



Issue 169

Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham Garden Suburb

June 2010

BRENTHAM NEWS

Chair's Notes

By the time you read this edition of Brentham News you should have received your personal copy of our new Residents' Welcome Pack - **"Living in Brentham Garden Suburb"** launched at a social event in February attended by over 70 residents.



The pack contains information on Brentham's history and architectural heritage, what it means for you and your property, and how the Brentham Society was set up to ensure Brentham stays special. Brentham is a conservation area with Article 4 direction and the pack explains what this means and gives advice on looking after your home. Particular attention should be given to the inserts relating to the need for planning approval for changes to your home.



My thanks go to those involved in the production of the pack (seen here at the launch event) and the band of unsung heroes, the Street Representatives, who did sterling work in delivering the pack individually to your door. If by chance you haven't received yours, it may be that they couldn't catch you in – and the pack was too large to push

through a Brentham letterbox! If this is the case please email either our Street Representative Coordinator Elizabeth Atkinson at elizabeth@brentham.com or myself at alan@brentham.com or call 020-8998-6550 and we'll arrange to have one delivered.

You should also have noticed that your pack contained a **membership subscription** envelope. Subscriptions, still held at £2 per household, are **now due**. If you haven't already joined the Society, please do so to help us keep you informed and do give us an email address if you have one.

The Brentham Society also organises a number of events during the year for members (see details of forthcoming events throughout this newsletter) and has produced a number of **publications and a range of merchandise**.



Our latest offering is a wonderful set of **postcards** depicting some contemporary images as well as some from our extensive archive. The postcards are being sold in packs of 12 for £5 or individually at 60p. If you can't wait until our next event to buy your supplies (!) the Pitshanger Bookshop stocks a range of our publications and merchandise.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our events over the next couple of months and hope that the weather stays on our side this year - have a good summer.

Alan Henderson

Brentham Archive - bound volumes of the forerunner of Brentham News – **The Brentham Magazine** and **The Brenthamite** – have been uncovered by the Brentham Club. These date from July 1913 through to December 1925 and give an interesting insight into the early years of life in Brentham and activities at the Institute. (see Politics, Brentham Style on page 5).

And following last year's **Fred Perry** celebrations, our thanks go to Keith Hutton who sends us a letter written to him by Fred in response to an invitation for him to be guest speaker at The Old Ealonians' Association Annual Reunion dinner in 1984. Unfortunately Fred was unable to attend on that occasion already having plans to be back in America (no doubt to avoid the tax man) but sent his best wishes and assured Keith that his contacts with Ealing were fondly remembered.

And we hear that Brentham features as one of three of "London's less well-known garden suburbs" in this year's edition of **The London Gardener** – the journal of the London Historic Parks Gardens Trust. The article entitled "Some Appendages to the City" also featured the Webb Estate in Purley, Croydon and Harrow Garden Village in Rayners Lane, Harrow.



Residents backing onto **Denison/Ludlow Green** now own the land – the purchase from Grainger Property Trust is finally complete. A meeting has been arranged for early June to establish formal arrangements for its management.

The **garages** between Brentham Way and Fowlers Walk have been refurbished and security lighting has been installed.



There are still some areas of no-man's land around some of the open spaces behind Brentham houses and some have become dumping grounds for cans, bottles and garden rubbish. The Council will take away all small amounts of rubbish so there is no need for dumping. If you see anyone doing this, inform the Council so that action can be taken.

I Love Pitshanger Campaign

You have probably noticed a red heart appearing on shops and trees along Pitshanger Lane. Most of the traders, and other members of the local community, have come together to promote the Lane. Since the road works started, shopping patterns have changed and it has become clear that there is a need to bring people back.

The first act has been to campaign for stop-and-shop parking spaces along Pitshanger Lane. In order to survive, the shops need a decent number of short-term parking places to be available, so a petition has been started for stop-and-shop parking with a two-hour limit (long enough to pop into a hairdresser or enjoy a meal.)

The next step is to create an online directory of the shops, goods and services available in Pitshanger,
www.mypitshanger.co.uk.

There will also be a wide range of "We love Pitshanger Lane" products to appeal to all tastes, including re-cycled shopping bags, mugs and greetings cards.



Importantly, the Lane is to be re-launched with an official re-opening day, on **Saturday 19th June**. Pitshanger Lane Day, between 10 am and 2 pm, will be part of the initial Pitshanger Lane Festival Weekend, which includes the PCA's Party in the Park on Sunday 20th June.

Six shops have closed in as many months. Now is the time to stop the decline so that we can continue to enjoy local shopping facilities. Please show your support by signing the petition (available in the bookshop) and making your views known to the Council by contacting local councillor john.popham@ealing.gov.uk - and going back to the Lane!

Walter Wyeth, The Pitshanger Bookshop

Brentham Strawberry Tea

The 30th Brentham Strawberry Tea
Celebrating 100th birthday of
2 Winscombe Crescent
3.30pm on Sunday 27th June.



Members and their guests welcome.
Members £3.00, guests £4.00, children £1.50

Come and meet you new Councillors and MPs

Donations of cakes will be gratefully received.

Please contact Heather Moore at:

heather@brentham.com or ring 020 8998 8421.

We sadly have to announce the passing of two long term Brentham residents.

Maria Tulasiewicz

Meadvale Road residents in particular will remember Maria Tulasiewicz, who at one time had a white Mini parked in her front garden. Mrs Tulasiewicz, who died last year aged 83, dearly loved Brentham and its peace and tranquillity. Originally from Warsaw, she came to Britain after the Second World War and was active in organisations for émigré Poles. After teaching French in Cambridge she returned to London to work as a PA, latterly at Hammersmith hospital in the medical physics department.

She enjoyed writing poems and short stories in Polish, and sending letters to newspapers, including debating cold-war politics with the *Guardian's* Hella Pick. She would also find time to repair her car, make her own double glazing and bake bread, bagels and cakes. As her retirement neared she became rather reclusive and a tremendous hoarder. Then, in 2001, a fire gutted her front room, and she just managed to escape. That was soon followed by a small accident in her beloved Mini, which led her to giving up driving, although she would often sit in the car enjoying a cup of tea.

Edward Tulasiewicz

EALING ART GROUP

The group's outdoor summer shows will be held in the grounds of the church of Christ the Saviour (Christchurch), Ealing Broadway.

This is an opportunity to buy affordable original art, craft and ceramics including some work of local Brentham residents.



Admission free, 9am - 5.00pm

1st Saturday in June, July, August and September.



Pitshanger Pictures

Following the St Barnabas Summer Fete on Saturday 12 June, Pitshanger Pictures will be showing

Mamma Mia (PG) at 6.30pm

A mother. A daughter. Three possible fathers.
A trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

Join in the spirit of the event by wearing flares, flowered shirts etc.

Greek mezes served at 5.30 pm.

For more details, email cinema@barnabites.org

Lucienne Donnelly

Lucienne Donnelly, who died aged 92 at the end of April, had lived in Woodfield Crescent for 48 years. She was born Lucienne Somers in Antwerp and after graduating from Brussels University in psychology and literature she worked as a secretary, intending eventually to work for the Belgian foreign office.

She lived through the German Occupation, receiving a certificate for her service to the Belgian Red Cross between 1940 and 1943. After the Liberation, her fluency in English and Dutch (Flemish), in addition to her native French, enabled her to work as a translator for the British, in which capacity she received a letter of commendation from Field Marshal Montgomery.

At this point she met, and later married, Jimmy Donnelly, then serving in the RAF. They lived in Belgium before moving to London and eventually Brentham. In England she taught and translated French and took an active part in local affairs. For seven years from 1995 she was joint co-ordinator of the Brentham Neighbourhood Watch and for many years was the Brentham Society's Street Representative for Woodfield Crescent.

After more than 30 years of marriage, Jimmy developed cancer of the larynx and underwent a laryngectomy in 1985. Lucienne nursed him until his death two years later. She became involved in the activities of the Laryngectomy Society and the support group "Speaker's Corner", maintaining her association with the Society until 2007.

Paul Fodrio

Ealing Civic Society

2010 Annual Lecture



Wednesday 16 June at 7.30 pm
The Queen's Hall • Ealing Town Hall

How did Soviet cosmonauts land up in Ealing?

Heinz Wolff, Emeritus Professor of Bioengineering at Brunel University, telling the inside story of how Russian cosmonauts came to W5 and what's happened since...

... and did they ever reach Brentham?

All are welcome – you don't have to be a member
www.ealingcivicsociety.org

Brentham May Day 2010



The procession leaves Brentham Club



Programme seller
James Russiello



The splendid Green Man
leads the procession



The crown bearer concentrates on carrying the crown,
moments before Katherine (pictured in the arch) was
proclaimed Brentham May Queen 2010

Our thanks are due to Pat Chapman and her band of helpers and organisers who make Brentham May Day such an occasion. It has to be one of the highlights of the Brentham calendar.

Brentham Salvage

A solid internal door in need of refurbishment is looking for a good home. Some reclaimed roof tiles also available for a small donation.

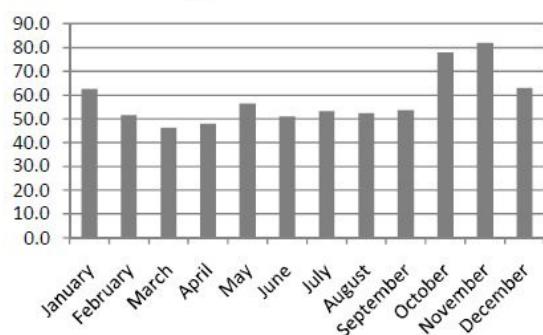
Contact sue@brentham.com 020 8998 9978.

Brentham's Microclimate

In September 2008 *Brentham News* reported how Valerie Green and her family in Brentham Way have been measuring and recording local weather data - rainfall, temperature etc. - since 1974. She kindly made this material available to Alan Henderson, who took on the task of compiling the data in the form of convenient tables and graphs. So far work has been completed on data from 1995 up to 2009, and some of the facts which emerge for this 15-year period may be of interest to local gardeners in particular, as well as to event organisers.

Although in climate terms 15 years is a very short time, within it there have been some very considerable fluctuations. As regards rainfall, the driest year in this period, 1996, produced a little under half the rain which fell in the wettest year, 2000. Similarly, the driest month over the period (March) produced on average approximately half (56%) the rainfall of the wettest month, November.

Average Rainfall mm



Incidentally, March's position as the driest month of the year in our own turn-of-the-century period seems to show little change from the 14th century, when Chaucer wrote of "the drought of March" at the beginning of his *Canterbury Tales*.

In terms of Brentham's outdoor events, it's clear from the above graph that, as regards the likelihood of rainfall, June has been an excellent choice of month to hold the Open Garden Day. It is less at risk of rain than are the Brentham May Day celebrations, which have no option but to take their chances with the higher average incidence of rainy days in May. On the other hand, over the 15-year period referred to earlier, rainfall in May seems to fluctuate between peaks and troughs, with high rainfall experienced in 2000, and again in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and markedly lower May rainfall amounts in other years, so perhaps we may hope for a succession of rain-free May Days for the next few years.

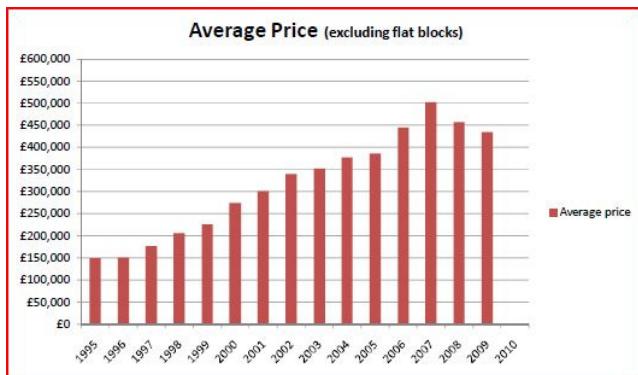
House Sales in Brentham

As owners of Brentham properties who are interested in such things may already know, it's possible to access (free of charge) Land Registry data for information about local house sales and house prices. As a result one can discover which houses in any particular Brentham street have changed hands over a period, at what prices, and hence detect the trends over time as regards numbers of transactions and average prices.

One question this information raises is, just how stable is the population of Brentham? The data for the period 1995 to 2009 reveal that between 44% and 67% of the house properties in every street in Brentham changed hands during that time, with Brentham Way registering the smallest turnover (44%) and Neville Road the highest (67%). Overall, 52% of the houses in Brentham have changed hands over the last 15 years (although it has to be borne in mind that some of these sales involved Brentham residents moving within the suburb).

That leaves around half of Brentham houses which have belonged to the same family or individual for at least a decade and a half. The estate continues therefore to possess a substantial number of relatively long-term residents (some of whom of course have lived here for very considerably longer than 15 years).

As regards the local trends in the movement of house prices, the broad picture, as the following graphic makes clear, is of a consistently upward movement since 1996, reaching a peak in 2007 and subsequently falling for two years in succession.



Clearly these broad averages can conceal as much as they reveal, and those who are so minded can access the Land Registry data and examine detailed information on their own street and on individual property sales within it. As for whether prices will in future rise, fall or level out, and whether a return to a period of continuously rising house prices would in any case be socially desirable, it is probably wisest in these columns to offer no opinion.

Politics, Brentham style

The editorial in the first (July 1913) issue of our ancestor, the *Brentham Magazine*, recalls that "two gentlemen...ran as Brentham candidates in North Ealing for the Town Council" the previous November. They had contested the election as Independents, presumably hoping to attract votes which might have been lost by running under their own party colours - a ploy which allegedly earned them the necessity of undergoing severe "tests of political purity" when they returned to whichever political folds they had left.



Neither managed to win a seat on the Council, but they do seem to have succeeded in their aim of raising the profile of Brentham in local politics. As the same editorial robustly affirmed: "**Ealing now knows that Brentham wants things, and means to get them**". Among those things were improvements to Pitshanger Park, and eight months after the election the magazine was able to celebrate the park's acquisition of new gates, tennis courts, paths and shelters.



Gender politics, on the other hand, were advancing rather slowly in Brentham, to judge by the sentiments expressed by "Portia" on the ladies' page of this first issue of the *Brentham Magazine*. The campaign for votes for women was at its height in July 1913.

Imprisoned suffragettes on hunger strike were being forcibly fed, and in the previous month Emily Davidson had been fatally injured when she protested against the denial of voting rights to women by flinging herself in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby. "Portia" however was unimpressed by such "clamouring womanhood" and convinced that "if the women of this realm wanted a vote, or anything else that men could give them, they could get it, and get it without any noise." Nevertheless, even she was prepared to move with the times sufficiently to concede that, for women playing tennis at the Institute, "a tight hobble skirt [was] not at all necessary".

There is a possibility that **Tesco** might take over the former Dyas premises and Stems florist in The Lane. A new Tesco store is liable to drive more small shops out of business. Is this what Brentham residents want and will stand by while Tesco gets? No planning application has been lodged with the Council to date but our readers may want to write to their local Councillors and voice their concerns.

Brentham Open Garden Day

Sunday 13 June
2.00pm – 5.00pm



Tickets (£3.00 each) can be purchased
on the day from 2.00pm
at
38 Holyoake Walk or 53 Brentham Way

Come along to the ever-popular **Brentham Open Garden day** with your friends and family to get some gardening tips and inspiration (or just to nose around your neighbours' gardens!). Plants for sale and tea and cakes available during the day.

Buy tickets on the day with a map and programme. Proceeds will go to the 'Help for Heroes' charity.

Any help with serving teas and/or making cakes would be very much appreciated.

Contact Gina Jenkins
07745 760 582.

BRENTHAM FAMILY CYCLE Sunday 25th July



Pitshanger Park to Osterley Park
Stopping for afternoon tea

Suitable for all ages.

Leave Pitshanger Park 1.30pm prompt
Meadvale Road entrance

Call Alan Henderson
020 8998 6550 for more details

The Brentham Club

Monthly Social Membership

Monthly Social Membership is now available at a cost of £10 per person per calendar month from January 2010. Anyone wishing to become a Monthly Social Member will need to fill in an application form and pay the monthly fee in advance

020-8997-2624

secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk

Club Room Bookings

Various rooms in the Brentham Club are available for hire and use. Details of prices and deposits available on request.

Fred Perry Coffee Shop

Everyone welcome to use the Fred Perry Coffee Shop

Sponsor's advertisement

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Published by the Brentham Society

Printed by Print Plus, Ealing W5 3NN

You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing news@brentham.com
or by writing to the Editor, 8 Gleneagles, Malvern Way, W13 8DZ

The next edition is due in September 2010.

