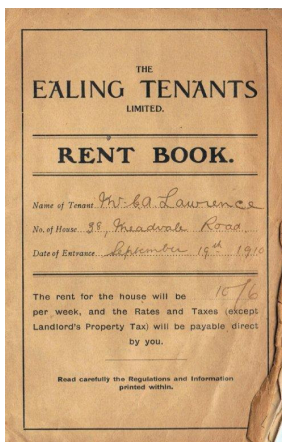




# BRENTHAM NEWS

## Chair's Notes

We all know that the Brentham Estate has a rich and fascinating history – it's one of the reasons that we live here. We are lucky that the Pioneers recognised the value of the estate at the time it was built, so that numerous records from the beginning and through the years have survived.



The Brentham Society maintains an archive of these items and has expanded it whenever possible. The archive contains photographs from the early days, many of the original plans of the houses, and other items of interest such as programmes for the May Day celebrations through the years.

Browsing through it is an excellent way to get a feel for the history of the estate.

The archive is kept in a room in a house on the estate. This has several disadvantages, including possible deterioration, restricted access and danger of loss. There is a programme to catalogue all the items, which is going slowly and always needs more volunteers. The ideal solution would be to digitise the whole archive. This would maintain the archive for the future but also allow much wider access. However, this could be an expensive project to undertake.

The finances of the Brentham Society, whilst being healthy, are not structured in a way to take on a project like this, neither the initial cost nor the ongoing maintenance. The Committee has been thinking of ways to change this.

One way considered is the inclusion of advertising in Brentham News, and to test the waters we have included one commercial advertisement in this edition. For some years, Grimshaws the estate agents have sponsored BN, for which we are very grateful, but with the expansion in size and advances in the quality of printing, in recent editions this has not covered the full cost. There would need to be limits on the amount and type of advertising taken. What do residents think of this?

Our annual subscription has remained at £2 for several years now. We ask all residents to join the Brentham Society, so that we can truly represent the estate as a whole whenever it is necessary. Just over 50% of residents have paid their subscription this year, many with additional donations. Our thanks to you for this, but ideally we need a higher proportion of residents in the Society and there is still time to join if you haven't already done so (either via your membership collector, as shown on your envelope, or direct to Alan Henderson at 47 Meadvale Road).

Any change in subscription would need to be agreed at our AGM, but before we take that step we are interested in getting the views of residents on any proposed increase. We note that other local organisations have an annual fee of £10. Should we consider raising our sub to this level?

Returning to the archive, we intend to maintain it so that future generations can learn and understand the history of our estate. There are



some other projects that we would like to do as well. Our aim is to ensure this remains a beautiful place to live, but in this case we may need some help to do so. *Richard Costella*

## Garden Waste Recycling

The Council's new recycling contract with Enterprise seems to have got off to a sticky start, but things are gradually improving. The new chargeable garden waste collection also seems to have had teething problems, with late collections and delivery of the wrong type of container.



As noted before, the view of the Brentham Society is that in a conservation area, particularly one where many of the houses do not have easy rear access and have small front gardens, wheelie bins are an eyesore and detract

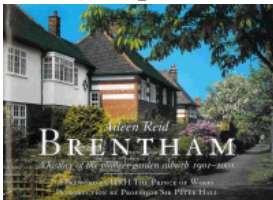
from the general ambience of the estate. In the past, we have successfully fought off the threat of wheelie bins for refuse collection.

If you take up the garden waste service, we strongly recommend that you take up the hessian sack option, which is more in keeping with the nature of the estate. We understand from the Council that just 10 residents have taken up the wheelie bin option, showing that residents generally feel the same way as us. This is very pleasing but we need to ensure this number does not rise.

The Brentham Society works hard to maintain the garden nature of our estate. Please help by opting for the hessian sacks.

### Books and DVDs for Sale

Earlier mention of the archive reminds us that more recently arrived residents may not be aware that the Brentham Society has published a book and produced a DVD of the history of the estate.



The book *Brentham, a History of the Pioneer Garden Suburb* by Aileen Reid tells the story of the estate, explores how the

visionary aims of the founders were realised, and uncovers the rich architectural, social and planning legacy that survives today.

The DVD, "The Brentham Story – the Pioneer Garden Suburb" tells the story of the development of the estate, looks at community life here and gives a more detailed account of some of the architecture. It runs to 73 minutes.

Both are available on the bookstall at the Brentham Society's various events. They can be purchased from Pitshanger Books, which will be holding a promotion from 1<sup>st</sup> June, with the DVD given free with every copy of the Brentham book which is bought.



### Update on Renovation of the Brentham Club Tower

The work needed on the outside of the Tower largely comprises the replacement of a large number of bricks that have started to crumble.

This is of interest throughout the Estate, in fact, as the cause of the decay is that hard mortar was used between the relatively soft bricks, instead of lime mortar. As a result, it is the bricks that give, rather than the mortar, and then



start to let in moisture, which makes the problem worse. Interestingly it seems that this hard mortar was used when the Tower was built, and not during later maintenance - presumably the builders did not expect any problems.

It is also interesting to note that the original mortar would have been black, and indeed one can still see black mortar in protected parts of the walls and elsewhere around Brentham, for example under the eaves.



This raises some interesting conservation questions: should we repoint with hard mortar, since that was what was used originally. And should it be black? In fact, the answers according to our conservation

officers are that soft mortar should be used, and it is allowed to be the pale colour to which we are accustomed.

All this is worth bearing in mind when repointing houses on the estate - use an experienced bricklayer and ensure that he uses the right kind of mortar for your bricks.

Having established what work needs to be done and the rough cost, the Club is considering how to proceed. It could possibly raise the funds itself with local assistance, or set up a charitable trust to manage the building and rent it back to the Club. A trust would be eligible to apply for funding for renovations from such sources as English Heritage. At present the original proposal to build a house on part of the grounds and use the profit to carry out repairs is not being pursued.

The Brentham Society is ready to assist wherever it can.  
*Clive Evans*



## 20mph Zone

Following the consultation last year, the proposal for a 20 mph zone on the east half of the estate is progressing, and work is expected to start in the next few weeks. This will include new signage, some minor pavement re-alignments and some strategic road humps.



The Brentham Society has agreed with the Council that the signage will be localised, and so

will carry the name of the estate. Roads affected are North View, Holyoake Walk, Denison Road, Woodfield Road and all points eastwards.

## Ward Forum Update

The latest Hanger Hill Ward Forum was held at the Brentham Club on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

The meeting started with a presentation from Transport for London on the London 2012 Olympic Route Network. There are two lane closures affecting the Brentham area. One lane



will be closed on the A40 Western Avenue eastbound at Greenford to channel the traffic into two lanes prior to the Hanger Lane junction. Also one lane will be closed on the A40

westbound slip road up to the Hanger Lane gyratory, to allow Olympic traffic a free run.

There was considerable opposition to these lane closures because of the traffic jams and increased rat-running that they may cause. However the consultation period closed before the end of last year and so the lane closures will be implemented during the Olympic period.

At last the go-ahead was given to renovate some of the Brentham street signs. Several signs will be returned to their 1940s style, with the postal number removed. The Brentham Society has agreed to share the cost with the Council, and an order will be placed shortly.

## More Development in Central Ealing?

Ealing Civic Society reports that the Arcadia site, which extends along the Uxbridge Road from the Arcadia Centre to Carphone Warehouse, has now been sold to Benson Elliott Capital Management. It is not known what their intentions are, but they have a partnership with property developers Stanhope plc, and so some new development plans may emerge at a later stage.

Meanwhile there is no progress on the site of the Empire Cinema, substantially demolished in early 2009. There does not seem to be any chance of redevelopment in the near future, as the owners of the site have consistently failed to fulfil their promises.

## Blue Plaque Ceremony

The official English Heritage Blue Plaque for Fred Perry will finally be installed at 223 Pitshanger Lane and formally unveiled on **Friday 15th June at 10.30am** by his grandson, John. It's a pity that this couldn't have been scheduled for the weekend, but the decisions on timing lie with English Heritage.

The Chairman of its Blue Plaque Panel, distinguished historian Professor Sir David Cannadine, will introduce proceedings, which should take no longer than 30 minutes. All Brentham residents are most welcome to come and watch from Brunner Road.



If you are elderly and need a chair, please let Sue Elliott know beforehand (8998 9978).

Afterwards, we will encourage people to repair to the Fred Perry Coffee Shop at Brentham Club for refreshments and to continue celebrating the memory of one

of our most distinguished former residents.

## Brentham Open Garden Day, 2112

This year's event will be held on the afternoon of **Sunday June 10th**. Please come along to enjoy some of the best of our Brentham gardens, which may give you a few inspiring ideas for your own garden. A variety of styles of garden



will be open on that day. Teas and cakes will be available as usual, and a plant sale will be held. See the notices which will be appearing

around the estate and locally for any further information.

Offers of help with serving teas and/or making cakes would be much appreciated. For further information contact Mike on 020 8991 0626 or Brian on 020 8998 9608.

## Club Space at a Premium

The prime business of the Brentham Club is in sports and leisure, and it has thriving tennis, bowls, cricket and football sections. The football section is particularly popular at the moment, with around 200 children being coached each weekend.

This has led to a shortage of space on their football pitches, which residents will know as where the May Queen is crowned and the Maypole dancing takes place. The Club are considering putting a gate between their grounds and Pitshanger Park, and asking the Council to mark out a football pitch at that end. The pitch would then be rented from the Council in the same way as others at the other end of the park.

There was a football pitch at this point until about 15 years ago, when it fell out of use as the popularity of the sport waned. Matters have now come full circle. The Club will be consulting with residents along Meadvale Road before making any formal application, so Brentham residents in that area should be hearing from them soon.

## Vera Foxwell ("Poppy") 1922 - 2012

We shall all miss Poppy, who sadly died of natural causes on February 27 after having reached the ripe old age of 90.

Most days Poppy could be seen around Brentham - either patiently walking an elderly dog or pushing her trolley on wheels on shopping expeditions in the Lane. She had lived in Fowlers Walk for many years; first with her brother and then alone after his death. But she never regarded herself as being on her own because for most of her retirement years she shared her home with a series of much-loved dogs.

Firstly there was a Yorkshire Terrier, rescued from the Battersea Dogs' Home, and on his demise a dishevelled elderly Cairn Terrier was secured. When he also succumbed nearly three years later Poppy was very upset and missed their walks together dreadfully. But she still had the capacity to care and shortly before she died she saw an advertisement for a rescue terrier at the Dogs Trust and asked if we could take her to see it. Unfortunately Poppy never got the new dog - she died only four weeks after our visit.

But what an example Poppy was to us all. In her 90<sup>th</sup> year she was determined to rescue another dog with all the work that entailed. We spoke to the Dogs Trust to tell them about Poppy. They will soon be naming one of their gentler charges after her. Poppy would have liked that.

*Jane and Barry Murphy*

## Buzzards in Brentham

An unlucky bird was found lying dead on the front path of a house in Meadvale Road. It had apparently flown into a window and broken the glass which, presumably, caused its death. But as there was no blood or disfigurement the bird



looked quite peaceful.

It was a beautiful specimen, over 20" long with quite magnificent plumage and stunning talons and beak.

Luckily, apart from the bird, no one was hurt but it would have caused a shock had the resident been sitting at the window! As it was not ringed the RSPCA could only advise that it be disposed of carefully. If anyone has any other wildlife stories, please let us know for future editions.

## Brentham May Day

After some of the wettest weeks on record for this time of the year, the sun emerged on Saturday 12th May for the May Day celebrations.



The Yiewsley and West Drayton Band led a procession of about 150 children round the streets of Brentham.

Then came the crowning of this year's May Queen, Mia Keelan, by her predecessor Daisy Whittaker, followed by the traditional dancing round the maypole in the grounds of the Brentham Club.

More pictures at [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com)

## Help!

The Brentham Society is run entirely by volunteers, and like similar societies it always needs more help. Offers of assistance are always welcome, but we have one post which we would particularly like to fill.

The Society holds half a dozen events each year, and we are looking for an Events Co-ordinator to help put them together. This entails keeping a list of helpers and calling on them at the relevant time, making sure that all the relevant equipment is to hand, and tidying up after the event. This would suit a "people person" who enjoys meeting others and working with them too. If you are interested, please contact Heather at [h-moorew5@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:h-moorew5@tiscali.co.uk)



## Tony Westcott, 1918 – 2012

Tony Westcott, born at 8 Denison Road, lived all his life in the house where his mother had probably been the original tenant. He was one of three brothers, very sociable, and a keen sportsman who enjoyed cycling and playing tennis and snooker at the Brentham Club. After the sale of the GWR grounds where they had played bowls, some of his friends joined Tony at the Club where they liked holding discussions on the Club gallery (he had strong left-wing opinions) over the odd drink. Their group was affectionately known as the Last of the Summer Wine.

Tony was in the army during the war and, though he never married, enjoyed female company. He became a senior civil servant with the Forestry Commission, and was also an accomplished pianist – self-taught when in his 60s - with a love of classical music and a considerable collection of vinyl records.

Tony lost his sight in later life, but latterly had a wonderful carer, Lettie, for whom he was something of a father figure. Much of the last year of Tony's life was spent in and out of hospital. He discharged himself from his last stay in hospital, and was at home when he had a stroke a few days before he died on 18<sup>th</sup> March, so whilst he didn't reach his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday, his great wish to die at home was fulfilled. Only two of Tony's old Brentham Club pals are still with us, both in their 90s, but they have happy memories of him and his generous spirit.

## Annual Brentham Strawberry Tea

This event for Brentham Society members and their guests has been **moved by one week, to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July**. It will be held from 3.30 – 5.30 at 2 Winscombe Crescent, courtesy of Barbara Murray. BS members £3, guests £4, children £1.50. Brentham merchandise and home-made jam will be on sale in aid of Downhurst.



### Sit. Vac.

*Brentham News* needs a volunteer to deliver its three principal issues a year, and occasional Updates, to homes in **Holyoake Walk**. If you can help, please contact the Editor on 020 8991 1698 or email [news@brentham.com](mailto:news@brentham.com)

Our warm thanks to Em Cunningham who has filled this role up till now, and also to Mrs Frantzis of Woodfield Road, who has taken on the task of delivering to Winscombe Crescent.



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## Kaspar Stephen Hocking, 1913 - 2012

Kaspar was born in Brentham, the son of a Cornish father and spent part of his boyhood in Falmouth with his grandparents. After graduating in Biology at Imperial College he spent 30 years in various parts of East Africa, finishing as the Director of the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute in Arusha, Tanzania.

During the war he joined a unit of the Kings African Rifles that had the task of identifying suitable non-malarial sites for army camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. In 1969 he was awarded a doctorate for 25 years of published research into mosquitoes and tsetse flies.



He was a part-time consultant for the World Health Organisation until 1973, when he retired to live at Polwheveral near Falmouth. He was a very early member of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, serving as its President from 1976 to 1980, and died peacefully at home last February at the age of 99.

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### Forthcoming Brentham Club Events

We are looking forward to the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, the European Cup, the Olympics and more - and we have the facilities to watch events on a big screen and sports on Sky TV - one of the few public venues in the area to offer this.

**23 June: The Indoor Street Party** - at the club from 7:30 p.m. Join us to celebrate the Jubilee and sixty years of memories with a glass of Pimms, live music and entertainment and a selection of classic British foods! Enter into the spirit of the evening by dressing for your chosen decade of the second Elizabethan era. Tickets at £20 available from the bar.

**6 July:** Live music in the Members Bar - with food available from 7 pm until 10 pm

**24 July:** Olympic Torch Party - details to follow

**29 July:** Charity Day at the bowls section from noon - all monies raised to go to the Shooting Star Chase (Children's Hospice) and Macmillan Nurses. All welcome to spend money at the stalls - books, tombola, plants and more.

Note for your diaries: Fireworks Night, 3 November

### Fred Perry Coffee Shop

The Perry Coffee Shop is open to all - every day from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. - serving hot drinks, afternoon tea, meals and snacks - with a roast dinner option on Sundays between 12.45 p.m. until 3.45 p.m.

The Club provides a home for baby sensory classes, book club, bridge club, comedy nights, youth club, yoga and zumba gold classes - plus a coffee shop, vibrant bars, freshly cooked food and space for conference and event hire.

For more information about the club or to make a booking, please phone 020 8997 2624

or 07402711982 or email [secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk).

Please check out our website for more information and events <http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk>

### Party in the Park, Sunday 17 June

This is the PCA's main summer community event, a garden fete on a grand scale, aimed at bringing the Pitshanger community together and raising funds for PCA projects and local causes. The focal point is the **Open-Air Stage**, where a programme of music and dance acts by schools and other local groups is topped and tailed by opening and closing ceremonies. Hunger and thirst are kept at bay by the **Gastrodome**, where local restaurateurs vie for your custom, and the **Beer Tent**, where a pint can be enjoyed to the backing of live music. Enjoy browsing in the **Arts & Crafts Village** with over 50 stalls offering everything from Indian massage to candyfloss. Other regular attractions include a magnificent **Carousel**, while the **Arena** hosts family sporting challenges and a dog show.