



# BRENTHAM NEWS

## Chair's Notes

I have talked about the importance of planning before, and at our Celebration of the history and heritage of Brentham in May, Heather Moore showed some examples of how good planning can enhance individual properties and the look of the estate overall. However, there is more to this than nice-looking dormers and the removal of illegal satellite dishes.

In addition to changes within the conservation area itself, there is a requirement where buildings are erected immediately outside the area to take into account the visual impact on the area. One example of why this is important is now making itself evident.

The expansion of St Gregory's School was subject to a controversial planning application in 2011, which the Brentham Society and others opposed. After a lengthy battle, planning permission was granted and work is now nearing completion.

The new school buildings back on to the rear gardens of houses in Winscombe Crescent and Woodfield Crescent. They have been painted with panels in blue and white, as well as in a 'dayglo' shade of orange that has been described as being one used



to attract the helicopters in air/sea rescues. There is a severe detrimental effect on the view from these houses, which was previously as illustrated in the picture below.

Brian Fallon, a founder member of our Society, has been leading a very spirited campaign to persuade the school to change the colours to something less strident, an initiative that has our full support. He has also received encouragement from other local groups, from



Councillors and from local MP Angie Bray. As I write this, discussions with the school continue, and we wish Brian well with his endeavours.

On a different note, after a long hard winter it is lovely to see the flowers and blossom appearing around the area. At this time of year the estate is at its most beautiful, and reminds us why we like to live here. If you are interested in gardening, do take part in our annual Open Gardens day on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June. It will give you the opportunity to see how other Brentham residents get the best from their gardens. More details are available elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Ward Forum News

Ward Forums are the means by which local Councillors communicate with residents and hear our views. There is a small budget available for use within the ward, and we can influence the way that it is spent. The meetings are open to all residents and the Brentham Society always attends. As our estate is split across two wards, there are two Forums that interest us.

The latest Cleveland Forum was held in Copley Close on 5<sup>th</sup> February, and attendance was well down. The only item of interest to Brentham was further discussion on the proposed Pitshanger Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). At the time of the meeting the consultation was imminent. The consultation has now taken place and we await the result. At a packed public meeting held by the Pitshanger Community Association on 17<sup>th</sup> April, the feeling was almost universally hostile, although a small but significant number of residents in the Castlebar area are worried about commuter parking.

The Hanger Hill Forum was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March in the Brentham Club. Key points for Brentham are that Brentham Way will be resurfaced in the near future, and Fowlers Walk will gain new pavements. Brunswick Road is also on the list for resurfacing if sufficient funds are available. The current programme for tree planting is now complete, and three post boxes have been restored. The first of the new street signs was on display and was approved, and the first 11 are now being produced.

### Satellite Dishes and TV Aerials

Some residents may have seen the enormous satellite dish that appeared on the front of a property in Meadvale Road. A call to the letting agent of the property brought quick results and the dish was promptly removed. The enforcement department are investigating several other cases of satellite dishes in Brentham that are in breach of planning legislation. We hope for some results soon.

If you are considering installing a satellite dish please contact us and we can send you a copy of the current legislation that applies to Brentham. You may find it useful to know that we have details of a company which installs loft aerials that receive Freeview, thus avoiding the need for a dish or an aerial fixed to the chimney stack, which can result in damage to it and to roof tiles.

### Brentham Open Garden Day, 2013

Enjoy an afternoon out on Sunday 9 June, 2-5 pm, at the ever-popular Brentham Open Garden Day. Bring your family and friends to get some gardening tips/ideas or just come to discover what botanical treats can be found behind your neighbours' hedges.



As usual there will be a plant sale and teas and cakes will be available. Excellent value tickets (still £3.50) along with a

programme and map will be available on the day from addresses shown on estate noticeboards. All proceeds will go to the Macmillan Nurses.

Any help with serving teas or making cakes will be much appreciated.

### The Annual Brentham Strawberry Tea

This event for Brentham Society members and their guests takes place on **Sunday 30 June**. It will run from 3.30 to 5.30 in Barbara Murray's garden. Brentham Society members £3, guests £4, children £1.50. Brentham merch-andise and home-made jam will be on sale in aid of Downhurst.



### Some Thoughts About Our Hedges

At this time of year when many of us are tending our gardens and spreading compost about, spare a thought for the hedges of Brentham. They deserve a bit of TLC in the form of a feed of compost.

Hedges not only form very secure boundaries but also contribute so much to the unique green and leafy character of Brentham. So it was sad to discover a healthy hedge lying on the ground at the rear of a property, and a high close-boarded fence being erected. Our hope is that the fence will be removed and hedging planted so that the character of this corner of Brentham can be restored.

### The Oak Processionary Moth

You may recall that a previous issue of *Brentham News* carried a warning about this pest, which is a serious threat to oak trees. Recently its caterpillars have been found on trees in the grounds of the Brentham Club, so there is a very real danger that they will spread to the mature oak trees that are such an important feature of our estate.



Please keep a sharp lookout for them on any oak trees growing in your vicinity. If some do turn up, let the Council know at once, so that the infestation can be eradicated before the trees are seriously damaged.

### Author's Visit to Brentham

On a gloriously sunny day at the beginning of May we had a visit from Sarah Rutherford, who is writing a book on garden cities and suburbs which will feature Brentham Garden Suburb and will be published next year by Shire Books.

Sarah is especially interested in the layout of Brentham and enjoyed exploring our precious 'back lands', the gentle green spaces that the architects designed between the houses of one street and the next. Many of these are used as allotments and some as garden extensions. Most are being well cared for and as an essential part of Brentham's character they contribute so much to our enjoyment of living here.

### Does Anyone Remember...?

John Barrett, aged 86, who used to live in Meadvale Road? He remembers the bomb that fell on Meadvale during the war, and was educated at Ealing Grammar School. He did an apprenticeship with de Havilland, and left Ealing in the late sixties/early seventies, spending thirty years in Norfolk. John is now in a residential care home in Lowestoft, and it would be good to put him in touch with anyone who knew him.

### Brentham May Day



These little girls almost didn't make it out of the grounds of the Brentham Club where they had assembled for the annual procession around the streets of Brentham. The big metal security gate to the Club was securely padlocked and the keyholder could not be located.

Luckily, Brentham Society stalwarts Alan Henderson and Martin Mortimore were on hand to lift the gate clean off its hinges and let the procession through in good order. There was a gusty wind and a brief shower at the start, but spirits remained buoyant as the Yiewsley and West Drayton band led the way around the estate. Then it was back to the Club grounds for the crowning of Freya Gann as this year's May Queen by last year's Queen, Mia Keelan.

Dancing around the maypole and tea for the young participants completed this highlight of the Brentham year to whose success so many people contribute.

**Brentham News** needs a volunteer to deliver to homes in Neville and Brunswick Roads. If you can help, please contact the Editor.

### Please Remember We Are Here to Help

In the last issue of Brentham News (writes Heather Moore) I offered some recent examples of how we can help if you are thinking of making changes to your property. While we continue to be contacted by people who want to talk over possible house alterations, a few residents are doing work that is in breach of the planning controls, and this has to be reported to the Council's enforcement team for investigation. So please contact us before you make any changes.

### Brentham Returns to the 1960s

A film crew and a fine collection of vintage cars were spotted in Ruskin Gardens late in April as Brentham was used to give period character to a forthcoming ITV production, *Breathless*. The series will be a medical drama, starring Jack Davenport and Joanna Page.



Ealing Council allows filming wherever possible since it contributes to the second largest sector of the local economy – the creative industries. Since 2008 it has been legal to use traffic management orders to assist filming, so stop/go boards were in use during takes, which lasted approx. 5 minutes each. Local residents were leafleted in advance to minimise inconvenience.

### Why Not Give Bowling at the Brentham Club a Go?

Come along any Friday morning between 10 a.m. and noon to try your hand at bowls. Two hours of bowling only costs £2.00, and no equipment is needed except flat shoes.

The Club will supply bowls, coaching and friendly company. The bowling club is looking out for new members, and youngsters (of any age!) wishing to take up the sport are especially welcome.

#### FOR SALE

Genuine *art nouveau* fireplace, previously installed in Brunner Road. Re-use in Brentham preferred.

### Forthcoming Events

**Ealing Art Group** will be showing and selling local artists' work in the grounds of Christchurch, Ealing Broadway, on the first Saturday of the month from June to September, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. There will also be an exhibition and sale at St. Barnabas church, Pitshanger Lane, on Saturday 27 July, admission free.

**Pitshanger Community Association:** Party in the Park, Sunday 30 June. Adults £2, kids get in free.

### Forthcoming Events

**Pitshanger Pictures** will be screening

*Breakfast at Tiffany's* (PG)

on Monday 27 May at 7.45 pm. Tickets £5 on the door at St. Barnabas Millennium Hall, Pitshanger Lane

**Open House Weekend:** guided walks around Brentham led by Clive Hicks, 21 and 22 September

**The Brentham Club** provides a home for baby sensory classes, book club, bridge club, comedy nights, youth club, yoga and zumba gold classes - plus a coffee shop, vibrant bars, freshly cooked food, and space for conference and event hire.

For more information about the club or to make a booking, please check out our website  
<http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk>

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You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing [news@brentham.com](mailto:news@brentham.com)  
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