

Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

## NEWS

WE HOPE IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SAY

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL RESIDENTS

As the chill winds of January blow perhaps it is a good time to remind you of the Brentham Front Garden Awards. These awards go to those who, through their love of gardening, give passers by so much pleasure.

Pam Turner is just one such passer by and she was asked by the Committee to choose her favourite gardens on the Estate for 1995. These are her comments.

" This year the awards were arranged differently to give recognition to gardens which tend to look their best in a particular season, not shining so well at other times. Four equal prizes were awarded for those most attractive and for the best all-rounder who also took the Rose Bowl.

However it turned out to be quite as difficult to award seasonal prizes as the previous round-the-year ones and it seems we have a hard core of super gardens who come up trumps year by year and season by season. This is not to say that no other gardens shine. A vast number are very good indeed and I would like to have had time and space to say much more about them.

Please do not be discouraged if you have not been mentioned. My short list was very long and your garden may have been the subject of hours of deliberation.

**Winner of the Spring Garden was** 64 Meadvale Road. Large and south facing with opportunities for complex planning and planting. Good all year structure to seasonal changes, particularly fine in Spring with gentle mix of white narcissus and pink Camellia.

**Mentions**, 200 Pitshanger Lane, 34 Brentham Way, also 65 Meadvale Rd which had a most interesting mix of ground covers to complement the spring colours.

**Summer Winner was** 2 Ruskin Gardens. Interesting progression between triangular spaces. Superb mix of plants of varying heights, enhancing this movement. Restricted palette of colours, greys, light blues, mauves and pinks looked misty in the hot sun.

**Mentions**, 27 Brunner Rd, for bright well chosen colour; 20 Brunner Rd, for its inviting arched hedge and diagonal path through colourful shrubs. Also 93 Fowlers Walk which has such an excellent plan and good structure planting.

Winner of the Autumn Garden was 58 Holyoake Walk, a real traditional cottage garden, filled to overflowing with bright flowers in beds, pots, hanging baskets not only in the porch but in the trees too. Bedding plants work well here because of the basic structure of shrubs and trees.

**Mentions:** 64 and 65 Meadvale Rd, 5 Brunner Rd, which shows skill with a sophisticated scheme of pale greys and greens including a trellis tripod and terrazzo path, all very fresh against the white house. 76 Brentham Way with silvery foliage and delicate pink climbing rose shone out on a dreary dull day.

#### All-the-Year Winner was 54

Brentham Way, superb as ever with its contrasting spaces of paving and planting, trough and bird bath, all well scaled with the house.

**Mentions:** 39 Brentham Way which showed very skilful bold use of colour, positively changing each season. 93 Fowlers Walk and 20 Brunner Rd maintain their high standard. 19 Neville Rd is a lovely tiny scaled garden always well tended, 63,65,67,69 Meadvale form a group each with its own character but perfectly complimenting the terrace as a whole.

I do hope you are happy with the new arrangements of awards. It is likely we shall follow the same plan this year but I would like to introduce a winter category. If a garden looks good in December or January it deserves a prize. So begin soon. I'll be round with my clipboard trying to write notes with my gloves on."

Our thanks to Pam Turner for judging the gardens and for writing this article.



#### SINGING IN THE RAIN

The Brentham Society Carollers took to the streets again on the 21st and 22nd of December. On the first night we had our biggest choir yet. We set off on a cloudy but dry night. We were all encouraged by the warm reception we got from so many residents of the estate, who came out to listen and contributed so generously to our collections for the David Allen Retinoblastoma Appeal and St. David's Home for Ex-servicemen.

On the second night, however, the rain lashed down. When the few optimistic souls met up, the downpour appeared to be easing slightly. We set off full of hope, but after an hour, it was a very wet and bedraggled bunch who arrived at Heather Moore's house, for a much-needed glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Thanks are due to lots of people; to Heather and to Christa Brodie - Goode for their hospitality; Ellen Jackson for the rehearsal; everyone who donated money and, of course, to all the singers.

LETTERS



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The Society has received the following letters of thanks.

.....Please would you pass on my thanks to members who braved the rain

*before Christmas to go carol singing on our behalf. We are very grateful to those who sang and those who gave money. In total the funds raised for the Society amounted to £131.20, a grand sum for which many thanks.*

*Yours,*

*Janet Allen*

*(on behalf of the Retinoblastoma Society)*

*.....Please convey our grateful thanks to all who helped with our collection boxes, your time and effort brought in a total of £120.39 .....*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Mrs Joyce Valona*

*(on behalf of St David's Home)*

The society has also received letters of thanks from many of the people who were the recipients of Christmas parcels which were distributed in December to elderly residents of the estate.

Yet another letter concerned the disposal of rubbish

*Dear Brentham News,*

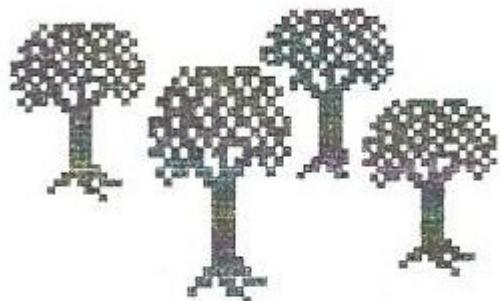
*I've noticed that some people are using the waste bin by the St Barnabas bus stop to dump their household refuse. This means the bin often overflows and litter spills over the pavement, street and grass. May I use the newsletter to remind these people that the council dustbin men actually call at their homes and take rubbish away!*

Name and address supplied.  
Brentham estate.

#### **WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH !**

On the same theme there was another

request from BRETS reminding people not to leave their household rubbish on the pavement for collection. The Council has the power to fine people who are reported to them. The partially sighted, the elderly and people with prams are particularly inconvenienced but there is the added problem of the bags being torn open by animals with the resulting unhygienic mess. Let us all try to keep the estate clean and tidy and encourage people not to offend in this way.



#### **TREES**

Residents will have noticed that BRETS have planted a number of trees around the estate but, because of financial constraints, are limited in the number they can replace this year. In an effort to further enhance the ambience of the estate the Society is going to contribute to additional trees.

Trees contribute much to the environment. They extract poisons from the air, they assist in noise reduction, they are home to insects and birds, they provide shade and enhance the beauty of an area. But the sad fact is that a number will not survive, some 25% or so will die through pollution, lack of food, water and other causes!

Will you help save them?  
Please 'ADOPT A TREE' where there is a tree near you (including established trees). Please make it your own, water it

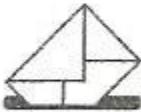
regularly and give it a feed of bonemeal now and again. Let's get involved in our environment and help maintain the unique character of our Estate.

## WANTED

The Society has a responsibility for maintaining the old style street name signs and a recent survey has shown that they are badly in need of refurbishment.

The initial repairs and painting will probably take some time, however once completed it should be a fairly leisurely task to keep them up to standard.

Is there anyone out there on the estate who will undertake the regular maintenance of these signs? The Society will agree a contract fee and pay for materials. We envisage the task appealing to a retired or semi-retired resident. Interested? Then please contact:  
**Heather Moore on 998 0234.**



## SUBSCRIPTIONS

It is now time to start collecting subscriptions for the coming year. The method of collecting subscriptions introduced last year was highly successful and we intend to use the same method again this year. With this newsletter you will have received an envelope. Please enter your name and address and return it with your subscription to the collector indicated. If you pay by direct debit please ignore your envelope.

NB The subscription for 1996 is still only £1 per household. If you can, please make a donation, as this increases the work we are able to do on your behalf. Thank-you.



## OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE 1996

The officers of the Brentham Committee for the coming year to October 1996 have been elected. They are as follows:

**CHAIRPERSON** - Heather Moore  
127 Fowlers Walk, 998 0234

**VICE CHAIR** - Mark Greenwood  
5 Brunner Road, 998 1064

**SECRETARY** - Elizabeth Atkinson  
12 Woodfield Crescent, 991 1758

**TREASURER** - Lawrence Hamilton  
4 Brunner Road, 998 1178

Other members of the committee are:

Julie Gibson - 40, Woodfield Crescent  
John Parsons - 8 Meadvale Road  
Delphine Nunn - 24 Woodfield Crescent  
David Rogers - 220 Pitshanger Lane  
Tonia Gann - 44 Denison Road (co-opted member)

## CONGRATULATIONS !

-to Julie (our membership secretary) and Colin Gibson on the birth of Thomas

-and to Gunda (our previous secretary) and Simon Cannon on the birth of Leo.