

BRENTHAM

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Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

NEWS

In this issue

Welcome from Sue Elliott, Chair of Brentham Society	1
Tea chest of treasure.....	3
Visit to Poundbury	4
Visitors to Brentham	6
Planning – your questions answered ...	8
Gardeners Corner.....	9
Brentham May Day	10
Summer Events	12
David Graves	13
Brenthamites Reunited	13
Neighbourhood Watch.....	14
Over the Garden Hedge	15
Street Representatives	16
Notices.....	16

Maybe you were drawn here precisely because of its quaint charms; maybe it's a surprise to discover that Brentham has a unique history and character. It certainly looks different from a lot of suburban London: the houses may be small, but Brentham has an integrity and an aesthetic that mark it out from the run-of-the-mill early 20th century speculative housing estates. But it doesn't look like this by accident. It was designed that way and the Brentham Society and the Brentham Heritage Society work hard to make sure it doesn't compromise those special qualities through unsympathetic 'improvements'.

Calling all new residents

Whether it's the time of year, the explosion of the rental market, or just the plain old popularity of Brentham, we seem to have a higher than usual turnover of residents. Agents' boards mushroom overnight and demand for Welcome Packs in one short road alone recently outstripped supply.

Whether you've bought or are renting, a big Welcome to all newcomers to Brentham. You've chosen a very special place to live.

Brentham Society & Brentham Heritage Society AGM

The Brentham Club
Thursday October 17th @ 7:30pm

Guest speaker

Wendy Hitchmough
(author of The Arts and Crafts Home
and the Arts and Craft Garden)

Brentham is designated a Conservation Area with Article 4 Direction. This is the price we pay for living somewhere special that keeps its charm; it means the kinds of changes, extensions and conversions that would be possible – even desirable – almost anywhere else, are all subject to planning permission and are heavily restricted here...



Velux windows, conservatories, patio doors, big sheds, replacement of hedges with walls or fences, UVPC windows, replacement windows, double-glazing, changes to rendering, hard standing for cars, satellite dishes...



... may be essentials of modern life for some, but they are not allowed (or only allowed under strict conditions) here. So if you've recently moved here and you want to do some external work on your house (front or back) please ask us for advice before you get the architects or builders in. It could save you a lot of money, time and stress, and save us having to formally object to your proposed work if it isn't right. We know from experience what is and isn't likely to get planning permission and we're here to help, so please use our expertise. We'll be featuring an occasional series of common planning questions we're often asked. The first of these are on page 8. But we're always open to new ones!

And of course if you have any other queries about living here – local facilities and services, churches, clubs, doctors and dentists – if your

immediate neighbours can't help, we probably can. Every street has a Street Rep (see list on back page) who will give you a Welcome Pack if you haven't already had one through your door. This gives you some basic information about Brentham and the Brentham Society and a list of contacts.

So, if you're new (or new-ish) to Brentham, we'd love to hear from you. You may even feel moved to write something for this humble newsletter. If so, the Editor would be delighted to hear from you!

In the meantime I hope everyone – newcomer or established resident – will join us at the AGM on Thursday 17th October at the Brentham Club (note change of advertised venue – St Barnabas couldn't take us, they are re-sanding their Hall floors). We are delighted to have as our guest speaker, Wendy Hitchmough, curator of Charleston, the Bloomsbury Group's country residence in Sussex, and author of *The Arts and Crafts Home* and *The Arts and Crafts Garden*. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Elliott (Chair, Brentham Society)

NEW MUGS

After the success of the Brentham Centenary mugs we have ordered a further consignment with two new designs for your collection.

We hope to have the new mugs on display and for sale at the AGM
Come prepared to buy!

A tea chest of treasures

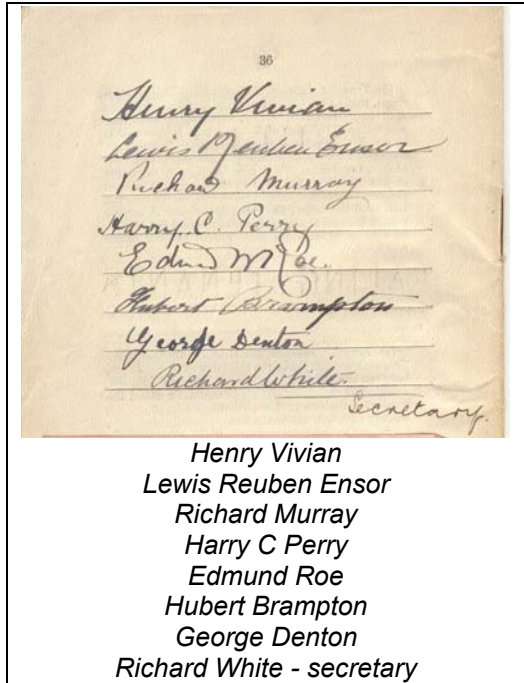
In 1994 Bill and Paulette Willerton bought a house with a difference in Fowlers Walk: the house had been used as offices by the Bradford Property Trust, rent collectors in Brentham over many years. When Bill opened one of the cupboards he found a stash of old pens and rulers, but what really caught his eye were several bundles of papers and documents. Bill and Paulette, who share an interest in history, "love pouring over stuff" – where most other people, moving into a home would have binned old papers, the Willertons knew that these were worth preserving.

For several years they kept the papers in an old tea chest, and when the Willertons rented out their house and moved to a Victorian house in central Ealing two years ago, the papers went with them.

It was only when Bill was carrying out maintenance work in the loft of the Fowlers Walk house a year ago, that he made another exciting discovery – tucked away in the eaves were a number of original drawings and a plan by architects Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker (best known for their design of Hampstead Garden Suburb, and also responsible for the garden suburb layout of Brentham and the design of five houses on the estate).

Most of the papers and documents date from the period when Brentham was being built. They provide a unique record of the pioneering beginnings of Brentham. There are more than 50 tenancy agreements, rule books for tenants, mortgage

agreements, sale of land documents, and annual returns. Also included is the original registration of Ealing Tenants Limited under the Industrial and Provident Societies signed by the founder members



Particularly exciting are a plan and drawings by Parker and Unwin. The plan, which depicts the estate, is dated 1908. The drawings are of doors, stairs, living-room cupboards and eaves – these remind us of the attention to detail that the architects paid in designing Brentham.

The Willertons have very kindly loaned the papers to the Brentham Archive, and the Brentham Heritage Society would like to thank them most warmly. If you are curious to have a look at the papers – some may refer to your property – contact Alan Henderson (8998 6550)

Wendy Sender
 (Chair, Brentham Heritage Society)

POUNDBURY

On 25th May a group of 25 Brenthamites visited the Poundbury housing development on the western outskirts of Dorchester in Dorset.



We met in Pummery Square at the centre of the new suburb for an introductory talk by Simon Conibear, the Development Manager, followed by a guided tour.

Although Poundbury is a commercial housing development it is significant in being on land owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, which has enabled the Prince of Wales, in his capacity as Duke of Cornwall, to guide its development as far as possible in accordance with the principles he set out in his television programme and book "A Vision of Britain". The intention throughout has been to try to create a new suburb with a sense of place and a community in direct contrast with the multiplicity of soulless "executive" housing developments that have grown up across the country in the last 30-40 years. It is principally in this respect that Poundbury is of interest to inhabitants of Brentham since this is substantially what our founders sought to achieve 100 years ago, although under very different social and economic circumstances.

The Duchy make no great claims for the architecture at Poundbury, except to ensure that it is traditional and in accordance with their published design guidance. As individual groups of buildings are designed and

constructed by different building companies there is considerable variation, and, as might be expected, some are more successful than others, although the general feel is consistently relaxed and welcoming.

Much more successful is the overall planning of the estate where care has been taken to provide a community hall over a covered market area, to ensure that shops and a pub are easily available within comfortable walking distances, and to encourage local employment opportunities.



Pummery Square

As construction is still going on (and at the time of our visit the pub was unfortunately not yet open) it is perhaps too soon to tell how successful this will be, but it seems to be working so far, and there is every reason to think that it will improve with time.

Perhaps most successful of all has been the integration of traffic management and parking within the estate, and the success here has been achieved substantially through deliberate and wilful disregard of Department of Transport guidelines! Many of the streets have shared surfaces, where no distinction is made between areas for cars or pedestrians. To achieve this it is clearly necessary to slow traffic right

down, and all roads are planned to have major changes of surfaces or sharp bends approximately every 70m. Normally side roads entering into major roads are required to have substantial sight lines for ease of visibility, but this enables relatively fast driving and forces buildings back from street corners, destroying the sense of space and enclosure. In order to counter this, sight lines at Poundbury are either very short or non-existent. Quite high levels of parking provision have been managed by grouping much of it in back courts off the main streets where it is sufficiently well overlooked by all the surrounding houses to effectively prevent crime. Simon Conibear proudly pointed out that although there is only one street sign in the entire estate (and he defied us to actually find it), there has not yet been a single traffic accident.



Note the shared surfaces for both cars and pedestrians

The particular success of Poundbury in these respects has made it nationally and even internationally influential, even to the extent of encouraging the re-writing of some of the Government guidelines it originally set out to resist. It offers hope and precedent for new kinds of housing developments that can offer

much more to their communities whilst still being commercially viable, and one can only hope that its influence will become more and more widespread in the future.



The visitors from Brentham, after an enjoyable and interesting afternoon, left for tea (and a plant-buying spree) at Abbotsbury Gardens nearby with a noticeable sense of enthusiasm for what they had seen.

Our thanks go to Simon Conibear for an exceptionally well-informed guided walk round Poundbury and to our own David Lunts for organising the visit

Ian Brocklebank

Our next trip

Bournville Village

and

Cadbury World

**Watch the Notice Boards
for details**

Visitors to Brentham

As well as Brenthamites visiting Poundbury, we've had a number of visitors ourselves. In May Greg Bamford, a senior lecturer at the Department of Architecture University of Queensland, Australia, spent the afternoon in Brentham with his partner Margie Ferguson.



Greg writes:
 "Our visit was a rewarding experience for both of us. Last week I was able to partly relive the experience in a lecture to my second year architecture students, on the ideas and

ideals of the garden city and garden suburb. I showed the students a large batch of slides of Brentham - along with Letchworth, of course, as well as some of Hampstead Garden Suburb, Betondorp in Amsterdam and Australia's first garden suburb, Daceyville, built in Sydney in 1912.

There is an engaging variety in the forms and finishes of Brentham's houses, and in how they are clustered and sited, yet as with variations on a theme in music, the suburb has an overall coherence. Walking around Brentham one is very conscious of the way the space of the front garden and the street has been shaped (and preserved) not just to make "street pictures" (in Raymond Unwin's phrase), but treated as something of public importance, intimately connected with the houses which frame it. For example, low front hedges, corner houses which 'address' their corners, sometimes featuring oriels or bay

windows, vistas that are framed or spectacularly terminated as in, for example, the "butterfly houses" in Brunner and Neville Roads, and the absence of 'blind fronts' which rows of garages and even carports would present to the street, all contribute to this effect.

The generous set backs and angling of the groups of houses to Meadvale Road, west of Vivian Green, visually assembles several adjacent front gardens to make two significant publicly visible spaces, linked by the street. The similarity of form and finish of the houses in the Fowlers Walk cul de sac, reinforced by the symmetry of their layout, make that relatively small space impressive. One failure of much modern housing has been to ignore the social role of what is often called 'eyes on the street' and Brentham is an object lesson in this regard. But we also liked the informal communal backspaces, the productive allotments and remaining green open space behind the houses, which are a delightful foil to the more formal fronts.

The garden city and garden suburb were, in part, a response to what we would now call an environmental crisis in crowded and polluted 19th century London and in towns in the eye of the storm of the industrial revolution like Manchester. We face new environmental problems in Western cities now, related more to our patterns of consumption than, as in Ebenezer Howard and Henry Vivian's day, the effects of production. But I think we can learn a lot from these first efforts of the garden city and garden suburb to tackle the environmental, social and economic problems of a rapidly urbanising society a century ago.

Marking the centenary in 1998 of the original publication of Howard's *Garden Cities of Tomorrow* (as the less marketable, *Tomorrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform*), Sir Peter Hall and Colin Ward's book, *Sociable Cities*, has helped

revive interest in the legacy, and the contemporary possibilities, of these ideas. Many environmentalists now speak of the need for small scale, 'eco-communities', offering affordable housing, in sociable and productive neighbourhoods. To this end, Brentham's co-partnership beginnings, its beautifully wrought streetscape which values the community as well as the individual, its handy-to-home allotment gardens and, sadly, its lost recreation grounds, club and institute all seem to me to contribute to making Brentham worthy of study".

In July another Australian paid us a visit. Dr Christine Garnaut is a research associate in the school of architecture and design at the University of South Australia. She lives in an Adelaide 'model garden suburb', Colonel Light Gardens, and has been interested in Brentham since reading our centenary book.

August Bank Holiday Saturday saw our first coach load with 30 members of the 20th Century Society being guided round the streets by our own Clive Hicks.

And as this newsletter goes to press we hope to be meeting Sue Jackson, yet another Australian, the Heritage Advisor to the New South Wales federal government and an expert on Haberfield, a Sydney garden suburb.

Perhaps next year we'll organise an exchange visit "down under" !!!



... and some returning visitors

Jean Oades (née Munrow) now living in Kingston, was one of a number of former May Queens who returned to Brentham for this year's May Day celebrations (see page 11). Jean writes:

"I was May Queen in 1946 and coming back with my family was able to show my daughter where I used to live. I came with very mixed feelings although it turned out to be a very emotional day with memories flooding back to 1934 when we arrived in the area.



May Day 1946

I attended North Ealing School and as a family we were very active members of the Brentham Club, involved in sport, amateur dramatics, sports days and Pie shows. My parents Win and Alec Munrow were May Day Committee members for over 25 years until they retired to Eastbourne in August 1963. It was a truly memorable day to return to one's childhood and find the memories were not shattered, but all the traditions being upheld splendidly. It was a wonderful unique sight and made me feel so proud to have been part of the tradition. I was so impressed to find Brentham looking so superb and well cared for – truly a beautiful suburb. Congratulations to you all"

The Brentham Society is grateful for a number of photographs and event programmes that Jean has donated to the archive.

Planning Q & A

Some frequently asked questions and answers to guide you

My windows are rotten in places. Can I replace them with off-the-shelf 'cottage-style' windows?

No - the proportions, mouldings and glazing bars of Brentham windows have to be specially made – they are not available 'off the shelf'. If your windows are only rotten in a few places you may like to consider getting them repaired – we can offer further information about restoration.

Can I have a conservatory?

Conservatories were not original features of the cottage style Brentham houses and are not allowed under the current planning guidelines. However if your property already has a conservatory you may replace it when necessary, but you will need to apply for planning permission.

Can I have a loft extension?

In principle loft extensions are allowed. You need to submit a planning application. No dormer windows or roof lights are allowed on the front of properties. On the rear roof slope small conservation roof lights and dormer windows are allowed. The position, design and proportion of the dormer are of crucial importance; the planning advisory panel or the Council's planning department can offer advice.

Can I install a satellite dish?

You may install a satellite dish, but if it is fixed to your house you need planning permission. This is likely to be given only if the dish is of the small black mesh type and situated so that it cannot be seen from the street or from neighbouring properties, for example behind a chimney stack. Some people have satisfactorily installed the dish below hedge level in their rear garden.

An alternative is to consider cable TV, which is available here.

Our family is growing too big for our house. Can we extend?

In principle 'yes' but each case is different. As a general rule extensions have to be on the rear of the property, to be single storey, to be no wider than half the width of the house and to extend no more than eight feet. When the Council planning officers are deciding what is allowed they will consider the impact of the development on the whole block and on the space between properties that is such an important part of the essential character of Brentham.

If planning is so strict why have some Brentham houses got Velux and other replacement windows?

Some alterations were made to houses before the estate was made a conservation area with Article 4 direction. In recent years many owners have reinstated original features such as windows and doors.

If hedges are so important, why have some front gardens got walls and hard standing for cars?

In the early days of the estate people planted hedges and these have become the preferred means of enclosure for properties on the estate. The front gardens of some of the early houses had low walls, which remain today. There are a few houses with hard standing for cars; these pre-date the area's conservation status.

I want to take the hedge out at the bottom of my garden and replace it with a fence. Surely this is OK as it can't be seen from any public place and my neighbours don't object?

A recent appeal for the retention of a fence to replace a hedge in a rear garden was dismissed. Among the reasons the inspector cited the hedges

'as contributing to the areas special character of the houses being in a leafy, almost rural setting'. Close-boarded fences were 'not in keeping with the special quality and green, leafy character of the conservation area.' The fact that neighbours do not object had 'to be balanced against the wider public interest.'

I want to put a picture window in the back of my house. Surely it doesn't matter for the back?

Yes, it does matter; the planning regulations apply to the whole of the property, not just the front.

I've got the 'original' roughcast rendering. Can I paint it white like everyone else's?

Yes, you can paint it but you do need to obtain planning permission first. When deciding the colour you need to consider the colour of neighbouring properties; white may not be the best colour.

Can we paint our external woodwork any colour we like?

You need to apply for planning permission to change the colour of the external woodwork or render of your property. In deciding the colour, consideration will be given to the colour of other properties in the block. Originally most of the woodwork was green, probably not a popular choice today!

Finally, to save any hassle, when you have obtained planning permission, please check that your builder keeps **exactly** to the plan as approved without alteration.

Need further help?
 Pat Baxendale ☎ 8998 1855
 Heather Moore ☎ 8998 0234
 Ealing Planning Services ☎ 8825 6600

But if it's gardening you're interested in...

A group of eight to ten Brenthamites have been meeting throughout the spring and summer every two weeks on Wednesday afternoons in one another's homes/gardens.

We have had outings to Wisley and Kew, visited a couple of local gardens in the National Gardens Scheme and of course discussed the changing scene in our own gardens. Pam Turner came and explored design ideas with us and we have had two plant exchanges. But mainly we discuss gardening issues ranging from the particular problems of Brentham gardens, easy-care plants, pests and diseases etc. to general exchange of tips and advice and of course there's tea and biscuits. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the group.

We will be stopping in early October and recommencing next spring. New members will be very welcome, and it is not necessary either to host the meeting or to possess any gardening expertise.

Maureen McCarthy ☎ 8997 6269

VIVIAN GREEN

Almost a year after the naming of Vivian Green a band of volunteers gathered on Saturday 31st August to "tidy up" the area. Trees were pruned, numerous bulbs planted, the Vivian Green sign and memorial plaque were cleaned up and the chain link fence given a lick of paint. Thanks to all those who helped.

Brentham May Day

In this Jubilee year, May Day was certainly one to remember as a number of former May Queens attended the annual occasion.



Pam Turner and Gill Silvester make preparations for the Green Man to ensure his anonymity



Sam Sender on cornet and Bevan Jones on the drum provided the marching music

Thanks go to Pat Baxendale and Pat Chapman for organising yet another successful event.

May Queen 2002 Katherine Bowman.

"I have been taking part in the May Day parade since I was three. In that first ever procession I did, I was one of the blue May Queen's attendants. Nine years later I am the May Queen and I had my own attendants, twin girls called Maddy and Georgia. My mother made my dress and that

seemed to take ages to make! When the day came everyone was very busy, preparing food for the BBQ we were having afterwards

and meeting my uncle, aunt and cousin who came all the way from Cambridge and my Grandpa who also came to watch the festivities, having driven from Suffolk. I went down to the Brentham club early to meet my attendants and to line up.

I was the last person in the parade, right at the back, with my brother as my crown bearer. My sister walked along as well, dressed as a gypsy, collecting money. Once the procession had reached the Brentham Club field and everyone had sat down, Victoria, the last year's May Queen crowned me and I said my speech. I thought the children's dancing went very well. Later at the tea I got to sit (at last!) at the Queen's Table, where I had to make another short speech to all the children. I came to the disco later that day and the DJ made me and Britannia walk round on a red carpet while all the other children had to put it at our feet. All in all it was a great day!"





Former May Queens

Christine Hughes (1957), Jean Oades (née Munrow 1946, the first year May Day was restored after World War II), Marianne Aldridge (née Bruce 1952), and Amanda Walling (1977) pictured, all returned to Brentham for the Jubilee year May Day. Both Marianne and Amanda took part in the parade.

Other former May Queens spotted on the day included Kim Ely (1972), Andrea Miller (1976), Emma Scanlan (1984) and Josephine Day (1982).

Amanda's memories of the day:

"On Wednesday 8th May my sister Karen phoned excitedly to tell me that the *Ealing Gazette* were looking for me! She had received an article through the post, via one of our old guide leaders, Margaret Axbey, asking if anyone knew of my whereabouts, as I had been the May Queen in the Silver Jubilee year. I gathered from the article that I could join this year's procession, along with Marianne Aldridge, the 1952 May Queen.

I felt both nervous and excited at the prospect of reliving the whole thing again, especially as I was a schoolgirl of 13 at the time I was the May Queen, and after my last year in the procession I had never returned to see the May Day festivities, although my sister and I had talked about coming back to see if it was still going. I felt very honoured to be asked back – it brought back all of the excitement of being the May Queen first time round!

When the big day arrived I did feel very nervous. I knew that my family and my boyfriend would be there to support me and to relive the experience with me, as they have lots of good memories of the day too. I knew that we would all see a lot of faces from 25 years ago!! I was really glad that my son Albert agreed to be in the procession, as I thought it would be a good experience for him to

see where we used to live as kids, and be part of something that was very special to me when I was younger.

As soon as we arrived at the Brentham Club, I felt excited to be there and looked forward to being part of the procession. I was introduced to the two little girls who were going to walk round with me, and Albert was given his flag to carry saying "May Queen 1977". It brought back so many good memories for me walking around the Estate, seeing the places we used to play and also houses where my friends lived. It doesn't seem to have changed at all!! It was really good to see lots of smiling faces and Albert really enjoyed taking part and thought it was all very cool!



May Day 1977

Amanda Walling
being crowned
by Andrea Miller

The maypole dancing back at the Club grounds was also a trip down memory lane. It reminded me of all those rehearsals we used to go to after school!! I am really happy to have been asked back to be part of the day. Thank you to everyone who made it such a lovely experience."

Summer Events

Garden Open Day

This annual event has become a firm favourite with Brenthamites, and this year proved no exception. Even the ever-present threat of rain and cool temperatures did not deter over 100 people from visiting the nine gardens kindly opened by householders on the day.

Three new gardens were on show as well as six former favourites, and the enormous variety of garden style and form on our small estate never fails to amaze. The dry mediterranean area rubs shoulders with a secluded woodland spot and wild life haven. Every corner of every garden reveals a special surprise for both the keen amateur gardener and the novice viewer.

No. 28 Holyoake made a welcome stopping off point for a reviving cup of tea and home made cake. Sincere thanks to all who took part, from the humble washer upper to the budding horticulturist - you all played your part in this happy annual event.

Nicky Cadisch

Jubilee Celebrations

At least three streets on Brentham had street parties over the June bank holiday



One party was in Brentham Way. There can be little doubt that a special effort was made – a band, dancing, side shows with bags of

bunting and flags and of course the obligatory tables down the middle of Brentham Way for the kids (and quite a lot of grown ups) to tuck into bags of gooey party food before returning to the bouncy castle! None of this could have happened without an awful lot of spadework put in by the party committee and their helpers. Your correspondent makes no excuses for not naming names – they would have filled most of this page and the same goes for all the entertainers! Finally many thanks to the good people who live in the lower part of Brentham Way for the disruption – it was all good fun and very worthwhile.

George Barnes

Strawberry Tea

The annual strawberry tea held in Barbara Murray's garden was once again a great success.



Sue Elliott and The Mayor of Ealing
with Barbara Murray

Amongst those attending were our MP, Steve Pound; the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor Kieron Gavan; the vicar of St Barnabas, Reverend Neil Nicholls; and Chairman of Brentham Club, Alwyn Roberts – a real community event.

Barbara was presented with a clematis plant as a thank you and in recognition of her 80th birthday.

David Graves

Everyone in Brentham who knew him was shocked to learn of the sudden death of David Graves in a diving accident in the Bahamas this summer. David was a distinguished journalist who reported on some of the major domestic and foreign stories of the last 25 years, including the Falklands War and the Northern Ireland troubles. He was in the Bahamas on assignment for *The Daily Telegraph*, where he had worked since 1984.

David's funeral service at St. Barnabas on 25th July was full, not only of his Fleet Street friends and colleagues - including such luminaries as Bill Deedes - but also many current and former Brentham residents. They knew him as a good friend and neighbour and, more recently, as one of the key organisers of the brilliantly successful Brentham Way Jubilee Street Party where his skilful handling of Ealing Council officials, dry sense of humour and impressive collection of blazers earned him the nickname 'Agent Graves'.

We will remember David fondly as a lovely man who made an exceptional contribution to our community life this year. He will be much missed.

David and Diana moved to Brentham Way in 1987; their two sons Oliver (8) and Nathan (6) go to Montpelier primary school.

Diana has asked us to convey her gratitude for all the letters, cards, words and gestures of kindness and sympathy she has received. She and the boys have very much

appreciated having such a supportive and generous community around them at this time

Brenthamites Reunited

Since our last newsletter we've heard from a number of Brenthamites.

Many will be pleased to know that we've tracked down Beryl Dain (née Templar) who now lives in Woolacombe North Devon, just up the road from her sister Jean - "the belles of Brentham". Both were born in Ludlow Road and then moved to Meadvale Road where Beryl stayed until 1972.

From New Jersey USA we hear from Pauline Howard who left England 27 years ago after living in Ludlow Road for 20 years. It was her father, Alfred Grosch, who wrote the poem we published in the last newsletter (apologies for the misprint – Ed.) and her mother was one of the daughters of Edmund Roe (a co-founder of Brentham).

Doris Bateman (née Brown) from Brisbane Australia was delighted to receive copies of Brentham News from her cousin and has fond memories of Brentham. Born in North View and later of Winscombe Crescent she married a local lad and moved to Australia in the mid sixties.

And from nearer to home, Sidmouth in Devon, Beryl Carter (née Bunting) writes to say she appears on page 188 of "my lovely Brentham Book" in the 1926 May Day photo (bottom left hand corner).



Keep the letters rolling in



BRENTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It is some time since I have been able to report on crime on the Brentham Estate. I have now received the following list from Neil Roberts our local home beat officer to whom I would like to express my thanks. First the good news, there has been no reported crime in Fowlers Walk, Winscombe Crescent or Ruskin Gardens, although in Ruskin Gardens, some hedges were jumped on and trampled down by local youths. Now for the bad:

Brentham Way Brunner Road	9 July	A laptop computer was stolen from a Vauxhall Vectra.
	12 March	Mini CD player stolen from a blue Mazda MX5
	13 March	Residential burglary, personal items stolen via rear ground floor window.
	11 May	Theft from a blue VW Golf, front near side window smashed
	25 May	Another residential burglary, entry again via a rear ground floor window.
	12 July	A green Rover 420SLi, was stolen. It has not been recovered
	18 July	Two hanging baskets were taken.
Brunswick Road	22 June	Indecent exposure at ten past one in the morning, although it is not stated if this was at the Brentham End.
Denison Road	9 March	Pushchair and assorted baby items was taken from outside victim's home.
	6 May	An American Chevrolet Corvette was stolen. It has not been recovered.
	6 May	White Ford Transit van also stolen.
Holyoak Walk	18 Feb	Suzuki Vitara taken.
Ludlow Road	17 April	VW Polo scratched down one side with a key.
Meadvale Road	1 April	A Peugeot 306 was scratched down one side with a key.
	11 May	The spare wheel was taken from a brand new VW.
	26 July	Theft of plants in a terracotta planter (personal one this, they were mine)
Neville Road	7 March	House burgled, entry was via the front door.
	24 March	An Aston Martin was scratched along one side with a key.
North View	7 March	An elderly woman was robbed of her groceries.
	6 April	A woman had her handbag taken and then her car was stolen.
	28 May	An attempted residential burglary.
Pitshanger Lane		In the past six months there were 39 crimes reported, but I do not know if any were in the Brentham section.
Woodfield Ave.	21 June	Someone stole a bag of 50 baby nappies.
Woodfield Cres.	12 March	Rear passenger window of a Vauxhall Astra was smashed.
Woodfield Road	31 March	The windscreen of a Saab convertible was damaged.

All this might seem a lot, but there are nearly 700 households on the Brentham Estate and compared to other areas in the Borough, such as South Acton there is relatively little crime. There is not much that can be done to protect cars parked in the road from being vandalised or broken into. Valuable vehicles should be adequately immobilised and alarmed. It might be worth considering a "Tracker" which could also reduce insurance premiums. Plants in front gardens are also hard to protect, possibly use bigger pots, which will be heavy and difficult to move. The recent burglaries show that attention should be paid to ground floor windows and doors particularly at the rear.

Finally, another appeal, the Brentham Neighbourhood Watch is badly in need of fresh blood, I have been co-ordinator for nearly 10 years and notwithstanding support from Lucienne Donnelly and Krys Mackersie, I am finding it hard to keep it going, even at a basic level, especially as I am also involved in the Borough NW Association and the Ealing Police and Community Consultative Group.



If you think you could help, please contact me:

Paul Fodrio, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
 ☎ 8998 6242 or email pfodrio@dircon.co.uk.

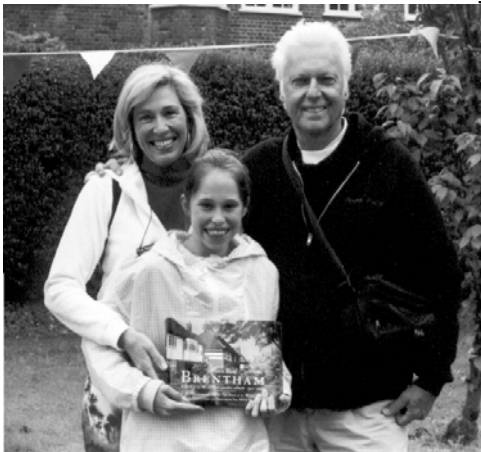
Over the Garden Hedge

Canvassing beyond the call of duty

Local MP Steve Pound assures us he is not in the habit of turning up on single ladies' doorsteps clutching bottles of champagne. However, it seems he was prepared to make an exception to mark Barbara Murray's recent 80th birthday. Having been at the Strawberry Tea where Barbara's special anniversary was revealed, he hand-delivered a bottle of House of Commons fizz to her the following week. Barbara was delighted and friends and neighbours were most impressed that Steve should take his constituency responsibilities quite so seriously. We think that Barbara's long-standing contribution to the local community richly deserves such old-fashioned thoughtfulness.

Worldwide exposure

We can't be sure that he actually mentioned Brentham, but American crooner Jack Jones certainly



gave name checks to 'Ealing' and 'May Day' in several of his media interviews during the following week – including, Gloria Hunniford's Channel 5 chat show and Michael

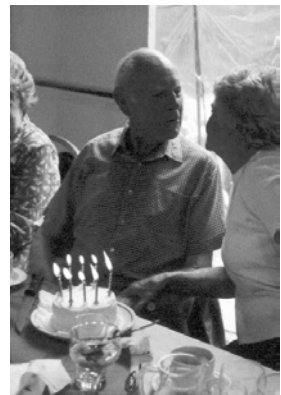
Parkinson's Radio 2 Sunday Supplement. But as well as this helpful UK exposure, we're confident Brentham will soon become better known in LA too, as his wife Kim (Brentham May Queen in 1972) and daughter stocked up on a range of merchandise at the May Day Brentham stall, including sweatshirts, polo shirts and a copy of the Brentham centenary history. Next, the film rights...?

... and another Brentham event touched with stardust: did anyone else at the Strawberry Tea notice the striking resemblance of our Mayor (Cllr. Kieron Gavan) to Bill Clinton?

90 not out

As exclusively revealed in the last edition of Brentham News (see Brenthamites Reunited May 2002),

Brunner Road's recent nonagenarian Frank Turner, was a bit of a heartthrob in his younger days. It was therefore no



surprise at all to see a succession of ladies come to greet Frank warmly at his celebratory lunch at the Brentham Club in July. Despite a swelteringly hot day, Frank kept his cool throughout and after an enjoyable buffet lunch, rounded off the afternoon by going out into the heat of the Club grounds to watch the cricket, leaving the rest of us gasping at his stamina.

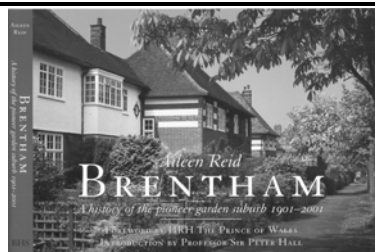
Street Representatives			<p>Street Representatives act as an important link between you and the Brentham Society. They welcome new residents and are available for advice and information about what's happening in Brentham.</p> <p>There are a couple of vacancies. Would you like to help?</p>
Street	Name	Contact	
Brentham	Anne Barnes	8997 8327	
	Gill Silvester	8997 9280	
Brunner Road	Frank Turner	8997 5237	
Denison Road	Niall Fox	8998 5702	
Fowlers Walk	Tony Arnell	8998 8258	
	Ellen Jackson	8998 8950	
Holyoake Walk	Michael McCarthy	8997 6269	
Ludlow Road	Pam Turner	8997 8614	
Meadvale Road	Paul Fodrio	8998 6242	
Neville Road	Vacant		
North View	Anne Marchant	8998 7676	
Pitshanger Lane	Celia Busby	8997 7169	
Winscombe Crescent	Barbara Murray	8997 8115	
Woodfield Avenue	Mr & Mrs Hoets	8997 7749	
Woodfield Crescent	Lucienne Donnelly	8998 1474	
Woodfield Road	Vacant		

New Committee members sought



Interested in joining a small band of enthusiastic people committed to preserving both our architectural and social heritage? Come along to a briefing evening on Wednesday 18th September 2002 at 47 Meadvale Road – 8pm.

Contact: Sue Elliott ☎8998-9978



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)

AGM

**Important amendment to
Brentham Society Constitution
see enclosed leaflet**

What do you think of Brentham News?
Feel the urge to write something
yourself? Comments / articles always
welcome. Contact the Editor (see below)

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