



BRENTHAM NEWS UPDATE APRIL 2006

(Distributed to Brentham Residents)

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

The 100th Brentham May Day!

2006 marks the centenary of Brentham May Day. In 1906, a group of 'gaily dressed maidens' danced round the maypole at a party to mark the fifth anniversary of Brentham Garden Suburb. This year the festivities, which take place on Saturday afternoon 13th May, will include the traditional procession, maypole dancing and a number of extra touches. Be part of this special occasion, which will be attended by previous May Queens from as far away as the USA.

Do please lend a hand

Getting the Brentham May Day show on the road - literally - is a regular battle against unpredictable hazards for a small dedicated group of volunteers. The group has to book the band, liaise with the police, arrange the rehearsals, produce and put up posters, and much more. The real busy time is on the day and the evening before. To make it an extra-special occasion this year, more help than ever is needed. The last-minute tasks include:

Digging a hole for the maypole and helping erect it. Do you know someone who could help dig a hole on the evening of Friday 12 May and help erect the maypole on the morning of Saturday 13 May?

Stewarding on the fields of the Brentham Club on May Day,

Selling programmes on the day (or before).

Helping to decorate Jack-in-the-Green. We urgently need two or three people who can spare a couple of hours or so from 10 am on the morning of the parade. Instruction and greenery will be provided.

If you think you may be able to help with any of these things, please contact Pat Chapman. Pat and the committee would be delighted if you (or your other half) could help. The other thing *all* residents could do is to help give the processional route an appropriately festive air by hanging out bunting, balloons or other decorations. It would also be great if, just for the period of the parade, parked cars could be moved off the route.

The band will set off at 2.30pm to lead the May Queen elect and all her attendants from the Club, along Meadvale Road, up Brentham Way into Winscombe Crescent, and back to the Club via Woodfield Crescent, Woodfield Avenue, Pitshanger Lane and Denison Road. The dancing round the maypole follows immediately after that, and the event ends with tea for the participants in the Club. Finally, if you have even the smallest streak of exhibitionism, try dressing up in period costume of the 1900s (or your nearest equivalent!) to add that little special touch.

Brentham: the Movie - now released on DVD

For the first time, a film has captured the history, architecture and spirit of Brentham. After a well-attended launch at St Barnabas Church Hall, *The Brentham Story* is now available. Commissioned by the Brentham Heritage Society, the DVD traces the story of the pioneer garden suburb from its origins as a house-building co-operative at the dawn of the 20th century to today's flourishing community. The film covers Brentham's architectural heritage, highlights planning and conservation issues, and includes the traditional events that today keep alive the spirit of the founders. The May Day procession and dancing feature in one of many delightful sequences in the film. The DVD, priced at £12, is the work of freelance Producer/Director Martin Mortimore, who has many TV documentary credits including the award-winning *What the Romans Did for Us*. Copies available from the Pitshanger Bookshop or direct from BHS chair Sue Elliott.



Visit to Kelmscott Manor

The Brentham Heritage Society is organising an outing to Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire, the evocative summer home of William Morris, on Friday 30th June. The Grade 1 listed Tudor house next to the upper Thames near Lechlade dates from 1570. Morris loved the house as a work of true craftsmanship, totally unspoilt and unaltered, and in harmony with the village and the surrounding countryside. The house contains an outstanding collection of Arts and Crafts furniture, textiles, carpets and ceramics and the beautiful gardens were a constant source of inspiration to Morris in his textile and wallpaper designs.

We shall travel to Kelmscott by car, probably via the M40, arriving by 11.00 a.m. for a room-by-room guided tour of the house. We suggest you take a picnic lunch to eat in the gardens, if fine, which you are free to wander round afterwards. The cost (depending on numbers) will be up to £20, including entry and share of petrol costs. To join this visit, please contact Eleanor Cowie or email bhssec@brentham.com

Join the **Brentham Forum**, the email news and discussion group for Brentham residents and anyone interested in Brentham. The best contribution received by **30th May** will win a **Mystery Prize!** Tell us something about the history of your house, start or join in a lively discussion, or express your views about conservation issues. To join the Brentham Forum, visit www.brentham.com

Membership Subscriptions and News by Email

If you haven't already paid your membership fee for 2006, could you please return your subscription envelope to your membership collector (name and address on the envelope) or to Sean Cadogan at 12 Neville Road as soon as convenient? As mentioned in the last *Brentham News*, we are also setting up a database of residents' email addresses. For the first time, a number of residents and friends of Brentham should be receiving this *Brentham News Update* by email, and we hope to use this method from time to time to pass on hot news and reminders of forthcoming Brentham events.

To receive this service, you will need to put a clearly-written email address on the subscription envelope mentioned above. Alternatively, you can "sign up" by writing to Sean Cadogan or by emailing your email address to e-news@brentham.com - please include your name and postal address in any case so that we can update our records.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brentham Book Club</p> <p>We meet next on Tuesday 30th May, at 8 pm in the Brentham Club. The book to be discussed will be <i>The Shadow of the Wind</i>, by Carlos Ruiz Zafón, and each member (new ones always welcome!) is asked to suggest another to be read subsequently. There may be a small charge for use of the bridge room.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Charity Plant Sale</p> <p>Sally Kelly's plant sale on 26 March raised £220 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Our thanks to Sally and to all who made their way to Ruskin Gardens to support this annual event.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">New Brentham Merchandise</p> <p>Don't forget to visit the Brentham Society stall on Vivian Green on May Day, to buy the latest addition to the set of Brentham mugs, or the new Jack-in-the-Green bag.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Brentham: the Pioneer Garden Suburb</i></p> <p>Dr. Aileen Reid's authoritative history of the estate has now been reprinted in an updated edition at £30. Copies are available from the Pitshanger Bookshop or Brentham Heritage Society chair Sue Elliott: sue@brentham.com</p>
<p>The afternoon Garden Group is looking for new members. It meets on the third Wednesday of each month, 2-4 pm. Contact Maureen McCarthy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  </p>

The next full edition of *Brentham News*, distributed to residents and friends of Brentham, will be published in June 2006. Articles, small ads and news of any forthcoming local events for inclusion can be sent by email to news@brentham.com or you can post them to the Editor at 28 Holyoake Walk, W5 1QJ

