

NEWS EXTRA

DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS OF BRENTHAM GARDEN SUBURB

MAY 2011

Saturday May 14th marks the highlight of the Brentham calendar – **May Day** with the traditional children’s procession through the streets followed by Maypole dancing in the grounds of the Brentham Club and a tea for the children.

This year it’s a double celebration: a hundred years ago in May 1911 Queen Victoria’s youngest son, the Duke of Connaught, formally opened the Brentham Club and Institute for *“the provision of ample playing fields and facilities for indoor recreation and games (that will) constitute an element of neighbourliness that is mutually helpful and enduring”*.



The Club has served Brentham and the surrounding area with high quality sports facilities and given local people a unique venue for social events and leisure opportunities ever since. These may have changed a bit since the original Club and Institute was conceived as a benefit solely for Brentham residents – it no longer offers croquet, improving lectures by social reformers, or a Ladies’ Reading Room (now the Bar!) – but it remains a wonderful local resource right on our doorstep.

These days the Club has about 1000 members, but only about one in ten Brentham households are among them. **The Club and the Brentham Society, together with the PCA, want to bring it back to its roots as a focus for the local community** and are keen to encourage residents to become members to ensure not only the Club’s continuing viability as an

independent operation, but to take an active part in making sure it offers what you want.

So, to mark the centenary, kick off a season of celebrations, and encourage people to find out more about what it offers, Saturday May 14th will also be **Open Day at the Club** between **11am and 7pm**. There will be live music, a bar and BBQ, and taster sessions for all the sports on offer: bowls, bridge, soccer, snooker, tennis and cricket. You can also check out the social facilities including large and small function rooms, 3 bars (one of which has recently be redecorated by members themselves), roof terrace, and coffee shop/restaurant. There’ll be a balloon release/race, tug-of-war, old-fashioned games and a children’s disco after the May Day tea. So make it a free fun day-out for all the family – and no need to get in the car!

Look out for **future centenary events** over the coming months. Next up:

Thursday June 16th: Ealing Civic Society Green Plaque to mark Fred Perry’s association with the Brentham Club 1919-1935, official unveiling by a sports celebrity. 6.30pm at the Club

For further details check out the **Club website** at:

www.brenthamclub.co.uk

Other Brentham events for your diary

Sunday 12th June - Brentham Open Gardens

Sunday 19th June – Strawberry Tea (*note changed date*)

For further details watch the **notice boards** or visit The **Brentham Society website** at www.brentham.com

Next full edition of Brentham News will be published in June.