



Issue 179

Distributed free to all residents and friends of Brentham Garden Suburb

February 2014

# BRENTHAM NEWS

## Chair's Notes

The hedges in Brentham are one of the best features of the estate. They differentiate us from most other areas by presenting a continuous green perspective rather than a hotchpotch of walls and hard-standings for cars. Most of the hedges are mature, some being 100 years old.

If you walk around the estate you will notice that many of them encroach beyond the boundary of the property and over the edge of the pavement.



This is to be expected; hedges grow and the overall effect is attractive. In the majority of cases this is not a problem, but in a small number of places the hedges have grown out too far, and if there is a street tree nearby this can restrict the pavement width and make it difficult for people with buggies, wheelchairs or mobility scooters to pass. In one case recently a complaint was made to the Council, and their Envirocrime Unit became involved – yes, this Unit does exist and usually deals with cases of public nuisance such as fly-tipping and graffiti.

Elsewhere in this issue Pat Baxendale gives some excellent advice on hedge care and dealing with hedges that have simply grown too big. Tending hedges can be hard work, so in the usual Brentham spirit, if your neighbour is having difficulty in keeping control of a hedge, please offer to help or contact us for advice.

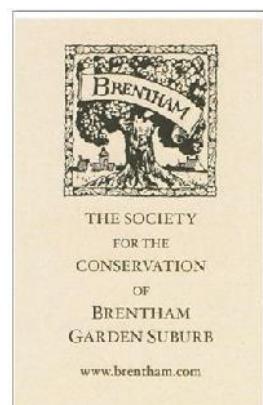
The start of a new year is always a good time to review the work of the Brentham Society over the past 12 months. Our main purpose is to maintain the nature of the estate, and the most visible way in which we do this is to monitor the planning applications which are made. In 2013 we reviewed more than 60 applications, and it is proven that when people ask for advice at the outset, their applications are more likely to be approved. With prior advice from us it is

relatively easy to work through the system if due attention is paid to the relevant detail. Please email [planning@brentham.com](mailto:planning@brentham.com) to contact the Society for free advice if you are considering any changes to your property. It may save you lots of time and money further into the process.

The social aspect also makes Brentham stand apart from many other places, and we hold several events for residents to get to know one another during the year. Three issues of *Brentham News* each year delivered to every house also keep us all informed. Other work which we do is less obvious; we have a large archive which we would like to digitise and thus make available more widely, and we are in discussion with some organisations to take this forward. We are also making headway on the project to restore the Brentham Club's tower.

All this needs to be funded, and leads me neatly on to the subject of annual subscriptions. Included with this newsletter is a request for you to return your annual subscription to your street collector. We urge you to pay this as soon as possible. Once again over 50% of the houses on the estate joined the society last year, meaning that we have good standing with the Council on planning and other matters.

Our subscription has remained at £2 for several years now, and does not cover all our running costs or the additional work we wish to do. A substantial number of residents make donations to help to make up the shortfall. If you are able to pay a small extra sum, it will be very welcome. The subscription level is well below that of similar local organisations. **Richard Costella**



## A Date for your Diary

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April Dr. Rupa Huq, Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Kingston University, will be giving an illustrated talk on "Suburbia", with specific reference to Brentham. Rupa is a long-term Ealing resident, having spent her childhood living very close to Brentham. Look out for more details on our notice boards nearer the time.

## Website News



### Brentham Garden Suburb

A huge thank-you to former resident Wendy Sender, who has recently “retired” from maintaining the website that she, together with her husband Peter, built several years ago in succession to the pioneer one devised by Peter Bigwood. Wendy has looked after it ever since, and also completed the photo survey which is such an important part of the website.

From now on it will be looked after by Alan Henderson and Martin Mortimore. Watch this (part of cyber-) space - [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com) - for further developments. If you feel able and willing to help maintain and update the website, please get in touch with the new team through [alan@brentham.com](mailto:alan@brentham.com)

### The Brentham Club

On behalf of the Brentham Club Committee and our members, we would like to give a big thank-you to the Brentham Society for the donation it has made to the Brentham Club Tower Restoration Fund. It was a total surprise and we much appreciate your generosity in passing on to us the goodwill payment made by the television production company Breathless Ltd. after filming in Ruskin Gardens. We are also indebted to the late Maurice Beattie for his kind donation to the fund.

**Maggie Bukowska**

### Polite Request to Dog Owners

Residents have recently noticed dog fouling both in Denison Road and on Vivian Green, although signs reminding owners to clear up after their pets have been installed on the Green, and the Council put posters on the lamp-posts at the northern end of Denison Road after receiving complaints from local residents.



Please be aware of the offensiveness of dog fouling and keep Brentham tidy.

## Open House Tours of Brentham

There was, as usual, an appreciative turn-out for last September's public walks around Brentham.

This was Clive Evans' debut as Open House guide, taking over from Clive Hicks who has retired from this role after years of leading Brentham's contribution to this annual programme of architectural walks and openings of buildings usually inaccessible to the public.

Many thanks are due to Clive Hicks for introducing Brentham to so many visitors from far and wide over the years. Incidentally, your Editor decided to move to Brentham after joining one of Clive's very informative September tours.

This year's Open House openings and walks will take place on 20-21 September 2014.

### Club Tower Restoration

Clive Evans, who leads the project team, reports that a Chiswick-based surveyor with appropriate heritage architecture credentials was chosen to prepare an expert report on the restoration work required. His survey was recently completed and the report is eagerly awaited. Rosemarie Wakelin, Ealing's Principal Conservation Officer, has expressed her enthusiasm for the project and is keen to see it carried through properly.

Once the report is received, tenders for the work can be invited. Reputable tradesmen with experience of such buildings - in particular, specialists in restoring brickwork - will be sought. When the estimates arrive the likely costs will be clearer and fundraising can start.

As for likely sources of financial support, Clive expects that the Club will make a contribution, for the tower is, after all, part of its own premises. The

Brentham Society, which will use the top floor to house its archive, will pay for fitting out the interior. The project team will also be applying for grants for the restoration, and seeking donations from local businesses among other sources of help with the project.



But most of all the team will be asking Brentham residents to chip in, for it is in everyone's interest that the estate's major public building and social centre is well maintained. If each household gave £50 that would generate £35,000 and probably make a large dent in the sum we need. If necessary, work could be phased over an extended period, with the most

important work tackled first and the remainder as money becomes available.

Clive has a small but determined team to help him, and local people have volunteered to help with legal work, fundraising and on producing additional drawings. He can be contacted at 50 Denison Road, or you could send an email to [cpeevans@gmail.com](mailto:cpeevans@gmail.com)

## Architectural Salvage

If you are renovating your house and have spare original fittings such as doors and windows, please contact Heather Moore to see if these can be reused elsewhere in Brentham. Or if you are seeking an item to restore your home to its original appearance, note that we have a store of such things and may be able to supply what you need. Email [heather@brentham.com](mailto:heather@brentham.com)

## Cutting Back Hedges



All Brentham boundary hedges are protected by conservation area controls as they are considered a valuable feature of the estate. However, some are so wide that they can cause problems for pedestrians, and so need to be reduced. The council can in fact order a wide hedge to cut back, but the good news is that reducing a hedge is quite straightforward. Also, although a hedge may look bare and thin after pruning, most common hedging plants will quickly green up again by the following season.

### When to hard prune

About every seven to ten years. This is best done in early spring, but privet, hawthorn, yew and hornbeam can be cut in autumn. Always avoid summer or frosty weather.

### What tools are needed

Long-handled loppers, secateurs and possibly a pruning saw. Do not use an electric hedge trimmer as it will chew up the thick twigs and may introduce disease.

### How much to cut

Only cut one side in one year. If you need to remove a great deal from the top as well as the side it is better to lower it moderately and take more off next year. Privet can be cut more severely than other hedging. Cut branches back to within 15 cms. of the centre framework of the trunks at the heart of the hedge. Start at one end and work along the length, starting at the bottom and working up. It may help to rough trim first so you can see the line of the original planting.

Always "batter" the hedge by cutting out more towards the top, sloping towards a wider base. This allows light to get to the lower foliage so that it grows thick and healthy.



*This shows the half-way stage of hard pruning overgrown hornbeam hedging in Ludlow Road. The pruned section is ready for spring greening.*

### Care after pruning

In spring, dress the ground with general purpose fertiliser and compost. New shoots will spring from the bare wood and occasionally from the roots. Make sure that you clip lightly, once the new shoots are about 3-6 cm. long, so that they branch out. Trim again when more side shoots appear, and water during the following summer.

### Renovating hedges in rear gardens

Many old hedges have become thin and no longer provide sufficiently dense growth to prevent children and dogs straying. Hard pruning, followed by good care, will nearly always renovate most hedges except *cupressus*.

You may find it useful to fix chestnut paling or a dark coloured open-mesh against your side of the hedge after hard pruning. This will keep dogs and children within bounds. Paling can be installed without a planning application if it is not over a metre in height. It is simply a support for the hedge as, unlike solid fencing, the hedge can grow through it. Mesh might be used next to higher hedges, but for this advice should be sought first from the Brentham Society. You can see chestnut paling next to the well-kept privet hedge around St. Barnabas.

**Pat Baxendale**

## Brentham May Day

This year's Brentham May Day will be held on Saturday 10 May. The enrolment date will be Thursday 13th March, 4.00 - 6.00 pm at St. Barnabas Church Hall. Our very small May Day committee would greatly appreciate offers of help, especially with dancing rehearsals.



The organisers also need and are very grateful for assistance on the day with erecting the maypole and other necessary preparations. Offers to, and more information from, Pat Chapman. Email [patricia9@sky.com](mailto:patricia9@sky.com)

## Men Who Marched Away



With this coming August marking the centenary of the outbreak of war in 1914, Margaret Hargraves has been very busy researching the war service of the Brentham Club members whose names are recorded on its memorial plaque. It is hoped to pass on much of the information which she is continuing to locate, from a variety of sources, in a special supplement to *Brentham News* later in the year.

## Brentham's Open Garden Day, 2014

This year's event will be held on Sunday 8 June. We're giving residents plenty of notice so, if you are thinking of opening for the first time, you have ample time to plan and prepare your garden for this enjoyable and informative event. You might perhaps team up with your neighbours to open your front or back gardens on a joint basis. Gardening group members will be available to provide support and advice; we don't expect perfection!

If you don't want to open your garden there are plenty of other ways to help - ticket selling, helping with teas, making cakes or contributing to the plant sale. All proceeds go to charity. For further information contact Sheila Fowler on

020 824 9119, or alternatively you could email [sheila.fowler1@virginmedia.com](mailto:sheila.fowler1@virginmedia.com)

## Ludlow Road Loses Historic Tree



*[Photo by courtesy of Martin Mortimore]*

Last October revived memories of the great hurricane of 1987 when the tail-end of Storm Emily hit Ludlow Road and brought down a much-loved silver birch tree, dating back to the estate's original plantings. After swaying awhile it slowly subsided, coming to rest with an almost human sigh, upper branches leaning gently against an adjacent house. No injuries, no damage done. Sadness, but also relief all round!

## Garden Awards, 2013

The judges were very appreciative of all the lovely front gardens in Brentham, and especially of the large number of beautiful spring gardens. With so many to choose between it was decided not to select any as runners-up.

The spring award went to **42 Holyoake Walk**, an attractively laid out paved garden full of wallflowers, with a pale yellow rose, wisteria and blue-flowered clematis.

The summer award went to **53 Holyoake Walk**, with its abundant display of colour and wide variety of bedding plants, including orange and yellow marigolds, begonias and geraniums.

The autumn award went to **9 Denison Road**: a very well-maintained and warmly colourful garden with a neatly-trimmed cotoneaster, a dark pink fuchsia, sedum and yellow heleniums.

**9 Brentham Way** was awarded the Rose Bowl for overall excellence. Impressive throughout the seasons with a wide range of shrubs, laburnum, tulips, narcissi and summer flowering plants. The garden is very well cared for and very much in keeping with the Brentham style of cottage gardening.

*Many thanks to Rosanna Henderson, Maggi Marmion and Vicky Snodin for judging this annual competition.*



## Geoffrey Green, 1929-2013

We regret to announce the death of long-term resident Geoffrey Green. Geoffrey began his association with the area in 1954, when he worked in estate agency, and in 1972 he moved with his wife Valerie into Brentham Way. In 1980 he opened an international naval and maritime bookshop in Pitshanger Lane (in premises now occupied by Brendons) which attracted MPs, admirals, TV personalities, and even Russian naval attachés.



Geoffrey was a keen supporter of Brentford FC and a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club for over 40 years. We would like to express our condolences to his family.

## Delivering Your Newsletter

Our invaluable band of helpers is to lose the services of Anne Barnes. Many thanks for your assistance, Anne, who has been bringing *Brentham News* to residents' doors at the upper end of Brentham Way for - "Quite a while will do nicely!" Anne interjects.

We welcome Adel Golding to the team, and thank her for taking over from Anne.

## Pitshanger Pictures

A new season of some of the best available films of operas is opening soon, with high-quality projection equipment and excellent hi-fi sound. Screenings will include Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*, with performances by Kiri Te Kanawa, Mirella Freni and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. The film will be shown on **Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>** in the St. Barnabas Millennium Hall. Entry £10 (pre-booking is not required: buy your ticket on the door). Pre-event suppers will be available from 6 p.m., and the screening starts at 7 p.m.

Verdi's *Otello*, directed by Franco Zeffirelli and with the tenor Placido Domingo in the leading role, will be shown on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. This will be followed on **Sunday 25 May** by Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, with Teresa Berganza as Rosina, Hermann Prey as the Barber and Claudio Abbado conducting.

## Local History: *This House*

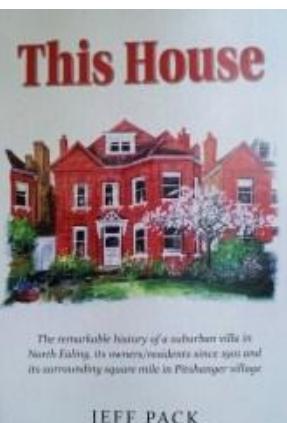
Local author Jeff Pack has recently compiled a history of his house in Queen's Gardens and of its inhabitants over the last 112 years. The

account also extends to the square mile round about it, which includes Brentham.

In part it is a tale of two developers, Brentham's Henry Vivian and Thomas Richards, a capitalist who lost considerable sums of money on some speculative property developments in Queen's Gardens and Queen's Walk, but nevertheless died a very rich man.

For various reasons, it emerges, Vivian and Richards (both of them men of humble origins) probably hated each other. There is however much more than their stories to the book, which develops into a fascinating social history of the last century or more, told through the occupants of the house, and traces the evolution of this part of north Ealing.

Copies are on sale at the Pitshanger Bookshop.



The remarkable history of a suburban villa in North Ealing, its owners/tenants since 1901 and its atmospheric square mile in Pitshanger village

JEFF PACK

## Maurice Beattie, 1957-2014

Brentham has recently lost another notable resident with the sad passing in January of Maurice Beattie, who lived in Denison Road.

He was born, and lived all his life, in Brentham and as a child in the mid-60s he participated in the Brentham May Day, along with his sister Carol. He was a well-loved, caring person and every year would stand by his gate and watch the annual parade with great enjoyment.



He was always a strong supporter of the Brentham Society, and had been known to donate a whole year's worth of small change to the carol singers.

He will be much missed by all his close neighbours and the many people he used to chat with while sitting on a bench on Vivian Green. Our condolences go to his family.

## Sponsors of the Brentham Newsletter

Leading independent qualified Estate Agents with local expertise



Winscombe Crescent - Sold



Ludlow Road - Sold

Currently, there is a strong demand for properties on the Brentham Garden Estate. If you are considering a sale, please contact Derek Grimshaw FRICS or John Pridham RD FRICS to discuss how we could help you to achieve the full potential for your property.

**GRIMSHAW**

[www.grimshawhomes.co.uk](http://www.grimshawhomes.co.uk)

5 Station Parade, Uxbridge Road, Ealing Common W5 3LD T: 020 8992 5661 E: [sales@grimshawhomes.co.uk](mailto:sales@grimshawhomes.co.uk)

### The Brentham Club

020-8997-2624

[secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk)

**PERRY CAFE** All are welcome to enjoy a Lavazza coffee at the café. Opening hours – Monday to Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Weekend openings 9.00 a.m. The Café serves hot and cold drinks; snacks; light meals, lunches and afternoon tea. Please call 020 8997 2624 if you wish to book ahead. Roast Sunday lunches are available between 12.45 and 3.45 p.m. for £8.00 (10% discount to members).

**BISTRO NIGHTS** All are also very welcome to enjoy the Bistro Nights in the Perry Cafe. These are held on the first Friday of each month from 7 p.m. Food is freshly prepared with each order - with a vegetarian option available. The next Bistro Night is Friday 7 February. Reservations can be made by phone 020 8997 2624 or email [secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk)

**BRENTHAM CLUB AGM** This will be held in the Main Hall on Tuesday 25 March. More details on the website at [www.brenthamclub.co.uk](http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk)

**OPEN DAY** The Brentham Club Open Day is planned for Saturday 10 May. More details to follow: check our website.

**NEW AT THE CLUB – BT SPORT** The club now has BT SPORT available, plus SKY SPORTS and ESPN. Come along and watch live football and other sports at the club.

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

or by writing to the Editor, 8 Gleneagles, Malvern Way, W13 8DZ

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