



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

NEWS

Welcome to yet another bumper edition of Brentham News.

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We do hope you enjoy reading about Brentham and we hope to see you in and around our estate or at one of the events coming up this summer.

Happy reading



Notes from the Chair

May is when Brentham really puts the 'garden' into 'garden suburb' and looks its best. We managed to capture this magic May moment in 2000 for the cover of the Brentham book, but I hope this year the weather stays calm and bright enough for everyone to enjoy the May Day celebrations on the 18th (look out for the Brentham Society gazebo on Vivian Green), and the other joys of this special time of year. May Day is one of the enduring high points of our calendar, and we have Pat Chapman and her helpers to thank again for all the effort that has gone into preparing the children for the procession and dancing.

Given that it's Jubilee Year too, there's more going on than usual – see the report from your Street Party correspondent on page 4. And a group of 20 or so of us are off to Prince Charles' showpiece 'suburb', Poundbury, at the end of the month to decide for ourselves whether the vicious mauling it has had from critics is justified or not. Either way, it promises to be a very enjoyable as well as an educational experience and no doubt a full and frank account will appear in the next News.

Lesley Hoskins' talk in February about early 20th century domestic interiors attracted a very good turnout and those who braved the terrible weather were rewarded with a very informative and well-illustrated presentation from one of the country's leading experts on the history of interior design and decoration. See Wendy Sender's

report opposite. At the end of February we held a lunchtime reception at Gunnersbury Park Museum for the dozens of people who have contributed their time and skills to help the Brentham Society in its work – particularly during last year's centenary celebrations. We thank them for their work – past and ongoing!

One of our priorities for the coming months is to build stronger links with local organisations, and with other garden suburbs with which we share a common history through the 'Co-partnership' movement. Contact was recently re-established with Bournville, the Cadbury estate outside Birmingham, we have been invited to take part in Letchworth's centenary year next year, and in July we expect a visit from a resident of Colonel Light Gardens in Adelaide, with whom we've exchanged emails and publications, and with whom we have a website link. Closer to home, we've established links with the Pitshanger Community Association and have had early discussions about how we can work together to sustain and improve local amenities, including Pitshanger Park. We are also talking to the Brentham Club's new management committee about how we might be able to support them at a critical point in the Club's future.

These and other challenging tasks lie ahead. For the moment though, let's make the most of the unchanging delights of Brentham in early summer. Sue Elliott (☎ 8998-9978)

How Did Bygone Brenthamites Decorate and Furnish Their Houses?

In spite of blustery weather, more than 70 people crowded into St Barnabas Millennium Hall on 20 February to find out how homes were furnished and decorated 100 years ago. The speaker was Lesley Hoskins, curator of MODA (Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture), and expert on wallpaper and other aspects of early twentieth century domestic design.



Brentham Society Chair Sue Elliott with Lesley Hoskins

Lesley explained how the early twentieth century house was typically furnished in a mix of styles, with hand-me-downs and contemporary furniture sharing floor space. Victorian homes were formal in their furnishings. Dark colours, highly patterned fabrics and a cluttered mix of objects predominated. By the time Brentham homes were being built, Victorian taste in decor was losing popularity, and a number of other styles had gained ground, most notably the Arts and Crafts style. In marked contrast to Victorian taste,

homeowners were opting for a simple, informal and rustic approach. Walls were now painted in light shades – pale green, cream, mauve, pink (see page 154 of the Brentham Book for the shade of pink chosen by the mother of 92-year-old Ramsay Hughes for their living room). Loose rugs in shades of green, blue or red, replaced fitted carpets, and bare floorboards could now be shown off. Fabrics and furnishings were likewise simpler in design. The tiling round fireplaces was plain rather than ornate, with turquoise a popular choice.

Anyone interested in exploring this topic would do well to visit MODA, where there is a display of living rooms, dining rooms and kitchens covering the first half of the twentieth century.

*MODA, Middlesex University,
Cat Hill, Barnet, Herts EN4 8HT
☎ 020-8411-5244*

Wendy Sender

Gunnersbury Exhibition

The Society would like to extend many thanks to Vanda Foster, Deputy Curator of Gunnersbury Museum, for all her hard work in preparing the very successful Brentham exhibition, which closed after a four month run. Vanda has very kindly allowed the Society to keep some of the display boards, which will allow us to possibly mount our own exhibition in the future.



Party Fever

Brentham will be hosting at least three street parties to celebrate the Jubilee weekend.



Woodfield Crescent late 1940's

Street parties are not something new in Brentham. Parties were held in the late 1940's to celebrate VE day, in 1977 to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee and more recently in 2000 to celebrate the new millennium

Veteran street party organiser Elizabeth Atkinson ran a very successful Millennium party and is using the template for that for her Jubilee event. The key to a successful party, she says, is good entertainment, good security and spreading the practical tasks round so that everyone knows what is expected of them on the day



Organiser Elizabeth Atkinson with MP Steve Pound at the Millennium party in Woodfield Crescent.

Does anyone have photos from 1977, which they'd be happy to donate to the Brentham Archive?
(☎ 8998-6550)

Ealing Council has made things a bit easier by waiving the £800 road closure fee that would otherwise have made the cost of these community events prohibitive. But there are other costs involved: insurance, performers, music and entertainment, and a host of organisational details to get right. Highlights planned are children's teas and games, a fire-eater, limbo dancing, discos, fireworks, bouncy castle, DIY BBQ and 50's nostalgia.

We understand there are plans for, Brentham Way, Woodfield Crescent, Brunner Road and Woodfield Avenue. Are there others? These will all be different in character but are for residents of those roads and their guests only.

The Brentham Way organisers are new to the street party game but have already had a number of planning meetings in local hostelrys and are in daily contact by email

So if you're feeling left out, there's still just enough time to organise your own! We hope you have fun and fine weather!

The editor would be very grateful for any photos taken this year to enable a full review in the next edition of Brentham News.



Woodfield Crescent 2000

BRENTHAM MAY DAY 2002

In this, the Queen's Jubilee year we are hoping to have a very special Brentham May Day. Rehearsals are well underway with some 160 children getting ready for the big day on Saturday 18th May

May Day has been held in Brentham every year since the very early 1900's, only the war years intervening to break the annual event.

The Brentham Society is still in touch with a number of former May Queens and we hope that some of them will be able to come along this year to join the procession.

Local resident Marianne Aldridge (née Bruce) was May Queen in 1952 and joined the procession in the Silver Jubilee year 1977. She plans to participate again this year.



Marianne Aldridge May Queen 1952
returns in 1977

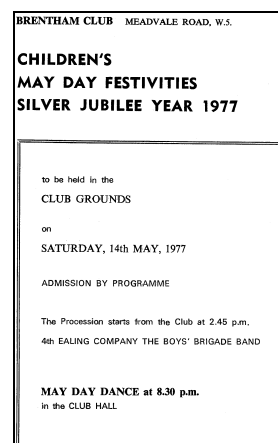
The Brentham Archive has copies of most of the programmes and numerous photographs of the event. Looking through the programmes it would seem that younger sisters often follow in the footsteps of their older sisters - Beryl and Jean Templar (1933/1937); Jean and

Margaret Munro (1946/1951); Margaret and Anne Hawkins (1948/1950); Marianne and Elizabeth Bruce (1952/1961); Merriel and Rita Marchant (1955/1958); Clare and Helen Clements (1974/1980); and Rachel and Emma Scanlan (1979/1984). Even daughters have been known to follow their mums - Zöe Kirkpatrick(1965) being Beryl Templar's daughter.

May Day 1958



L to R: Merriel Marchant (1955), Christine Hughes (1957), Rita Marchant (1958), Corinne Dwyer (1956), Marianne Aldridge (née Bruce 1952)
(photo courtesy Rita Marchant)



To learn more about Brentham May Day read the Brentham Book

Planning Notes

Paths and steps

A wander round the streets of Brentham is especially delightful at this time of year when the gardens are full of new growth, blossom and sudden, unexpected scents. It is being able to enjoy all the gardens, not just one's own, that makes living in a **garden** suburb such a wonderful experience.

As you have walked about have you ever looked at the different sorts of front steps? Some made of brick, others covered in cement, some shallow, others steep. Whatever their design they are part of the house and any alteration to them, involving a change of materials or construction, needs planning permission. You may, of course, make repairs without planning permission.

It is the same for front paths – you may carry out repairs, but any change in materials or construction needs planning permission.

Street lights

The Council is planning to replace our streetlights in the not too distant future. We have been invited to comment about the style of the new streetlights and are at present discussing suitable styles. We are delighted that the lights are to be renewed and that we are being consulted. It is a great opportunity to make sure that we have lights that not only give better light but that look right for our streets. We will keep you informed of developments

Heather Moore (☎ 8998-0234)

Gardening Group

A gardening group has now been established and is meeting fortnightly. Do come and join us for gardening talk, plant exchanges and planned visits - next meeting, 2pm Wednesday May 22nd, at 53 Brentham Way, or contact Maureen.

☎ 8997-6269

Arts and Crafts

Good use is being made of a typical example of what remains of the "Arts and Crafts" movement on Brentham Estate. One of two brackets taken from the original outside toilet cistern is being put to practical use as a hanging basket support in Woodfield Crescent.



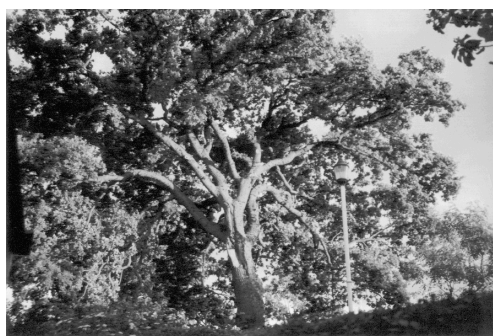
Thanks to M. Millerick for sharing this with us and donating the photo to the archive. Has anyone else made novel use of any original fixtures and fittings? Do let us know.

For more archive photos
see page 15

Wind Brings Down Brentham Oak

On the 26th of April one of the two large oak trees on the southern allotments between Brunner Road and Brentham Way crashed down because of strong winds and a decaying trunk. The tree must have stood there for 200-300 years!

Not since the great storm of 1987 has so much damage been done to our surroundings.



The tree in 2001
before becoming victim to the wind

Although 20 feet of the tree is still standing, a good 30 feet has fallen onto two of the neighbouring allotments, crushing plants and a small tree. Amazingly the nearby oak only had few branches taken off, and no more serious damage was done.



Former Brentham Society Chair Mark Greenwood surveys the damaged tree.

"I'm very pleased that no one was hurt," says Mandy Greenwood, an owner of one of the allotments, "but if it had to fall, it couldn't have fallen in a better place!" As the allotments are not public land, Chris and Gordon Roberts, the owners of the tree, are now faced with clearing up the tons of wood.

A view looking
down Brentham
Way in October
1987 after the
great storm. 48
street trees were
lost overnight on
Brentham



New tree on Vivian Green

It is just over a year since the Brentham Society began a clear-up operation on what is now known as



Vivian Green. We are pleased to see that Ealing Council has very recently planted a new Hawthorne tree on the southeast corner of the green. We look forward to seeing it blossom in

time for the May Day celebrations to complement the established one on the opposite corner (shown here), which always has a glorious display of vivid deep pink blossom. (Unfortunately the black & white photo doesn't do justice to the fantastic display – see it for yourself this year on May Day Saturday 18th May.)

POET'S CORNER

Two contrasting views - has it really changed so much in the last 50 years?

Tribute to Founders

At Eastertide, some fifty years ago,
Led by the genial Edmund William Roe,
There came a group of simple, working men
To what was almost open country then;
Inspired, they looked across the Brent's green vale

And saw the answer to the sordid tale
Of lives spent in the soul destroying blight
Of mean streets, lacking air, and space and light.

In Woodfield Road the first few homes were planned,
And to this day – as they were built – they stand,
The fruits of a now half-forgotten dream
Which formed the basis of their humble scheme:

That is to say, homes in the countryside
Where gardening might tempt the honest pride

Of plain John Citizen to spend his hours
Of leisure growing fruit, or raising flowers.

Near by stood Gregory's Farm, across the meads

The Brent wound idly through the sedge and weeds;

And on the far bank, sheltered by the trees,
A small church bore the weight of centuries;
Through the historic years their suburb grew
Into the hope of which those earnest few
Had dreamed, and for the scene that met their gaze,

To God in gratitude, they rendered praise.

Now most have gone; their work remains today,

Mellowed by time to show us just what they
Achieved when they set out long ago
To build the Garden Suburb we now know;
The Brent still wanders idly through the lea
The ancient church stands yet amid the trees
But though all else changed, unchanged the scheme,
Which stands a monument to their brave dream.

Alfred Gros (1950)

Brentham Rides

(after William Cobbett's Rural Rides, 1830)

The Country here is mainly clay, green
and fertile, but from my horse I see decay-
the rusting lamp posts tilt at crazy angles;
the pavours toss their debris in the verges
beside the rod and mar the leafy view.

Alien green bins obstruct the local footpaths;
city nabobs cart off the strong red booths
wherein the peasantry were used to chat,
and build instead a sort of open pens
more suited to the dipping of one's sheep.

Though summer weeds grow rank beside the roads,
and winter's ways lie foul with fallen leaves,
the councillors in guise of giving help
to raise the common land, lay down the law
and bid each neighbour 'peach upon the other.

Nay, in this hamlet the humble country folk
are cowed by gentry, who will not suffer
a coach house, stable, or loosebox to be built
within the curtilage of a person's home¹,
without the bigwigs have a say in it.

While parish worthies count the bricks in walls,
the ancient towers decay in disrepair,
the sluggish Brent is treated as a midden,
and parkland gates swing rusting on their hinges:
it's what our masters mean by conservation.

¹ Ealing Conservation Area Document

Norman Silvester (2002)

Do you have a view or a poem about life in and around Brentham? Why not put pen to paper and send us something.



News from Brentham Heritage Society

Just 200 copies of the Brentham book remain from the print run of 1750, and reviews are still appearing.

The Ancient Monuments Society offered a real corker:

The book has to rank as the best local history account in London in the last decade.

The William Morris Society encouraged its members to take to the streets of Brentham:

Well designed and produced, the book is a valuable addition to the early history of town planning and will certainly encourage one to pay a visit to Brentham.

Writing in the November issue of Ealing Abbey's magazine, Barbara Murray of Strawberry Tea fame came up with a novel idea for a Christmas stocking filler:

An extremely interesting book...full of history, anecdotes, maps, plans and LOTS of photographs...It would make a wonderful present for anyone who has ever lived in the area or who is interested in the development of domestic architecture and housing.

And Urban Design Quarterly responded warmly:

A heartening, delightful and weighty A4 landscape sized book...beautifully produced...full of marvellous material well captioned and carefully edited.

On a less happy note, we have been wringing our hands in despair ever since the warehouse storing 300 books went into receivership. It seemed unlikely that we would receive the £780 we were owed, or compensation for 19 books that had

gone missing – until the irrepressible Rosanna Henderson (better known for organising the amazing book launch) stepped in to save the day. Through an organisation called ProHelp, she whisked up a firm of solicitors who took on our case for no charge. After an exchange of letters between solicitors, our debtor agreed to pay us £500 in settlement. Thank you, Rosanna!

Another ending took place, this time at Gunnersbury Park Museum, where the Brentham exhibition was finally dismantled after a four-month stint. During that time visitors described the exhibition as 'very interesting' and 'extremely interesting – wonderful photographs'. Sue Elliott recorded a tape of the history of Brentham for Vision, a charity based in Ealing – Vision will lend their copy of the tape to blind and partially sighted members interested in learning about Brentham's past.

Our involvement with the museum meant that we were among 50 local groups invited to a meeting for community groups. The museum is keen to offer a helping hand to groups like ours – services range from exhibitions and educational events, to expert advice on conserving archive material and hosting special events such as an Edwardian or even a Co-partnership Day! The room where we gathered was none other than the Brentham exhibition room. This provided a wonderful opportunity to plug the book to a captive audience – which may explain why stocks are so low.

Wendy Sender (☎ 8997-4123)

Brenthamites Reunited

We've received a number of comments following the article from Arthur Allport that we published in the January newsletter. This particular one came from Joyce Patterson (née Burrows).

Having visited Brentham on the Open Gardens Day last year, I could almost say that I wish that I still lived in so delightful an area; it was a brilliant sunny day and the memories were overwhelming.

"We who were very young with Brentham itself, must agree with Arthur Allport in realising how privileged we were to grow up in so special a place. I do remember you Arthur, I was at Miss Wheeler's Preparatory School, whilst you attended Miss Tomkins, we are of an age. Miss Wheeler's school was opposite St.Barnabas Church.

The early days, when we (the Burrows) moved into Holyoake Walk, were so peaceful, our lives centred round the "Rec", safe and free, with friends abounding. Brentham Club had an annual Sports Day during the late twenties to the middle thirties, and Lesley Davey flew his wonderful small aircraft very low over the activities. He was very much a local celebrity, as was Fred Perry, who, as an original Tennis Club member, came and gave a demonstration of his skill to a wide-eyed audience. In the thirties brave the "two at a time" who took him on!

I feel that I knew almost everybody from those times. Having gazed longingly for years at the exciting looking grown-ups, my best friend Daphne Fisher and I joined the tennis section as junior members in 1936, when all the wonderful Saturday night "hops" were taken for

granted, before the Club was licensed – imagine! Oh! Brentham was always so social – social – social and when we actually became licensed even more so.



L to R: Daphne Fisher, Joyce Burrows, Betty Hills – The Programme Sellers circa 1937/38

So – in the "reunited department", how about Betty Hills; you married Dennis Melhuish, but even more important, you taught Daphne and I "The Lullaby of Broadway" walking down Denison Road one day in 1935. You were the blonde bombshell, heads always turned for you. Also, how great it would be to have news of Beryl and Jean Templar, both "Belles of Brentham" in their day. What of Alfred and Gordon Dain, much adored by many of us girls, me certainly? Beryl Templar married Gordon Dain, which I always thought so romantic. Alfred, did you move to St Neots, I spent most of my childhood Easters there – are you and Doreen still there? Frank Turner – you remember it all too, I had a big crush on you when I was sweet sixteen".

Joyce Burrows lived at
47 Holyoake Walk 1922-1945

So Frank – how about a reply for our next edition? (Ed)

Betty Kelly read Arthur's article with interest and contacted us. Betty remembers Arthur "... as a tall lanky lad, always whizzing around on his bike ...". As for the Poultney family "...my sister Connie married their son Frank..." Betty says she'll pass on a copy of our newsletter to their youngest daughter Anthea McDonald.

We've also heard from Vera Flatman who now lives in Devon. Vera kindly donated some memorabilia to the Brentham archive and became aware of the Society after being given a copy of the Brentham Book by her son Duncan who is a Design Historian at Birmingham Institute of Art and Design. The Flatmans lived in Meadvale Road and then in Holyoake Walk until 1954. Vera's husband Allan was an active member of the Brentham Players. Vera writes:

"I used to go to a Mollie Duncan dancing class at the Institute and also an elocution class there. I went to North Ealing school, although this was of course many years ago, as I am now 86 years old, but I remember it all so well. Does anyone know of the whereabouts of Joan Boonin of Holyoake Walk or of John and Marjorie Miles also of Holyoake Walk? My son Duncan was a friend of their son Anthony".

Do you have a story or can you help us get in touch with any of these long lost friends? Perhaps you have some old photographs. Do contact us.

Write to the Editor

Vivian's Descendants Reunited

In January we reported on hearing of Henry Vivian's great-great niece Jennifer Mitchener and her plans to meet up with Barbara Norrice – Vivian's daughter. Jennifer writes:

"My mother, Eileen Vivian, had worked hard on our family history and after her death I continued her work. As a Vivian, I was keen to follow the Vivian line but, unfortunately, the trail dried-up in the early 18th century.

I decided to concentrate on Henry Harvey Vivian. Our father had mentioned him as being known as the "Carpenter MP" and about his involvement in the Garden City movement. I had dates of birth, death and marriage, and found that he had been an active figure in different areas including Ealing. I found references in The Times 1906-1910 and speeches in Birkenhead's local newspaper, where he had been MP. I had found his address in London, but disappointingly little about his family.

I therefore joined the London and Middlesex Family History Society and wrote a piece in their magazine. I could hardly believe my luck when I received an e-mail from Sue Elliott telling me about the Brentham centenary, the book by Aileen Reed and, most exciting of all, the existence of Henry Vivian's daughter Barbara.

Since then (November 2001) my sister Kathy and I have visited Barbara, and all three of my sisters and I have been in contact with her. We are all delighted to have discovered a "new" relative and are very grateful to the people of Brentham who were involved, to the Brentham history which contains so much information on our pioneering great-great uncle, and to the interest shown in him by the Brentham Society".

Jennifer Mitchener

Friends no longer with us

Sadly we report on three friends of Brentham who have recently died.

Mary Fagan

Mary, a resident of Fowlers Walk since 1969, died in January after a short illness. Mary grew up in the Northumberland village of Stakeford. She came south for the Beaulieu Jazz Festival where she met Norman. They married and soon moved to Fowlers Walk where they brought up their family, Maura, Shaun and the twins Charlotte and Leanne. Mary was a supporter of Sunderland FC and sometimes had divided loyalties on MayDay – watch the twins dancing or a match!



Mary with husband Norman and twin daughters Charlotte and Leanne. - 2001.

In a quiet way Mary contributed a great deal to our community. For about 10 years she ran the lunch club for older residents held every weekday at the Brentham Club. She did more than was necessary, often giving the members help and support in their homes, providing meals on Bank Holidays and running jumble sales to raise funds. For even longer, probably almost 25 years, Mary distributed the Brentham News to houses in Ludlow Road. Her twins would often help her when they were children. Mary will be fondly remembered and greatly missed. Our sympathy goes to Norman, Maura, Shaun, Charlotte, Leanne and grandchildren Thomas and Alice in their sad loss.

Eileen Tovey

Brentham recently lost one of its oldest residents when Mrs Eileen Tovey sadly died aged 91.

Eileen first moved with her husband Charles to his family home in Woodfield Crescent during the war mainly as company for Charles' father who had been recently widowed. Then, when he retired and returned to Cheltenham, the place of his birth, Eileen and Charles decided to make Brentham their permanent home.



Eileen with daughter Lita outside her home in Woodfield Crescent – 2001.

Mr and Mrs Tovey Senior originally moved to the Crescent with their two young sons, Norman and Charles in 1912/13 and Eileen's daughter Lita Jacobs of Greenford is considering moving back herself so the house will have remained in the same family for over 90 years.

Lita has donated some interesting photos to the Brentham archive (see page 15) showing her father and uncle in North Ealing School.

Pam Wood (née Hender)

Pam, who died unexpectedly last November lived nearly all her life in Ealing and had many local connections. Her Parents, Frank & Irene Hender both lived in the area - Frank's family having moved to the Brentham Estate in about 1908. He was a member of the Brentham Club and one-time tennis doubles partner of Fred Perry. Frank & Irene

married in 1930 and Pam was born at 26 Mount Park Road on 27th October 1931. The family at that time lived at 41 Brentham Way, later moving to Claremont Road.



Pam with a new friend on one of her many holidays. This one in Lanzarote.

They were involved in local activities and Pam regularly took part in the May Day parade - as a photo of her, looking rather grumpy, on a decorated tricycle, testifies (see the Brentham Book page 190). During the preparation of the Brentham Book Pam loaned the society a number of photos of her father.

She attended Notting Hill & Ealing School although was sent to a boarding school in Bristol during the Second World War. Later she trained as a shorthand typist and worked for several companies, including Beechams and BOAC - she would relate how she cycled straight from work to attend Sea Ranger meetings in Kew. In fact Pam had a lifetime's association with the Girl Guide movement as Brownie, Guide (including being a "lone Guide" whilst at boarding school) Sea Ranger, and later as Captain of the 13th Ealing (St. Stephen's) Guide Company, which she restarted and led for very many years. She was also involved with the Young Conservatives and indeed met her future husband John Wood in the Queen Victoria pub (as it was then called) after an election rally or meeting. They married in 1958 and continued to live in Ealing firstly in Amherst Avenue then in

Argyle Road and finally Kent Avenue, which was the family home and then Pam's for 30 years. Pam always supported John in his role as local councillor in Argyle Ward for over 30 years and during his time as Mayor of Ealing 1976/77. Her daughter Sue was born in 1961, and son David in 1963. One of her great loves was boating of all kinds and her Guides could often be seen canoeing or rowing on the canal near Horsenden Hill. John and Pam introduced many guides and friends to the joy of narrow-boating on their narrow-boats "Twiglet" and later "Twiglet Too". She continued with Guiding and boating despite the onset and development of Rheumatoid Arthritis, a condition she bore with great fortitude. After John's sudden death in 1994 she stayed on at Kent Avenue where she was helped by her carers and the wonderful support of neighbours and friends from Kent Avenue and St Stephen's church.

Even though disabled and in wheelchair she lived life to the full in her last years, jetting off on numerous holidays with the Across Trust and The Winged Fellowship. In 1981 daughter Sue married Mark Cosstick, who is a local solicitor. They live in Hanwell & Sue works in a local school. They have two children, Andrew & Amy. David married Emma White in 1990 and they live in Old Windsor with their four sons Timothy, Oliver and twins Joshua & Daniel. David works for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Pam's lifelong ambition had been to go on a cruise, and as her 70th birthday present to herself had spent two weeks on board a cruise ship in the Caribbean. Pam died unexpectedly but peacefully in her sleep four days later.

Mark Cosstick

We pass on our sympathies to all the families of Mary, Eileen and Pam.

Over the Garden Hedge

Cottage Industry

Brentham Way is sporting a rash of splendid new garden gates – the work of local amateur woodworker and recent retiree Tony Mackersie. His craftsmanship and attention to detail are much admired and have resulted in half a dozen commissions. He is currently working on repairing the original teak bench rescued from Vivian Green and although he has a full order book at the moment, he tells us he is open to new enquiries. ☎ 8998-7618.

Lane Closures

Views differ on recent changes at Balfours. You can now buy a bottle of Moët, a pair of sunglasses or a packet of Daz along with your copy of *Hello!* - seven days a week. On the other hand, the queues are longer and expansion into new lines like video hire may be unwelcome news for smaller businesses in the Lane. We hear the stresses of running a 24/7 operation may have prompted the move of the longstanding manager Keith, who has decamped to less hectic pastures in Jersey. Elsewhere in the Lane, by the time Brentham News hits the streets, Brills may have transmogrified into (another) estate agents. Much as we love them (especially Grimshaw who sponsor this organ), we think one can have too much of a good thing

A star in our midst

Take time to look closely at the current BBC trailer for their Sports Relief Day. The curling sweeper is

none other than our own Jonathan Pearce of Brentham Way.

Let There be Light

Excellent news that Ealing Council has seen fit to renew all street lighting in the Borough's Conservation Areas between now and 2003. Their recent consultation exercise sought our views. In the nature of all things to do with aesthetic judgement, there was a range of local opinions on the 'choices' offered. As a result we asked for more time to consult with officials. Before a meeting could be arranged, we were told the decision had been made. So much for consultation! But we don't give up that easily - we still hope to influence the final decision before work starts in Brentham next year.

Independent Spirit

We are delighted that one of our most longstanding and treasured residents, Ramsay Hughes, is now back at home after two spells in hospital. Nonagenarian Ramsay is being supported by a band of good neighbours led by Barbara Murray. We wish her a swift restoration to robust good health.

From our own correspondent

Wendy Sender, a regular contributor to Brentham News and the mastermind behind the Brentham Book, is now writing for The Green. In the latest edition she writes about Perivale Woods. We look forward to reading further interesting local articles, now that Wendy has broken into the journalistic big time.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

The Brentham Archive has a huge collection of photographs, documents and newspaper cuttings covering life and events on the Brentham Estate since its inception. Much of the material was used in the Brentham Book but we are still keen to learn of any new material. The following two photographs have just surfaced!



Left: North Ealing school (circa 1915) – Miss Thompson the Headmistress keeps an eye on her pupils (notice the boys in sailor suits). (Donated by Lita Jacobs)

Below: Grass cutting on the playing fields - Mr W. Copestake is the Head Groundsman. (Donated by Mary Godfrey)



If you have anything you think would be of interest to our readers do let us know – we will happily take copies and return originals if they are of value to you.

Radical Brentham revived?

The Brentham Book records how, in the early decades of the 20th century, the Brentham Institute hosted lectures, classes and discussions on subjects like economics, equal pay and proportional representation. It is hoped to revive this tradition by putting on a class starting in late September, under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association, with the title "Democracy and its Discontents." The class will probably meet on Thursday mornings very close to the Brentham estate, in the Methodist Church Hall, Pitshanger Lane.

The intention is to explore, through discussion, some of the problems facing our democracy. Why are politicians mistrusted? Are we subjects, or citizens with rights and responsibilities? How democratic is our present system? Can democracy survive the European Community, globalisation and the mass media? Could we achieve wider participation in democratic debate and decision-making? If these are questions you would like to discuss, come along and ensure a strong Brentham presence in the class.

Watch for details nearer the time or contact: Michael McCarthy, ☎ 8997-6269

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Copies are still available from
The Pitshanger Bookshop or direct
from the Brentham Heritage Society
c/o 47 Meadvale Road W5 1NT
(£25+£4 p&p – cheques to BHS)

Hidden Talent

We received this untitled poem from ex-resident Brenda Brant

*I stood on the bridge at midnight
The clock was striking the hour
The moon rose over the water
Beyond the dark church tower*

*The night was still and quiet
The bark of a fox nearby
The bats flew all around me
As I gazed up into the sky*

*I made my way to the valley
To my cottage down the lane
The hoot of an owl in the distance
Repeated again and again*

*As I opened the door to my cottage
And prepared to go to bed
I reflected on the wonderful evening
So, I sat by the window instead*

Coming Soon

- ◆ May Day – Saturday 18th May
- ◆ Open Garden Day – Sunday 16th June
- ◆ Strawberry Tea – Sunday 30th June
- ◆ Family Fun – Sunday 14th July (tbc)

For further details:

You can contribute to Brentham News by e-mail: news@brentham.com

Or by writing to: The Editor, 47 Meadvale Road W5 1NT

<p>Contact any Committee member Or the Secretary Nicky Cadisch (8991-1931)</p>
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