

BRENTHAM NEWS

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June 2006

(Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham)

Brentham Society Chair's Notes

We made it! One hundred years of Brentham May Day festivities were duly and appropriately marked. Once again the weather miraculously relented and allowed us to enjoy the day without the rain and wind which had been threatened. As well as congratulating the small band of organisers who keep the show on the road (more about that inside), we should thank all those who helped to make it rather more special than usual, with extra street decorations and fewer cars cluttering up the procession route.

A notable element of May Day is the fact that so many residents come out to watch and talk to neighbours, many of whom they otherwise rarely see. It reminds us of how important these events are in fostering a sense of community. As much as a city centre, a living suburb can and should exist on its streets and not just be shut away behind curtained windows. This is one reason why the original founders of Brentham put so much store on having local shops and a thriving "Institute" (what is now the Brentham Club).

The future of the Club and its Grade II listed building should be of concern to us all, whether or not we are members. Most people will know that the "regeneration" which had been discussed at length has had to be abandoned because of lack of finance. Instead, a small-scale plan to improve some of the facilities in the building is now actively being discussed within the Club, and will soon be put forward for planning permission. The Brentham Society and the Conservation Area panel will in due course have a role to play in commenting on the detail, and we will keep everyone informed.

Other matters which will be getting the attention of the Committee in the coming months include continuing our watching brief on planning applications, and a hard look at how concern for "sustainability" can be reconciled with the demands of living in a conservation area. If you have access to the Brentham web site (www.brentham.com), please watch for news there.

Tony Miller, ☎ 8997 6042

Brentham Open Garden Day

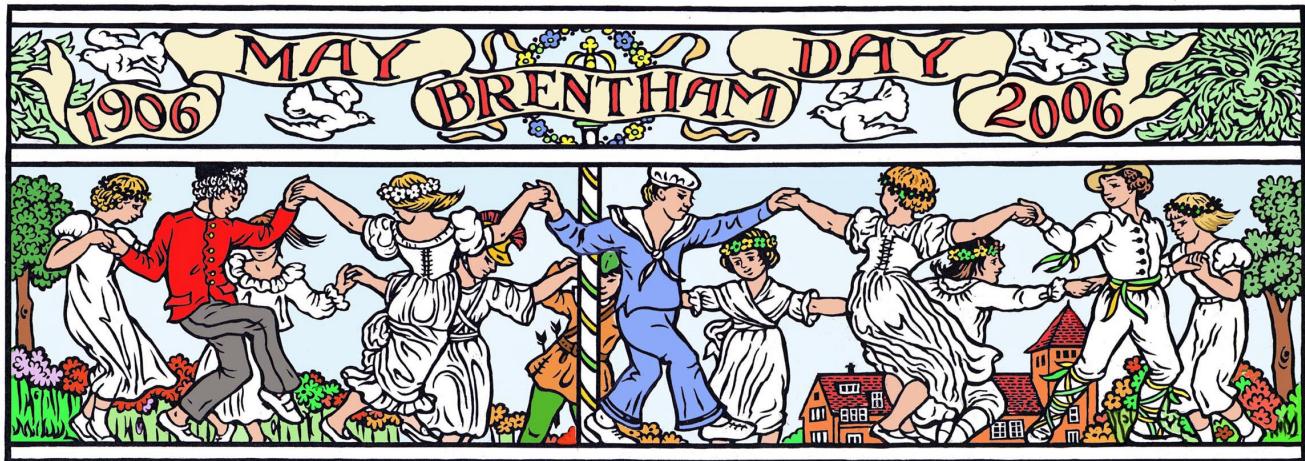
Come and be inspired by something new! This year, Brentham residents and their friends can visit ten gardens, of which seven have not been open in previous years. There are also new features to see in the other three gardens, and there will be a sale of plants.

Open Garden Day will be held on **Sunday 11 June**, from 2pm to 5pm. Tickets cost £2.50, available on the day with a map and programme from 53 Brentham Way and 64 Meadvale Road. Tea and cake will also be available (£1.00 for adults, 50 pence for children). Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Shooting Star House Children's Hospice in Hampton, specifically for the upkeep of its garden project. Money raised from plant sales will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

For more information, see notice boards, the Brentham website or ☎ 8997 7218 or 8621 0742.



Spring (finally!) reaches Fowlers Walk, Denison Road and Woodfield Crescent



The procession sets off



Edwardian style



At the top of Brentham Way



May Queens of yesteryear



Queen Jessica



Holding tight to the ribbons

The Future of May Day

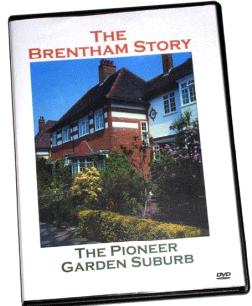
It would be good to be confident that we can all go on enjoying Brentham May Day for many years to come. However, there is a real danger that the event will not continue much beyond its centenary.

Because the number of helpers has decreased over the last few years, the bulk of the work is now being done by just two people, who have been involved with May Day for the last 20 years. Volunteers are needed to share some of the tasks. For example to take over general administration, and to take on specific areas such as: dealing with the press; enrolling and registering the children; handling the finances; preparing the field before and clearing up after the event; and organising the children's tea. Someone is also needed to take on responsibility for teaching the Maypole and country dances.

None of this can happen overnight, so the Mayday Committee is looking to hand over the ropes (or ribbons) gradually over the next few years, as volunteer helpers become more confident in these roles. If you are willing to play a part in keeping alive this Brentham tradition which brings enjoyment to so many children, please contact Pat Chapman, ☎ 8998 0520 (home), ☎ 8840 4845 (work), or ☎ 07740 464 157 (mobile).

The Brentham Story

Freelance Producer/Director Martin Mortimore (right) receives an "Oscar" at the launch in St. Barnabas hall of his DVD which traces the history of Brentham, surveys its architectural heritage, highlights planning and conservation issues, and includes footage of the traditional events that today keep alive the spirit of the founders. Priced at £12, it is available from Sue Elliott, ☎ 8998 9978, sue@brentham.com or Pitshanger Bookshop.

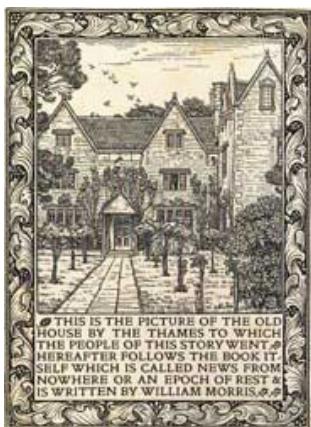


Hedges

One of our readers has recalled that in Hampstead Garden Suburb, hedges were inspected to ensure they did not encroach on the pavement and were of uniform height. Probably few today would welcome such regimentation, however neat and tidy the outcome. Privet hedges can however easily become overgrown over time, possibly from reluctance to cut back to the wood for fear that they will not leaf up again. In fact, leaves reappear quickly even after a radical shearing. Or if the real problem is that your neighbour is finding it increasingly difficult as the years go by to cope with his or her hedge, why not offer to help?

Website News

Did your child take part in the centenary May Day celebration? If so, you may be able to spot her or him (or yourself!) on the Brentham website. More than a hundred photos of the event were made available online just 24 hours after the festivities had ended. Visit www.brentham.com to see them. At the same time you could join the Brentham Forum and exchange news and opinions online with other residents. The more people join, the better it will serve us all as a forum for information, requests, views, recommendations of local tradespeople etc. Join now - the best message posted wins a prize!



There is still time to join the car trip to William Morris's house, Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire, which the BHS has arranged for

Friday 30 June. The cost (depending on numbers) will be up to £20, to cover entry and your share of fuel costs.

To book a place, contact Eleanor Cowie, ☎ 8998 1792 or email bhssec@brentham.com



Mo Aarons, 1936-2006

Maureen ("Mo" to family and friends) was a long-standing resident of Brentham, having moved to Winscombe Crescent in 1966. She served as Treasurer on the first Committee of the Brentham Society in 1970, and continued as a street rep thereafter. Mo was a speech and language therapist, specialising in children with autism. She worked on developing social skills at Springhallow School and published extensively on her subject, including stories for the children incorporating her beloved cat "boys". She continued her involvement at the school until becoming ill about 18 months before her death on 13 January just before her 70th birthday.

Mo retained her interest and concern for the appearance of Brentham and was passionate about her garden. She loved being out in the open air, whether it was sitting in the sun reading, having barbecues on the patio, picnics on the beach, walking in the Welsh hills, or travelling to unusual places. Most of all, she had a strong sense of family and took great pride in her four children and seven grandchildren. We send our condolences and best wishes to her husband John and all the family.



Sponsor's Advertisement

Grimshaw & Co. recently handled the sales of these three character properties on the estate, two in Brentham Way, which were on the market at quoting prices of £945,000 and £525,000 Freehold, and one in Brunner Road at a quoting price of £475,000 Freehold.



If you are considering a sale, why not reap the benefit of our extensive local experience and vigorous marketing? The agents for your area, we always have a large register of waiting applicants willing to pay a full market price for a suitable property.

GRIMSHAW

For a free market appraisal, contact

Derek Grimshaw FRICS or John Pridham RD, FRICS,

8992 5661

If you are thinking of making alterations to your home, or need guidance on any aspect of planning and conservation, contact Heather Moore for an informal discussion, 8998 0234, or consult Ealing Planning Department, 8825 6600

The Brentham Society

Please renew or consider taking out membership of the Brentham Society. Membership is increasing year on year, and now includes 49% of Brentham households, while the subscription remains a modest £2 per household. If you have one, please provide an email address, so the Society can inform you promptly of upcoming events, but we guarantee not to pass it on to third parties.

Thanks!

To Eleanor Cowie, Mike Gaunt and Jean Harper for taking over as street reps for lower Brentham Way, Neville Road and Brunner Road. Also to Elizabeth Atkinson for taking on collecting membership subscriptions from Woodfield Crescent. Just one more volunteer is needed to collect subscriptions from Neville Road residents. Offers of help please to Sean or Debbi, 8991 0333.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 11 June	Open Garden Day
Wednesday 14 June	HGS meeting (see below)
Sunday 25 June	Strawberry Tea
Friday 30 June	Visit to Kelmscott Manor
Tuesday 11 July	PCA Question Time
Sunday 16 July	Family Cycle to Osterley House
16 & 17 September	London Open House weekend

Now the weather is warmer and the mornings lighter, why not join the **Morning Walking Group**? We meet on Tuesdays, 8.00 am sharp at the gates to Pitshanger Park, and do a 30-minute circuit. On Thursdays, same arrangements for a longer walk to Scotch Common. Come and get fit and enjoy the best part of the day. Contact Rosanna 020 8998 6550 or rosanna.henderson@ukgateway.net

Hampstead Garden Suburb is celebrating its centenary. Visitors from Brentham are invited to a meeting in the Hall of the Henrietta Barnett School, Central Square NW11 7BN at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 14 June. Dr. Ann Saunders will look back over the first 100 years of HGS, and Rachel Walmsley of the Town and Country Planning Association will review research on the future of HGS and garden city settlements. Martin Bell will be in the chair.

The **Pitshanger Community Association** is holding a Question Time evening on Tuesday July 11th. The panel will include Commander Colette Paul, head of Ealing police, Marion Saunders, Chair of the Ealing PCT, Darra Singh, Chief Executive of Ealing Council, and Steve Pound MP. For more details, including how to apply for a free ticket - first come first served! - see the PCA noticeboard in the Lane or the PCA website - www.pitshanger.org.uk

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

or writing to The Editor, 28 Holyoake Walk, W5 1QJ 020 8997 6269

