(s)

Despite squally showers and its weekday scheduling by English Heritage (*writes Sue Elliott*), the official unveiling of a blue plaque for Fred Perry drew a good crowd on June 15th to 223 Pitshanger Lane, home of Iver and Ronnie Benattar.

Among VIPs present were the Mayor of Ealing, Steve Pound MP, and an unusually large number of men named John. Fred's grandson, John Frederick Perry, performed the unveiling and former BBC commentator John Barrett gave an entertaining and fact-packed assessment of the champion's place in tennis history. Fred's biographer Jon Henderson and Fred Perry Sportswear's MD John Flynn were also on hand.

The plaque now gleams beautifully from this prominent corner. After a long wait, Fred's association with Brentham is permanently commemorated.

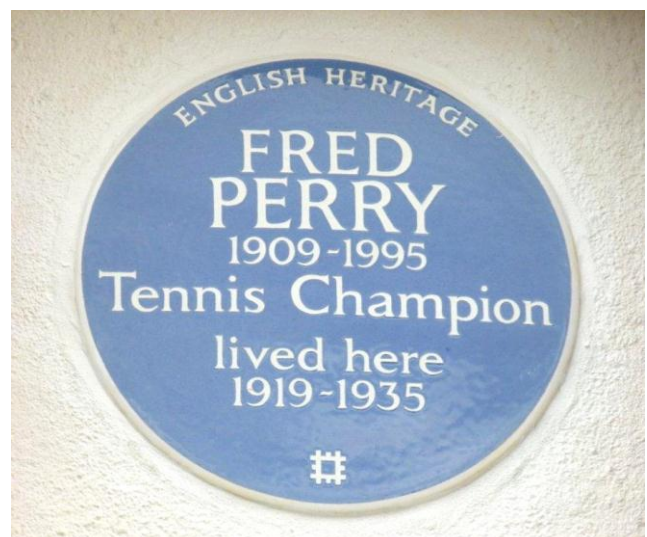


Photo: Keith Hassum

Another notable former resident was the highly successful and prolific author James Hadley Chase (1906-1985), whose birth name was René Raymond. Many of his stories were filmed, but he is best remembered perhaps for his thriller *No Orchids for Miss Blandish* which brought him a certain notoriety in a more strait-laced age. Local resident Simon Cole, in whose Woodfield Avenue house Chase was born, has proposed to English Heritage that another Brentham blue plaque would be in order, and this will be considered in October.

If you are aware of other former residents who merit similar recognition (Ida Lupino Lane, film director, formerly of Holyoake Walk, for example?) please let *Brentham News* know. But be warned that, as Sue Elliott can confirm, English Heritage's requirements can make the road from initial proposal to unveiling long and taxing.

Ward Forum News

The Ward Forums are the way that Ealing Councillors keep in touch with their constituents and find out their views. They have some limited funds, which the Brentham Society has managed to tap into in on occasion, most recently for the restoration of heritage street signs for the estate.

The Brentham Estate straddles two wards. The Cleveland Ward Forum, covering the west of the estate, last met on 3rd July. Of interest to Brentham, the forum discussed the coming 20 mph zone (of which more later), and the Pitshanger Stop & Shop scheme. This latter scheme has drawn 4,000 objections, and so is currently on hold, although still in Council plans.

In Pitshanger Park, funds have been allocated to convert the disused bowling green into a garden with a view to attracting butterflies, and to repair the bandstand.

The Hanger Hill Ward Forum, covering the east of the estate, met 2 days later on 5th July. Much time was spent discussing the Olympic Lanes, now fast fading into history. There was discussion on trees, envirocrime and some information from the community safety scheme, but no matters directly relevant to Brentham.

Ward Forums are open to all residents and details can be found on the Council's web site. The next forums are on 17th October (Cleveland) and 22nd November (Hanger Hill).

20 mph zone

Work to implement the 20 mph zone for the Brentham and Pitshanger areas is about to commence. Once completed there will be one continuous 20 mph zone stretching from Scotch Common in the west to Hanger Lane in the east,

and south towards Ealing Broadway through the Montpelier Park area.

Ealing Council held a major consultation last year offering four alternatives. Glossy leaflets were dropped through every door, and the Brentham Society backed this up in an edition of *Brentham News* and on our notice boards. We encouraged all residents to make their views known, and the Society responded both as an entity and as individual members. The result was a massive response, and the results can be seen on the Council website.

The Brentham Society is not opposed to the zone in itself, but was very concerned about the amount of street clutter that comes with such zones. The Council has listened to our



arguments, and there should be no street signs at all within the boundaries of the estate. Instead, 20 mph repeater signs will be painted on the road surface itself. There are a few alterations to the roads, with a traffic island in Pitshanger Lane, some parking restrictions on corners and a small number of road tables to reduce traffic speeds.



Annual General Meeting

Thursday 18 October 2012, 7.30 pm
Brentham Club, Meadvale Road

Refreshments will be served

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 **11th October** to Adel Golding at 23 Brentham Way.

Delivering Brentham News

Our thanks to Penny Hoetz and to Mike Gaunt, long-standing members of our valued delivery team, who have sadly now left Brentham. A warm welcome to David Denscombe and to Chris and Jackie McKenna, who have kindly volunteered to help with deliveries. However, we still need someone to cover Neville Road. Please tell the Editor if you can assist.

Open Garden Day, June 10 2012

Luckily, in this year's poor summer, we had an almost rain-free and very successful event. The plant sale held by Sally Kelly was as popular as ever. Tea and cakes, in the garden of Tim and Em Cunningham in Holyoake Walk, provided a welcome break after viewing the seven delightful gardens that were open this year. A big thank you to all involved in this very enjoyable annual event.

Mike Gaunt

Brentham News has also received a very appreciative message from the Club: "The Committee and members of the Brentham Club would like to express our sincere thanks to Brentham's gardeners for organising the Garden Open Day on 10th June this year and raising over £850 for the Club's restoration fund. It was a wonderful gesture and a complete surprise to us all.

We will use this money as our springboard to raise much needed money for the "Tower" which as we all know requires extensive work. A big thanks you to the organisers, the garden owners and our visitors on that day, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

As noted earlier, there are two garden groups on the estate, both of which welcome new members. If you are interested in gardening and would like to meet like minded people, give them a call for more details.

The evening gardening group meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Contact Gina for more details. The afternoon gardening group meets on the third Wednesday of the month. Contact Maggie for more details.

Anti-social Behaviour

The bench on Denison/Ludlow Green was until recently a focus for noisy late-night drinking by a group of non-residents. The area became littered with cans and bottles, so the seat was removed temporarily and the anti-social behaviour seems to have ceased. It is planned to restore the bench to its old position before long.

Japanese Knotweed

Japanese knotweed has been found springing up in the Denison and Ludlow areas of the estate. A very unpleasant invasive plant, it cannot be eradicated simply by cutting it down.



This weed can grow a metre in a month and cause heave below concrete and tarmac, coming up through the resulting cracks and causing damage to buildings and roads.

Eradication, which must be done by a qualified person, is by applying an appropriate herbicide, preferably in late summer. Please report to the Council any locations where you notice it, so that it can be eliminated before it spreads further.

Strawberry Tea

At this year's strawberry tea, kindly hosted as ever by Barbara Murray in her Winscombe Crescent garden, one centre of attention was an impressive cake, made for our hostess' 90th (congratulations, Barbara!) It was the work of local resident Nick Hodgson, now By Appointment to the Brentham Society, Purveyor of Fine Cakes. You can contact him with enquiries regarding your own forthcoming special event.



Barbara Norrice

We regret to announce the death of Barbara Norrice, daughter of Henry Vivian. She was a delightful person and very much a product of her time, of her unusual upbringing and of the need, as she saw it, to keep a devastating family secret for much of her adult life.



The Brentham Society came to know her quite by chance in 2000 as a result of commissioning Aileen Reid to write the centenary history of our estate, established in 1901 by Liberal MP and social activist Henry Vivian. In Vivian's will Aileen found a mysterious beneficiary - a Barbara Norrice - and traced her, hoping that she might help with information about Vivian for our book.

Aileen's approach was a turning point for Barbara. After nearly 80 years she decided to reveal publicly for the first time that she was Henry Vivian's natural daughter. As she later wrote in her life-story, "I felt many years had passed and no-one was alive who could be hurt by me acknowledging that he was my father". A typical response from someone for whom self-restraint and thought for others were deeply ingrained.

That revelation lifted a burden and opened up positive new relationships and exciting new

experiences - including being feted as a minor celebrity when we launched the Brentham book before a crowd of 400 in 2000. We enjoyed welcoming her to Brentham and I know she valued that contact over a period of more than a decade.

She met her father only once - he died when she was six - but we were able to show her some early Pathé newsreel of him at Brentham in 1911 and record her delight on camera. We're lucky to have captured Barbara on film and in recorded interviews as part of Brentham's history, but luckier still to have known her in person.

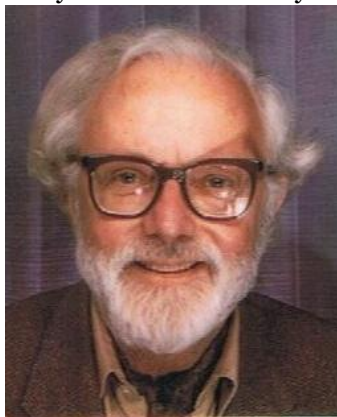
Sue Elliott

Tony Oliver, 1920-2012

We are sad to record that the Brentham Society has lost one of its founder members, Tony Oliver, at the age of 92. Tony moved into Denison Road in 1953, and helped to create the Society in 1970, serving it as a committee member and as its Chair in the 1990s.

Clive Hicks recalls meeting Tony in Denison Road just after the great hurricane of 1987, prior to which the Brentham Society had been involved in a controversy over suitable street trees for the estate. A builder had claimed that there were massive roots under a particular front wall which would cause it to crack. As some stricken trees slowly subsided to the horizontal, revealing remarkably slender ones, Tony asked satirically, "Where then are those roots as thick as my wrist?"

Tony was immensely energetic and public-spirited, making contributions to local and public life in a remarkably wide range of roles. He was a governor of various Ealing schools and colleges, and as an Ealing councillor and later an alderman he was on a number of the Council's sub-



committees, including those concerned with social services, special needs, disabilities and health. He was elected deputy mayor in 1989-90, and only a change in political control kept him from being mayor of Ealing in 1990.

He also contributed his services to a wide range of local voluntary and statutory organisations, especially ones concerned with the welfare of vulnerable people: the deaf, the elderly, the disabled, children, and individuals with mental health problems. He was additionally an active member of his trade union (SLADE), Ealing North Labour Party, the Co-operative Party, the Ealing branch of CND and Ealing Humanists.

Tony will be remembered with great respect and affection by the Brentham Society, his family and friends, and the many people alongside whom he showed his commitment to serving others.

Trees in Conservation Areas

A reminder to all residents that there is a requirement to give six weeks' notice of proposals to prune, lop or fell a tree in a conservation area. The form is available on line http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200074/planning/343/conservation_areas/6

Failure to follow this procedure may result in a considerable fine. Most residents value the green, sylvan character of Brentham and are keen to protect it. Sadly a mature tree has been recently removed without consent. The Council's enforcement department is involved. Reputable tree surgeons will know about the procedure and are usually willing to handle the application. Beware of any who tell you it is not necessary!

Heather Moore

Party Time in Brentham Way



Photo by courtesy of Ealing Gazette

Residents of Brentham Way held a grand street party this June in order to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Back in 2002 they did the same to celebrate her Golden Jubilee.



Photo: Clive Hicks

We know there were at least two other street parties during the Jubilee weekend. If you have any photos of these or other street parties held down the years, please send copies of them to *Brentham News*. The Society's archivist is also keen to acquire photographs of such events.

The Brentham Club

The end-of-summer carvery will now be held on 23rd September, from 1 pm. Please make reservations now to ensure we know how many to expect. £12.95 for two courses (members), £14.95 (non-members); or £14.25 for three courses (members) and £26.25 (non-members).

On 28th September "No Duets Live" is playing in the main hall. Tickets £10 per person to include a Party Supper. Classic popular music to set your feet tapping. Plenty of dancing! From 7 pm.

Fireworks at the Club will be on 3rd November this year.

23rd November, Classical Music night from 7 pm in the main hall.

We are arranging a Christmas Market in December and of course Christmas festivities, dinner party and New Year's Eve Party.

Annual subscriptions for new members (social) are just £55 until the end of March 2013.

The Fred Perry Coffee Shop

Everyone is welcome to drop in and use the coffee shop.

Ealing Art Group's 97th Annual Exhibition will be held at the **PM Gallery** (Pitzhanger Manor Gallery and House), Walpole Park, Mattock Lane. There will be a private view on Thursday 8th November, 6.30 – 8.30. If you would like an invitation, phone the Secretary on 020 8898 5662 or ealingartgroup@gmail.com can be used. This free exhibition will be open to the public on 9, 10 and 11 November, and offers an opportunity to see and buy original paintings, ceramics, works in metal, wood and papier maché, stitchwork and other craft items by local artists.

Pitshanger Cinema, at St.Barnabas Millennium Hall, will be showing *We Need to Talk about Kevin* (7.45, Monday 10 September); *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (7.30, 15 September); and *Nosferatu*, with live organ accompaniment (7.45 on 31 October).

Published by the Brentham Society

Printed by Colormax West, Ealing W13 OSR

You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing news@brentham.com
or by writing to the Editor, 8 Gleneagles, Malvern Way, W13 8DZ
The next edition is due out in February 2013.

