



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

BRENTHAM NEWS ISSUE 163 JUNE 2008

(Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham)

Brentham Society Chair's Notes

As the gardening enthusiasts prepare for the Open Day on 8th June (of which more on page 2), another hardy annual to light up the front gardens in Brentham returns. And no, it's not Love-in-the-mist, but the question of replacing our heritage lighting columns. "Oh, not street lamps again!" I hear the Editor (and you) cry. But yes, this regular issue refuses to go away and the day comes closer when the contractors move in to rip up our antique lamp standards and replace them...with what?

Residents may have read of the outcry in Hanwell when their old cast-iron columns started to be torn out for transfer to the so-called new "Heritage quarter" in Northfields - which is not even a conservation area. Unfortunately, this was a case where the local conservation panel had not replied to the earlier consultation, so they have few grounds for a review.

Our position is different. From the alternatives offered, our panel asked, in order of priority, for the original cast-iron columns to be retained, and otherwise opted for a replica "heritage" 5-metre column and pendant lantern, as appropriate for the scale of houses in Brentham. What we have been told we are getting is a taller, 6m column, which in many cases would be above the top of first floor windows and particularly intrusive in the narrower roads.

Negotiations with Council officers led us to believe there was a chance that we could reinstate the lower 5m columns in at least a majority of the roads, while preserving a few of the original posts as a record. We even identified some savings to offset the increased costs. However, the new Council budget has not apparently included this, and we are still unsure of what we are getting.

Maybe, unlike some other areas, we have been too polite and followed the rules. Now is the time to raise our voices to perhaps A MORE STRIDENT TONE! Individuals can help by writing direct to Jason Stacey or one of our local councillors, all at the Town Hall, W5 2BY. E-mail addresses are available on the Council web site, www.ealing.gov.uk

Tony Miller ☎ 8997 6042

Town Centre Redevelopment

The future of Ealing's centre hangs in the balance. While Glenkerrin is considering its options for the "Leaf" development on the Arcadia site, plans for Dickens Yard (behind the Town Hall) have been submitted by developers St. George. Together, these would add 1,400 new units housing 3,000+ residents on the two adjacent sites either side of Christchurch and Springbridge Road. As the drawing below indicates, these constructions (outlined in red) would tower over the existing buildings on New Broadway.

This scheme is of major importance to all Ealing residents. The Brentham Society and Ealing Civic Society, as part of the Save Ealing's Centre group, will be looking hard at the details to see what can be done to



mitigate the worst effects of this potentially massive over-development. Public consultation on the Dickens Yard plans lasts until 27 June. You can see them in Perceval House during normal opening hours, or on the Council web site (reference P/2008/0156) where you can also lodge your comments - but beware,

the plan documents are huge! For a simpler guide, visit <http://www.saveealingcentre.com>

Open Day at the Brentham Club



The Brentham Club opened its doors to non-members on Sunday 27 April to show off its new facilities. The Vets footballers' band provided the music as lunches were served in the refurbished hall.

Following the partial re-build there is now a spacious first-floor terrace, overlooking the tennis courts, where club members can enjoy drinks in the open air. Below it is the new coffee room, **open to non-members**, which serves soft drinks and light refreshments. The facelift drew lots of praise from visitors. If you haven't done so already, come along soon and see it all for yourself!

Open Garden Day 2008

This year's event is on Sunday 8th June 2008, 2pm to 5pm. There will be a mixture of new and previously opened gardens for you to enjoy, and the chance to share gardening tips with the owners of the gardens.

Tickets (£3.00, including map and programme) can be bought on the day from 53 Brentham Way and 64 Meadvale Road. Tea and cakes will be available (£1.00 for adults, 50 pence for children). Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Ealing Samaritans, and there will be a plant sale at Sally Kelly's, 2 Ruskin Gardens.

For more information nearer the time see the notice boards. Volunteers to help with teas and make cakes would be appreciated. Contact Regina Jenkins (☎ 07745 760 582) or Carole Fairclough (☎ 8997 7218).

Brentham's own Weather Station

Since the late 1970's every aspect of Brentham's weather, temperature, rainfall and wind direction, has been meticulously recorded each day by a family in Brentham Way. The volumes of data deposited in the Local Archives of Ealing library are now being analysed. In the next edition of *Brentham News* we'll tell the full story and hope to bring you some fascinating facts and figures. Could it emerge that our corner of west London has (except perhaps in May) an especially favourable microclimate?

May Day Festivities



Sadly, the maypole dancing on 10th May was overtaken by a truly torrential downpour. It had all begun so well with a procession around Brentham in sunshine to music by the Yiewsley and West Drayton marching band. But then, soon after Queen Emma Chandler had been crowned and the first dance had begun, a few scattered drops of rain turned into a persistent heavy deluge.

Everyone had to scurry into shelter wherever they could find it. Not all were as fortunate as Zoe Duckworth (Britannia, below right) whose shield offered more protection than mere flower garlands provide. Before long, everyone had to make their way to the Brentham Club to dry out and for an unexpectedly early tea. It was all hugely disappointing for children who had been practising their dances for weeks beforehand. Thanks are due to Pat Chapman and her helpers who coped so well with the wet children, and to the Brentham Club staff who catered for a sudden influx of wet customers.

We all hope for better weather in 2009 to reward all the effort organisers and dancers put into this event.



Sutton Garden Suburb

A small Brentham delegation travelled to south London on a bright day in February. Sutton is the unfinished masterpiece of Frederic Cavendish Pearson, who was the most flamboyant (his work is exemplified by Ludlow Road) of the Brentham architects, and whose vision was halted by WW1. We were there at the invitation of Sutton residents' association who are fighting to protect a precious piece of open land - characteristic of all garden suburbs - and sought our experience of fighting off inappropriate development. Sutton is comparatively small but has all the intimate charm of Brentham and some very fine individual houses as well as cosy cottages grouped around small greens. One positive outcome is that Sutton's residents are now lobbying to create a new association of Garden Suburbs - an initiative the Brentham Society fully supports.

Sue Elliott

Resite the Recycling?

A correspondent feels that the appearance of some Brentham front gardens is being spoiled by recycling clutter. We have been spared the blight of large wheelie bins so far, but the downside is that a plethora of green boxes full of cans, bottles and newspapers for recycling, orange bags of garden waste, and bin bags can accumulate in front gardens. Since Brentham houses tend to be quite small and many lack side entrances, it's very tempting to leave everything for the council to remove out in front of the house. If you don't have either a screened bin enclosure or a good-sized front hedge to stow it all discreetly behind, this can create a problem. What solutions can others suggest?

If you've an opinion on this, or on anything else in this issue of Brentham News, the Editor will be glad to hear from you. Send any comments to the address at the foot of this page.

Sponsor's advertisement

GRIMSHAW



Grimshaw recently handled the sale of this property on Meadvale Road

If you are considering a sale, why not reap the benefit of our extensive local experience.

For a free market appraisal please contact

Derek Grimshaw FRICS

or

John Pridham RD FRICS

Tel: 020 8992 5661 or

email: sales@grimshawhomes.co.uk

New! website

www.grimshawhomes.co.uk

Brentham Society Membership

Please renew or consider taking out membership of the Brentham Society. Membership now includes 50% of Brentham households, while the subscription remains at a modest £2 per household.

Contact Tim Llewellyn, ☎ 020 8997 9814

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, ☎ 020 8998 0234, or contact Ealing Planning Department, ☎ 020 8825 6600

If you intend to carry out work to **party walls**, bear in mind that there is a legal requirement for you to inform your neighbours.

Downsized Brentham gardener, content to cultivate clematis on his balcony, seeks good homes for a Bosch garden waste shredder, a green water butt with tap and stand, and a sturdy black compost bin.

☎ 020 8991 1698

Ealing Art Group's next open air events (exhibition and sale of works) will take place in the grounds of Christ the Saviour Church, Ealing Broadway on the first Saturday of the next four months.

The relevant dates for your diary are 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August and 6th September, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Are there other local events or activities you know of which might interest other Brentham residents? If so, you are very welcome to submit them for inclusion, if space permits and at the Editor's discretion, in a future Brentham News, the next full-colour edition of which will appear in September 2008.