

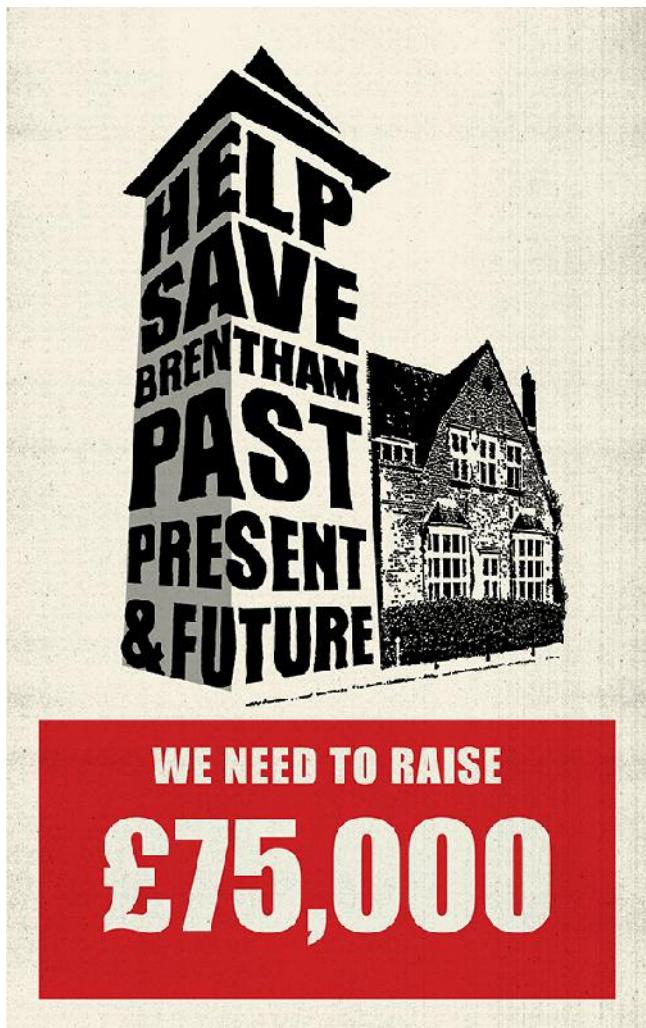


ISSUE 180 - JUNE 2014

DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF BRENTHAM GARDEN SUBURB
BY THE BRENTHAM SOCIETY REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1079724

BRENTHAM NEWS

Brentham Society and Brentham Club Joint Tower Restoration Project



This project aims to protect the past of Brentham Garden Suburb, both in the form of its iconic Tower and of its archive material, so that future generations will continue to enjoy it as we do. That is the challenge for this present generation – please help all you can.

There have been important developments recently, and with your help we can see this project through to completion. After a detailed survey of the Tower was carried out by Acanthus LW, Chiswick-based surveyors with extensive experience of historic buildings, quotations were invited from nine building firms. Three submitted tenders, and we have selected Mitre

Construction Co. Ltd. of Chingford - a company experienced in restoring historic structures. It recently renovated Ealing Town Hall.

Our target is to raise £75,000 to get all the work done: repairing the damaged brickwork, repairing and repainting the windows and drainpipes, and fitting out the top floor of the Tower to house the Brentham archive.

We look to raise the money from three sources: grants, donations from local residents and Club members, local businesses and a variety of fund-raising activities.

We have identified 13 organisations that might help fund this project, ranging from English Heritage, to Biffa and the local ASDA store. Some of these offer large grants, others smaller amounts up to £10,000. Now that we have a clear target and we know what work needs to be done we can start the grant application process.

Regarding donations, if every household on the Brentham Estate contributed £100 we would raise most of the money required. Residents spend a lot on keeping their houses looking well-kept, which in turn keeps the whole estate in good order. Contributing a little more to reinstate the historic Tower at the heart of the estate is only prudent. We hope you will be prepared to donate whatever you can manage.

We also have a long list of money-raising activities that we would like to run - especially during the summer months. Angie Bray MP has offered to host a quiz night, and we could hold a children's painting competition, a Great War event based on the memories of local people, tours of the Estate, wine tasting, and put on a stand at the Party in the Park, to name but a few ideas. We have started on building a replica of the Tower in Lego bricks (see page 5) and this has already raised £100. We have lots of ideas, but would welcome more, and especially we would welcome help in implementing them.

Will you help? We hope that you will give generously, not only in money but also in time, talents and enthusiasm. It would be great to feel the whole community coming together to get behind the project. Please help by filling in the form enclosed with this edition of *Brentham News*, and posting or delivering it to the Chairman's address.

Clive Evans

Chair's Notes

I often start my Notes with a comment about planning, and I make no apologies for doing so again. The large amount of building activity around the estate at the moment shows that many residents prefer to stay on the estate and improve their properties instead of moving, and the Brentham Society encourages this as a way to build a stable and sustainable community. Well thought out improvements and extensions do not harm the nature of the estate.

However, vigilance on planning is an important part of the life of the Society, and we have had some recent successes against inappropriate development that show how effective reasoned argument and consistent campaigning can be.

Most residents will have heard of the recent application to build a completely new house in



Pitshanger Lane, almost opposite the junction with Ludlow Road. This is a relatively large piece of land, including a couple of scruffy-looking garages. The

plan was to build a modern house, out of keeping with the rest of the area, and very close to the pavement.

Working with the nearby residents, with one in particular doing some excellent research into the ownership of the land, we lobbied the Council to reject the application. Not only would the house be an eyesore, but allowing the principle of infill building would open the floodgates to garden developments and similar applications, which could change the nature of the area. We persuaded the planning officer to visit the site, and he immediately agreed to reject the plan.

Don't go away with the idea that we oppose all development. As noted above, we encourage well thought out improvements and extensions. However, it does pay to take advice in advance, as the rules are quite complex, so do contact us through the planning@brentham.com address as early as possible if contemplating some building work.

On a lighter note, in the spring two short stretches of double yellow lines unexpectedly appeared at the junction of Meadvale and Ludlow Roads.



We were able to show that all the correct procedures were not followed, and the lines have disappeared.

However, the Council has reminded us that parking within five metres of a junction is not permitted under the Highway Code, and of course it is not allowed (or considerate) to park blocking dropped kerbs.

In the last edition of BN I mentioned the revamp of our web site. I am pleased to say that this is very nearly complete, and we hope to "go live" with the new version within the next month. Watch this space!

Richard Costella

Trees in Brentham

Mature trees give Brentham much of its established garden suburb character, so the many young replacement trees planted by the council are a valuable contribution to the conservation management of the estate. Anyone not convinced on other grounds of the value of conservation might note that there is a direct relationship between the number of mature street trees and enhanced house prices.



Sadly however, some young trees fail to thrive, usually through lack of water in dry periods. Other trees suffer damage caused by careless drivers or disease. Ealing Council now has a residents' scheme to monitor and take care of street trees. Susan Wyatt, co-ordinator of Ealing Council's Neighbourhood Champions, runs this scheme and would like Brentham residents to take part.

The Brentham Society conservation team will still be happy to report any problems and liaise with Ealing Council's Arboricultural Department about any tree in Brentham. You can contact us at planning@brentham.com or phone Heather on 8998 0234 or Pat on 8998 1855. If you would like to be more involved with the day-to-day observation and care of your street trees, this is what Susan has to say about the scheme:

In essence all we ask is that Tree Wardens take responsibility for at least two street trees and that you:

- *Water the trees during hot weather (half a bucket, twice a week).*
- *Take part in the bi-annual tree audit by checking the young trees in your neighbourhood.*
- *Request Tree Preservation Orders to protect trees of high amenity value.*

- *Attend, if you wish, training events held by Ealing Council in partnership with the Tree Council.*
- *Report any damaged, broken, dying or diseased trees.*

It would be lovely if we could attract tree wardens for all of our street trees in Ealing Borough during the first three years or so of their lives. We could easily double the amount of trees we put on to the streets without having to give money to contractors to carry out the work highlighted above. Perhaps schemes like this which encourage a caring community can help Ealing to become once more the queen of the suburbs.

You can email Susan at wyatts@ealing.gov.uk or phone 020 8825 5225 or 07967 670291.

Pat Baxendale

Brentham May Day

Grey skies and a heavy downpour just before the annual parade was about to start failed to dampen spirits, and the procession set off after a



short delay, led in style on its usual circuit of Brentham by the Yiewsley and West Drayton Band. The brighter weather held up until the crowning of this year's May Queen, Daisy Joncock-Larsen and the first few dances, but then torrential rain forced the abandonment of outdoor festivities. The participants retired to the Brentham Club for their well-earned tea.

This year's May Day was dedicated to the memory of Brenda Clements [see her obituary opposite] who played a vital role in the event for over 40 years, teaching the younger children their dances and helping to rescue the event from nearly terminal decline in the 1960s. Brenda's commitment and enthusiasm were vital in keeping the May Day tradition alive and well.

Open House Weekend will be on 20-21 September this year, with tours of the Brentham estate led by Clive Evans.

Commemorating the Great War

As we all know, this year brings the centenary of the beginning of the First World War – “the war to end all wars”. The Brentham Club has a plaque to commemorate the nineteen members of the Club who gave their lives. Two hundred



and ten men from Brentham volunteered or enlisted, but of these nineteen never returned. It looks as if a third of Brentham households were affected by participation in the Great War.

I have researched the names and family details of these nineteen, to give their names some meaning for us over and above being represented on the plaque, although it was possible to collect much more detail about some individuals than about others. I was also able to trace three direct descendants, one in Australia and two in England. One of these was John Herbert Elder Wheals' grandson, who came to visit the Club last December, meeting myself and Alan Henderson.

I am indebted to John Wheals for a book he lent me giving details of his family; to Alan Henderson for a book he found in the archives relating to Julian Gould, who was a promising artist; and to Samantha in Australia for photos of her great-grandfather.

There are several Brentham addresses mentioned in the material I have compiled and a few photographs, but due to its extent it is not possible to include it in this newsletter. In place of that, I would be more than happy to send any reader a copy of this material - it makes fascinating reading. You can contact me by phone on 020 8998 9616, or send an email to margaret.hargraves@btinternet.com

From now on I shall be researching the men who did return.

Maggie Bukowska

Brenda Clements, 1938-2014

A large congregation at St Barnabas Church, Pitshanger Lane, celebrated the life of Brenda Clements, and the contributions she made to the life of the community over more than 50 years.

Brenda achieved her childhood ambition of becoming a ballerina, dancing professionally

with the Festival Ballet (now English National Ballet) in the early 1950s. However, once she had met her future husband, Yorrie, she realised that much international travel and living out of a suitcase were not for her.

Brenda and Yorrie married at St Barnabas in 1957 and had three children. Whilst raising her family, she cared for husband Yorrie throughout his illnesses, helped to set up and run the St. Barnabas

Playgroup, became an Akela for the local scout group and was proud to become a member of the serving team at the church, besides preparing children for the annual Brentham May Day celebrations.

Throughout her life Brenda continued to dance and teach dancing, inspiring many others at various schools for over 40 years. She became a teacher at Harvington School, capturing the children's imaginations and encouraging them to achieve with her infectious enthusiasm.

People described Brenda as the perfect neighbour: kind, gentle, supportive and always helping others with no fuss. She loved nothing more than walking her two dogs and brought a friendly smile to the faces of people she met.

St Barnabas was full of daffodils for Brenda's funeral, and the path from Pitshanger Lane to



the church door was lined with pots of them. It was an uplifting sight on an early spring day and exactly right for someone

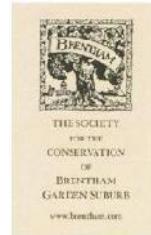
so sunny and well-loved.

launched Brentham website and we hope it will generate some further interest so that we can fill some of the gaps in our collection.

Membership Subscriptions

Membership is up this year, with a significant increase in those of you who gave us additional donations. Thank you for those, and thanks to the people who have renewed or joined for the first time – we appreciate your support.

If you have yet to renew or never joined, is there a reason why you haven't, or have you just mislaid your subscription envelope? If you don't wish to renew do let us know why - we value any feedback and look forward to hearing from you either way. Contact chair@brentham.com



Suburbs - Where It's All Happening

Sociologist Dr. Rupa Huq gave a talk to the Brentham Society in which she contested the idea of suburbs as boringly inert, featureless places where nothing much ever happens. On the contrary, she pointed out, they have come to have much in common with city centres, instancing the 2011 riots which affected places like Ealing and the problems of crumbling infrastructure which are not confined to more central areas.



Suburbs acquired a reputation for being boring, she argued, because people who escaped from chaotic, over-crowded city centres promoted the contrasting image of the safe blandness of the leafy metropolitan fringe. To the urban intelligentsia, suburbia was the haunt of status-obsessed folk trapped in their soulless semis. Yet far from being cultural deserts, the nation's Acacia Avenues are where almost all post-war popular music emerged, though its creators like to suggest that they hailed edgily from city high-rises. John Lennon was raised in Liverpool's sedate Menlove Avenue, and David Bowie in Bromley.

Suburbia has also come to house ethnically mixed populations, in contrast to conventional assumptions of uniformity. Part of suburbia's allure was cleaner air, lower local taxation and a better class of inhabitant - often code for the absence of ethnic residents. Yet the substantial movement of ethnic minority people into the

Digitising the Brentham Archive

Significant headway is being made with this task. As well as all the architects' colour plans and a number of old photographs, we have started to capture all the May Day programmes and photos of May Queens from years gone by. These will all be available to view on the forthcoming re-

suburbs is evidence that this post-war picture no longer holds. Polish shops are increasingly a feature of the suburban scene, whereas high street mainstays like pubs close down as their customer base shrinks. In fact "ethnic" commerce

has helped many suburban shopping parades to survive competition by out-of-town shopping malls and online selling.

Many inner-city areas have experienced gentrification as large properties revert to single-family dwellings, priced well beyond most budgets. The stereotypes - suburban privilege and inner-city squalor - are blurring and merging, even reversing. A hundred years after their creation, suburbs are suffering from the economic downturn and look the worse for wear, despite their reputation as places where nothing ever changes or happens.

Brentham Open Garden Day Sunday 8 June, 2 – 5 pm

Enjoy an afternoon out with your family and friends at the ever-popular Open Garden Day. Get some garden design and planting tips/ideas from fellow gardeners, or just come to discover what trees, shrubs, annual and perennial flowers flourish behind your neighbours' hedges.

Ticket prices have been held at £3.50 and a programme and map can be purchased on the day from 47 Meadvale Road or 53 Brentham Way. There will be a plant sale, and teas and cakes will be available at 13 Brentham Way. Offers of help with serving teas or making cakes will be much appreciated.

All proceeds will go to the RP (*retinitis pigmentosa*) Fighting Blindness charity. For further information contact Sheila Fowler, 020 8248 9119 or Sheila.fowler1@virginmedia.com

Strawberry Tea

This popular annual event takes place on Sunday 29 June. It will run from 3.30 to 5.30 at No. 2 Winscombe Crescent, courtesy of Barbara Murray. Society members pay £3.50, guests £4.50, and children £2. Brentham merchandise and home-made jam will be on sale in aid of Downhurst residential care home.



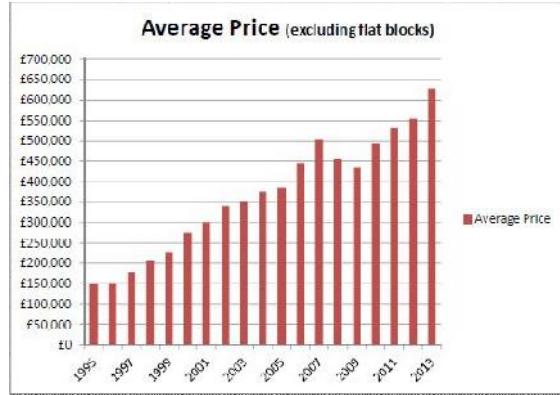
feature of the suburban scene, whereas high street mainstays like pubs close down as their customer base shrinks. In fact "ethnic" commerce

The Lego Tower

As one of the fundraising initiatives for the Tower Restoration project, we are building a model of the tower in Lego bricks. To work to a scale of about 1:15 we'll need about 4,000 bricks. Selling them at £1 each will make a significant contribution to the overall cost - but we need many more bricks to sell. Do you have a box of Lego in the attic, or know anyone who has, and would like to donate them to a good cause? Please contact Alan Henderson on 020 8998 6550 or alan@brentham.com The Lego Tower will be at the Open Gardens and Strawberry Tea events: buy some bricks there and rebuild the Tower!



House Prices Still Rising



There were 27 Brentham houses sold during 2013 at an average price of just less than £630,000 - an increase of 13% on 2012 levels.



Hedges

Further to our comments in BN179 about hedges overgrowing footpaths, the recent weather has provoked a growth spurt and there are several places on the estate where footpaths (and back alleys) are becoming a challenge for pedestrians. Please be a good neighbour and cut back your front hedges so that pavements are unobstructed, and ensure that hedges on rear alleyways do not block off rights of way.

Weather Patterns

2013 was a memorable year for the weather in Brentham, bringing the coldest March on record, the coldest May since 1996, the driest June since 1996 and the hottest September day on record, on Tuesday 3rd at 31.7°C. The weather continued to dominate conversation at the beginning of 2014, with January being the wettest on record with almost 2½ times the average rainfall for the month, with rain recorded on 27 out of 31 days.

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Leading Independent qualified Estate Agents with local expertise



North View – 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 to discuss how we could help you to achieve the full potential for your property.



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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Ealing Art Group will be having a one-day exhibition and sale of art and craft at St.Barnabas church, Pitshanger Lane, on Saturday 12 July, 10-5.

Admission free, delicious home-made cakes and tea available.

Pitshanger Pictures will be screening

Round Midnight (cert.12) on Monday 9 June at 8 pm to tie in with the Ealing Jazz Festival.

Tickets £5 on the door at St.Barnabas Millennium Hall.

The Brentham Club welcomes new members, and has four rooms (including the main hall) available for rental.

To make a booking, please contact John on 074 0271 1982 or email events@brenthamclub.co.uk

All are welcome to enjoy a Lavazza coffee in the **Perry Café**. Open 10-5 on weekdays and from 9 am at weekends.

Hot and cold drinks, snacks, light meals, lunches and afternoon tea. Roast Sunday lunches 12.45 – 3.45, £8.

All are also welcome to enjoy the **Bistro Nights** in the Perry Café. These are held on the first Friday of every month, from 7 pm. Food is freshly prepared with each order, with a vegetarian option available.

Quiz Nights open to all are held in the Members' Bar, starting at 8 pm. Cash prizes and rolling jackpot. Entry costs £1 per person, in teams up to a maximum of 5 contestants. The next quiz date is 20 June.

SPECIAL EVENTS

15 June, Father's Day Carvery

12 July, Dinner Concert, "It will be over by Christmas" with music from the Great War

For more information about the club or to make a booking, please phone 020 8997 2624 or 074 0271 1982 or email secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk

See our website for more information and the monthly Club Newsletter: <http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk>

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You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing news@brentham.com

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

The next edition is due in September 2014.

