



Issue 173

January 2012

Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham Garden Suburb

# BRENTHAM NEWS

## Chair's Notes

Welcome to the first Brentham News of 2012. If you haven't come across BN before, it's a newsletter published by the Brentham Society three times each year to keep you up to date with news of what is happening on the Brentham Estate and of things that may be about to affect the estate. It is distributed free of charge to all 600 houses on the estate.

This is also my first BN as Chair of the Brentham Society. The Rules of the Society quite rightly



state that the Chair may only hold the post for a maximum of three years, so my predecessor, Alan Henderson has stood down at the end of his tenure. Alan has been an excellent Chair and has moved the Society forward in many ways. He has a great love of the

estate and its history, and great enthusiasm for making sure that it remains a beautiful place in which to live. I have a difficult act to follow, but am pleased to say that he remains a Committee Member and is able to help me to try to live up to his standards.

What is it that makes Brentham a great place to live? I have lived here for more than 30 years, coming here as many do by chance, but realising once I was here what I had been missing before. In addition to the greenery and country feel, and the location close to excellent transport facilities and local shops, the estate does have a strong sense of community. In this edition of BN we have tried to pull together some of the various groups and activities that residents provide and which add to that community feeling. Some activities are arranged by the Brentham Society itself, but many are just groups of residents getting together to share common interests. There may be other groups which we don't know about, and if so please contact us so we can include them in a later edition.

The Society also takes a strong interest in local planning, and makes its case with local Councillors and at Ward Forums. There are more details of these later in the Newsletter.

In the longer term the Brentham Society tries to ensure that the heritage of the estate is maintained and is available to all. We have a large paper archive, and are examining ways to digitise this to eliminate the storage and deterioration problems that are arising. Once complete, this will be available to all through our website [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com) This is a major project which will be costly and we are looking at ways to raise the funds for it.

On a smaller scale, we are working with the Council to restore our street signs to their original condition, so that they fit in with the ambience of the estate.

We ask all residents to join the Brentham Society, so that we can truly represent the estate as a whole whenever it is necessary. To join, we ask a token annual subscription of £2 per household, and our representatives are collecting this as I write. Please make sure you join so that we can continue to ensure this remains a beautiful place to live. *Richard Costella*

## Community Group Activities in 2012

As noted above there are many group activities based in Brentham which add to the community spirit. Here are some that we know about – if you have a similar group in mind and would like it to be better known, please contact us.

The Brentham Garden Suburb's **evening gardening group** meets every first Tuesday of the month, starting this year on 6th March. If you are interested in gardening and would like to meet like-minded people, contact Gina.

The **afternoon gardening group** will be meeting at 2 pm on Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup>, and thereafter on the third Wednesday of the month.

The **morning walking group** meets at 7.40 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a brisk circular walk around Pitshanger Park and Scotch

Common – length approx. 30 minutes. If you would like to join in, contact Rosanna.

Brentham's **reading group** meets at the Brentham Club at 8pm on the last Monday of each month (excepting Bank Holidays). £1.50 per head is payable each time for room hire. More information from Jenny Myers.

Forthcoming titles to be discussed:  
January: *Visitors*, by Anita Brookner  
Feb: *After You'd Gone*, by Maggie O' Farrell  
March: *Consequences*, by Penelope Liveley  
April: *The Hare with the Amber Eyes*, by Edmund de Waal.

Following the success of the recent art and craft exhibition which showcased work by some creative Brentham people, an informal **art and craft group** is proposed, to bring local artistic people together. Depending on response and interest, the group could get involved in various activities which may include visits, lessons, exhibitions, art trails etc. If you are interested in forming a group, please call Rosanna.

### **Conserving the Special Character of Brentham**

Many residents appreciate living in Brentham but how many of us ask ourselves what is it that makes it special? Just over 40 years ago Brentham was designated a conservation area and soon after given Article 4 designation. That means that almost all permitted development rights are withdrawn and planning consent is required for virtually every alteration to property.

The reason for these strict controls is that Brentham is considered to have a special character, which is worth preserving. A character appraisal, undertaken by Ealing Council in 2008, can be found on the Council's website:

[http://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/741/brentham\\_garden\\_estate\\_area\\_appraisal](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/741/brentham_garden_estate_area_appraisal)

Strict planning controls exist and development will only be allowed if it 'preserves or enhances the character of the conservation area.'

The Brentham Society and Conservation Area Advisory Panel, set up by Ealing Council, have many years of experience in matters of planning and conservation. We are ready to give advice, based on our experience, and to put residents in touch with other bodies as appropriate. When proposed alterations to property are discussed prior to a planning application being submitted, the outcome is more likely to be successful.

'If in doubt, ask' is a good maxim that can save you time, money and stress because work

undertaken to your property without consent may lead to enforcement action by the Council. So if you are contemplate making some alterations, please first of all contact one of the following:

Heather Moore (Brentham Society)  
Pat Baxendale (Advisory Panel)

An example of recent enforcement action resulting in positive action is the removal of an unauthorised fence and reinstatement of a hedge, thus restoring the character to one part of Brentham.  
*Heather Moore*

### **Groundforce Day, 10<sup>th</sup> March**

In 2011 the Society arranged two "Ground-force Days", to clear and restore common areas of the estate that had become overgrown. A team of volunteers set about cutting hedges and grass in the area between Fowlers Walk and Brentham Way.

On 10<sup>th</sup> March, we will be setting about the next stage of the clearance, so if you fancy a couple of hours of collective gardening, please come along. We are also aware of other areas which need the same attention, so if you are willing to volunteer for this, please contact Heather. The sessions are informal and a great way to get some exercise and meet your neighbours.

### **Dinner Concert**

The Brentham Club invites you to a Dinner Concert on Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hugh Mather (piano) and Pauline Lowbury (violin) will be playing classical favourites, including work by Mozart. Tickets, priced at £20 (£18 for Club members), will include a sumptuous meal prepared by the Club's chef.



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Early booking is advised as places are limited.

Cheques can be sent to the Brentham Club, 38a Meadvale Road, Ealing, W5 1NP, or visit the Members' Bar upstairs at the Club. Further information from the Club's events manager.

## Awards for Brentham People

**Remi Adefarasin**, film-maker son of Joyce Adefarasin of Meadvale Road, has won an OBE for his work in TV and film. He earlier won an award for best cinematography for his work on the blockbuster *Elizabeth*, starring Cate Blanchett, which was nominated for an Oscar.



**Tony Miller** has been made an honorary freeman of the borough after decades of involvement in a wide range of local community activities, and in recognition of his tireless efforts to make Ealing a better place to live. This is the highest honour that can be bestowed by Ealing Council. Tony is a former Chair of the Brentham Society.

Currently a director of the Ealing Arts Centre, works with Save Ealing's Centre, he sits on the

committee of Ealing Civic Society, is vice-chair of the Ealing Lib-Dems, and chair of the Hanger Hill ward police panel and Streetwatchers.



## Brentham in Wartime

Our thanks to Mrs. Audrey Garvey who has written from Perth, Australia, to pass on memories of Brentham during World War Two, when she was a teenager living at 31 Neville Road. Her father, William Copestake, was groundsman for the adjoining "rec", as the Brentham Club's sports ground was known, and she recalls feeding carrots to the horse Queenie which lived in a shed behind the pavilion and pulled the heavy cricket pitch roller.

During the Second World War [as was recalled in our September 2010 edition] an anti-aircraft unit was stationed on the golf course on the far side of the Brent. Audrey's family "adopted" one of its members, who on one occasion arrived with the news that the detachment had managed to bring down a land mine that had been heading towards their part of Brentham. Audrey was very aware of the fate her family had

escaped because, sadly, she had already lost a friend, Rosemary Watts, killed with other family members and a Canadian serviceman billeted with them when a bomb hit their home in Meadvale Road.

Some of her many more pleasant memories of growing up in Brentham relate to Brentham May Day, and dancing round the maypole as Mrs Fletcher struck up Land of Hope and Glory on the piano. One of her brothers dressed up as Robin Hood and a sister dressed as a geisha. Another brother, she recalls, played table tennis with Fred Perry.

## Dates for your 2012 Diary

Ground Force Day	Saturday 10 March
May Day	Saturday 12 May
Open Garden Day	June (date tba)
Strawberry Tea	Sunday 24 June
Open House Walks	September 15 and 16
Brentham AGM	October (date tba)

## Removing Garden Waste

Ealing Council has confirmed that it will be levying an annual charge of £40 from April 2012 for this service. However it has accepted that it would not be in keeping with the scale of our streets, front gardens and terraces for the residents of Brentham to be issued with wheelie bins.



## News from the Ward Forums

Representatives of the Brentham Society attend the forums for the two wards which overlap our garden suburb, keep their ears to the ground and can raise issues on your behalf.

Cleveland ward has been consulted on the possible introduction of a 20 mph zone. The 20% response is currently being analysed by the Council's highways officers. It is estimated that a 20 mph zone would reduce average speeds by just 1%.

Some minor parking schemes at the east end of Pitshanger Lane were discussed at the last meeting, and indeed planning notices have appeared at the junction of Pitshanger Lane and Denison Road. The intention is to restrict parking around the junctions at the eastern end of Pitshanger Lane.

The Hanger Hill Ward Forum was alerted that the Boundaries Commission proposes to add Hanger Hill ward to a new parliamentary

constituency, to be designated either Ealing, or Hammersmith and Acton. It also emerged that the proposed new width restriction in Brunswick Road is unlikely to be implemented, whereas a 20 mph zone probably will be introduced.

### **New Members for the Brentham Society Committee**

At the Brentham Society AGM three new members were elected to the Committee.

The new Chair, Richard Costella, moved to Brentham from Wimbledon in 1979 after searching for somewhere to live within easy commuting distance of both Southall and the West End. He settled first in Fowlers Walk and later in Brentham Way, where he has been living since 1984. For several years previously Richard was Treasurer for the Society.

The other two new Committee members, Adel Golding and Clive Evans, are pictured below.



Our thanks to retiring committee members Sue Elliott, Eleanor Cowie and Tim Llewellyn for all the hard work they have put in over the years. Sue was interviewed about Brentham recently on Hayes FM radio, and you can hear what she had to say about us by clicking on the link in the News page of the Brentham Garden Suburb website, [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com)

### **Garden Awards for 2011**

Sally Kelly reported the results of this annual contest at the Brentham Society's AGM last October.

The Spring Award went to 45 Woodfield Crescent: "a small sunny front garden with a stunning colour scheme – blue ceramic window boxes shone with purple and orange pansies. The garden has thoughtfully planted and carefully tended shrubs and was attractive in an unusual way for the time of year when most garden colour is yellow."

Runners-up: 47 Meadvale Road, 93 Fowlers Walk and 50 Meadvale Road.

The Summer Award went to 39 Brentham Way: "a lovely established garden with many well chosen shrubs, some fashionably 'cloud pruned'. The overall effect is cool and refreshing with plenty of colour for added interest. As the summer progressed the colour increased with fabulous yellow begonias and bright pink cosmos, not an easy colour combination, but done so skilfully as to look really good. Lots of green in the picture seems to be the secret here."

Runners-up: 1 Neville Road, 29 Denison Road, 111 Fowlers Walk.

The Autumn Award went to 20 Brentham Way: "a lovely surprise behind a tall hedge at the top of the road - hanging baskets overflowing with colour, lots of tall asters in a wonderful range of colours, and roses too. A great display for the time of year."

Runners-up: 10 Neville Road, 64 Meadvale Road, 115 Fowlers Walk.

The Rose Bowl was won by 1 Ruskin Gardens: "always subtle and elegant, this garden gets better every year. Lots of cool shrubs in every shade of green complement the seasonal patches of ever-changing colour. Various clematis flowering early in the year and right through to join a mass of bright pink Japanese anemones in the autumn."

Sally added that "All in all, it was another good year for gardens on the Brentham Estate. Keep up the good work – it is worth the effort and cheers us all up as we walk about. Several gardens have been redesigned recently and seeing how they develop in 2012 will be interesting."

*Sally Kelly, Nita Davis and Gilda Kelly*

### **House Maintenance Website**

Most buildings in Brentham are pre-1914, using materials and methods different from those used more recently. Care of these older properties requires particular expertise as use of some modern techniques and materials can cause actual damage.



The website of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, or SPAB, contains a wealth of useful information for those responsible for the maintenance of pre-1914 buildings and is well worth a look. And it may even save you money!

<http://www.spab.org.uk/>

*Heather Moore*

## Brentham May Day – Can You Help?



Brentham May Day will be held on Saturday 12 May this year. The organisers are very appreciative of the teams of people who erect the maypole early in the morning, dress Jack in the Green's frame, and sell programmes.

They would also be grateful for any help you can give with teaching the maypole and country dances, helping at rehearsals, stewarding on the field on the day, and walking with the procession. With offers or for more information please contact Pat Chapman at [mayday@brentham.com](mailto:mayday@brentham.com).

## Repairing the Brentham Club Tower

Brentham residents will have noticed that the Brentham Club's tower, part of the old Brentham Institute, is looking very dilapidated, especially the brickwork and window frames. The tower belongs to the privately-owned Brentham Club, but the good news is that the Chairman and committee are aware of the problem and taking steps to repair the building.

They recently commissioned a report which indicated that there are three areas of concern: the brickwork, which needs urgent attention; the main roof, which while currently sound will need maintenance over the years; and the extensive cracking to the inside walls, possibly caused by a bomb in 1944, though the cracks are not thought to be moving.

All in all, not as gloomy as it might be, but still the cost of dealing with all this is likely to be £100,000 or more: money which the Club does not have.

The Club is proposing to build one house near its car park in order to raise the money. Ordinarily, planning permission would not be granted for such a new development, but there are provisions within the regulations for just this circumstance, where the proceeds from a development are to be used to repair part of a listed building. The Club is in discussions with Ealing Council over this and it remains to be seen whether this application will in fact be allowed.



The Brentham Society is in close touch with the Club, and we will keep you informed as the planning work progresses.

## Fred 's Tennis Blue

The commemorative blue plaque for tennis champion, Brentham Club member and Brentham resident Fred Perry which is to be installed at 223 Pitshanger Lane is currently being 'struck'. The unveiling is expected to take place around the time of Wimbledon fortnight, 25 June to 8 July.

Further information, including details of who will perform the unveiling ceremony (will Andy Murray perhaps be stepping forward?) will emerge nearer that time.

## Winscombe Crescent

*Brentham News* depends on its loyal band of volunteers for bringing copies to your doors. Our thanks to all, including Ian Moore who delivers to Winscombe Crescent but has had sadly to drop out of our team for health reasons.

If you could use some occasional extra exercise (delivering three issues annually, plus the odd Brentham News Update) please contact Michael McCarthy, who will be glad to drop off a batch of copies conveniently to your own front door each time a new edition is printed.

## Pitshanger Pictures

Here is the programme of films that will be screened in the St. Barnabas Millennium Hall over the coming months.

Monday 13 February  
**Of Gods and Men (15)** - 7.45pm

Saturday 25 February  
**Magic Flute: Mozart** – 7.00 pm

Monday 27 February  
**Snow Falling on Cedars (15)** – 7.45pm

Monday 12 March  
**Ryan's Daughter (15)** – 7.45 pm

Saturday 17 March  
**Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG)** - 3.00pm

**The Guard (15)** - 7.30 pm

Saturday 14 April  
**Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (15)** – 7.30 pm

For further details, see the website, <http://www.barnabites.org/social/pitshanger-pictures/>

## The Brentham Club

**St. Valentines Carvery**  
**1 pm on Sunday 12 February in the Main Hall**

*Three Courses:*  
Members: £14.95  
Non Members: £16.50

*Two Courses:*  
Members: £ 12  
Non Members: £ 14

Please book your table early to avoid disappointment!

**Fred Perry Coffee Shop**  
Everyone is welcome to use the coffee shop.

To buy tickets visit the Members' Bar upstairs at the Club.

### Ealing Classic Cinema Club



For February the club has programmed a season of films directed by the Swedish director Ingmar Bergman:  
10 February *The Seventh Seal*  
17 February *Smiles of a Summer's Night*  
24 February *Saraband*



All films will be shown at Ealing Town Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. Entry is at the new, lower price of £7 in 2012, with concessions at £6 as previously, but it is hoped to reduce this as audiences grow.

The Ealing Classic Cinema Club is now fully a members' club. The yearly subscription is £10, but a one-night temporary membership costs just £1. Further information is available from the club's secretary, Ann Pavett or log on to [www.classiccinemaclub.co.uk](http://www.classiccinemaclub.co.uk)

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