



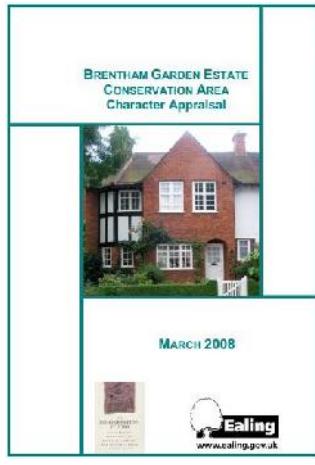
# BRENTHAM NEWS

## Chair's Notes

Conservation - where do we draw the line? This is a debate currently taking place within the Brentham Society.

The Society aims for "conservation", to preserve the character of the estate while still allowing it to be a place where residents can enjoy modern living. Ealing Council undertakes an assessment every 10 years, so that the various planning guidelines for this conservation area can be updated to reflect developments that may be changing the character of the estate. Over time the guidelines for what is allowed have changed, and some previously permissible alterations to houses would not be allowed under the present guidelines.

It is important to note that it is the duty of the local authority to use their legal powers to safeguard and enhance the special qualities of



[www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com)

the estate. Although the Society has a strong and positive influence, the ultimate decisions on each planning application are taken by Ealing Council. These are based on Brentham Garden Suburb's Character Appraisal 2008, which can be read online via a link from our own website

Some conservation areas have lost their status because cumulative damage has destroyed their character, so cumulative damage is of concern to the Brentham Society. As more development occurs, planning criteria inevitably become more demanding because of the danger of incremental change to the estate's original character.

Another example which comes to mind is the brilliant white paint which many houses now sport, having become part of the character of the estate. As built, the houses had a soft buff render or were lightly whitewashed, and there are examples of this still remaining for comparison.

By the time the Conservation Area was introduced, white was the predominant colour, and the guidelines have allowed this to continue. Brentham houses are mostly in blocks and it is important that the colour is uniform across the block, although not necessarily across the estate as a whole. It is a matter of opinion which colour looks better, with many conservationists preferring buff.



So where do we draw the line? It would be impossible to maintain the estate as it was originally designed: simple things such as the provision of inside lavatories would not be allowed. The original ethos of the estate (co-partnership) has also been lost over the years, as houses are predominantly owner-occupied, not rented. Ironically, the gradual increase in the size of many houses has priced out the very people for whom the estate was created.

In a conservation area it is not what is considered attractive but what best reflects its original visual character that is important. Sometimes we have to compromise the desire to extend and modernise our houses so as to retain our conservation status. We welcome your views on how far we should aim to take conservation, so do let me know. Contact me by emailing [chair@brentham.com](mailto:chair@brentham.com) or comment via our website - see page 5.

**Richard Costella**

## Diary Date: Supper Quiz

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, local MP Angie Bray is quizmaster for the night at the Brentham Club to raise money for the Tower Restoration Fund.

For further details and to book your table go to our website [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com) or contact Rosanna Henderson, 07961 134 033



## Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday October 21st 2014, 8.00 pm**

Brentham Club, Meadvale Road

Refreshments will be served

Nominations to serve on the Committee of the Brentham Society (seconded by two members of the Society, with the agreement of the prospective candidate) should be submitted in writing by **7 October** to the Secretary of the Society, 10 Neville Road, W5 1NN

## First World War Centenary Events

An evening of readings, illustrated with slides and films and ending with a relay of a service in Westminster Abbey, was held in St. Barnabas church on 4 August.

The film *All Quiet on the Western Front* was preceded by extracts from diaries of three local men: John Noppen, Jack Martin and Julian Gould. Noppen was a professional soldier whose diaries were discovered and transcribed by Pat Baxendale, who neighbours Noppen's former address. Jack Martin was the great-uncle of Brentham resident Martin Mortimore, and Julian Gould an artist from Woodfield Avenue.

The diary readings were first devised for a local history project for Brentside School. One of the soldiers, Julian Gould, wrote home describing a painting he did not live to complete. Responding



to this the students worked on some paintings (see photograph) inspired by Julian's intention of depicting a world free of war and injustice. Many of the students have links to countries mired in conflict, and their sharpened awareness of the complex moral problems war raises gave our local history project extra contemporary resonance.

## Open Garden Day

8<sup>th</sup> June was gloriously sunny and the glory was reflected in the gardens that were open to visitors. Each had its own unique elements, ranging from roses, arches, alliums, water features, mosaics and other garden *objets d'art* to outdoor dining and fireplaces. (Photographs on the Brentham website). Around 130 tickets were sold to local residents and friends.

The plant sale was popular as ever and we thank Sally Kelly for her hard work throughout the year propagating a variety of plants and raising £360.



Teas and home-made cakes were also popular, Anne Barnes and her helpers working hard throughout the afternoon to raise over £200.

In all £1,140 was raised for the charity RP (retinitis pigmentosa) Fighting Blindness. The money will help research this inherited retinal disease affecting all age-groups. The first signs are difficulties with night and peripheral vision.

Our thanks to all those talented gardeners who showed their gardens and those who worked behind the scenes, like our poster designer Dave Hobbs who did us proud. We would love to show some new gardens next year, so whether yours has unusual features or traditional cottage garden planting, be prepared for a knock on your door or contact Sheila Fowler yourself on 020 8248 9119 or [Sheila.fowler1@virginmedia.com](mailto:Sheila.fowler1@virginmedia.com). Advice and support on offer as required.

**Sheila Fowler**

## Professor Sir Peter Hall

Brentham has lost a great friend who has died aged 82. An internationally renowned 'planning guru' who lectured the world over, Peter Hall was just as interested in small-scale projects - some like Brentham right on his doorstep.

He lived nearby in the Mount Park conservation area and knew Brentham well, not only from his broad knowledge of the Garden City movement but also from his regular runs through our streets. So when Wendy Sender and I went to see him in the earliest stages of fund-raising for the Brentham centenary book, we didn't have to spend time convincing him. He got it straight away. He turned out in bitter weather

for a photo-call [see photo] to publicise our efforts and wrote a fulsome introduction for the book that helped us attract the attention of other influential voices in the architectural history and the planning worlds.



It didn't stop there. Whenever a planning issue posed a serious threat to Brentham's character he was always prepared to lend his expert weight to our cause. Peter was passionate in advocating

sustainable communities and recognised Brentham as a prime example. Right up to his last days, he could still be seen enjoying a meander through our streets. We shall miss him.

**Sue Elliott**

## **London Open House Weekend Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September**

Brentham Society Committee member Clive Evans will lead parties round our historic estate for this popular annual event. Meet at the Brentham Club for a 10.30 a.m. start. Tours will last about 90 minutes, and point to Brentham's importance as a pioneer of Garden City planning, its co-operative funding, its inclusion of much Arts & Crafts design in its architecture, and its exemplifying successful conservation.

### **Christa Brodie-Good, 1920-2014**

Christa, resident in Woodfield Crescent for 30 years, was born in Germany and moved at the age of 8 to America, but in 1938 her mother's homesickness and ill-health took the family back to Germany, where in 1940 her mother died.

In the same year Christa was in Paris, working as a secretary for the *Abwehr* which was training



German spies to be 'American' when they were landed in the USA from U-boats. She also translated articles from *Life* magazine so as to provide "intelligence" for Berlin. Christa was

was one of the many ordinary German citizens caught up in the war who was not happy with the situation she

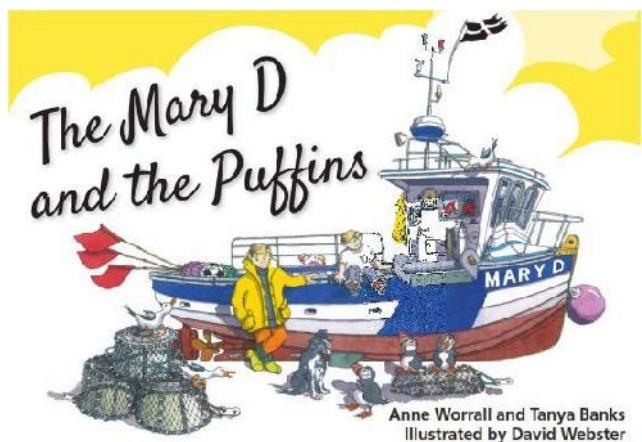
was in but had to get on with it - or be shot. Her time in Paris introduced her to fashion, opera, art and theatre, interests that were to remain with her.

Back in Germany in the 1950s her father introduced her to a young British businessman, whom she married. They set up home near Kew Gardens and brought up three children. Christa went on to pursue her passion, art, and, aged 57, was awarded a degree. She taught German and History of Art at Notting Hill School until her retirement.

Christa moved to Brentham when her marriage ended and as a Brentham Society committee member persuaded the company installing cable TV boxes to use a colour that blended with the hedges. She was content living in her beloved house, surrounded by the things she had collected in the course of her rich life. As age took its toll she bore the frustrations of increasing frailty bravely, remaining interested in life, particularly in her children and their families, and was always fiercely independent.

### **Local Artist Pushes the Boat Out**

Brentham resident David Webster is illustrating an attractive new series of storybooks, suitable for primary school age children. Written by two Cornish authors, two have already been published and have very detailed illustrations, to give children plenty to see, look for and discover whilst reading or being read to.



The seas off Port Isaac in north Cornwall are the setting for the stories, which are loosely based on the real-life adventures of a young boy and his Cornish fisherman dad who set out in the *Mary D* after crabs and lobsters. It is a real fishing boat, which you can actually see in Port Isaac harbour. And you can see the books in the Pitshanger Bookshop.

### **Have Your Say on Central Ealing**

The Central Ealing Neighbourhood Forum, which has the Brentham Society as a member, has launched a public survey on plans for central

Ealing. Views that people put forward earlier on the town centre have now been posed as choices on which to express preferences.

CENF secretary Tony Miller welcomes responses from everyone interested in making Ealing a thriving and sustainable centre. When these have been collected, they will help form policies to go into the draft Neighbourhood Plan which will be put to the vote in a local referendum. If approved, the Plan will become part of the borough's controls on future development and stimulate projects for building a stronger, more inclusive community.

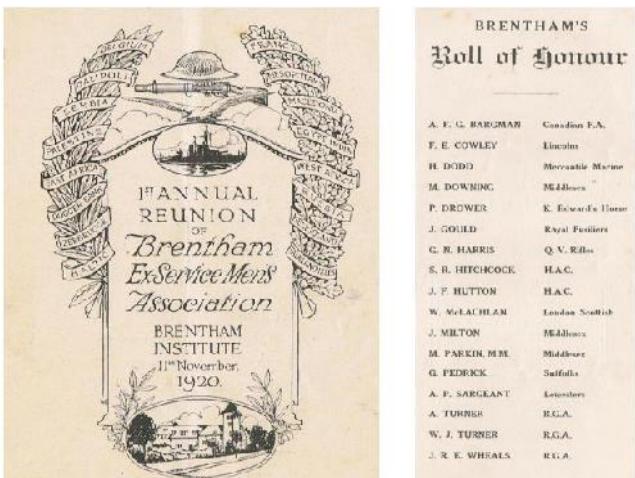
The survey can be completed through the Forum's web site [www.centraleyelngforum.com](http://www.centraleyelngforum.com) or on paper copies which can be picked up at the library or the Town Hall reception.

## **Tree Felling - Don't Panic!**

Residents will have observed that a number of trees on the estate are scheduled to be felled in the next few weeks, following a survey carried out in August. Work has already started on some. All these trees are either dead, dying or have significant defects which, the Council considers, make them a risk to public safety.

The Council is committed to replacing each tree it removes and this will be done as soon as practicable. Tree planting was already scheduled for winter 2015/16, but it is hoped to bring this forward to this coming winter. Earlier planting will, in most cases, avoid the need for temporary tarmac capping. The proposed planting holes will be marked with two tree stakes.

## Brentham in the First World War



Maggie Bukowska reports a good response to her article in our last edition about the 210 Brentham men who served in the First World War. Of these, 17 never returned, and possibly

two more who did come back died soon afterwards. She is grateful for the interest which was expressed in her researches into these men's stories, and has forwarded to enquirers the material she has compiled.

Currently, Maggie is collecting information on the men who survived the war, and has used the 1911 census to establish who was living in Brentham at that time. Anyone who would like to read what she has discovered about these survivors can leave a message on 0208 998 9616 or email [margaret.hargraves@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.hargraves@btinternet.com) Similarly, if anyone would still like to receive the material she wrote about in the last *Brentham News*, she will gladly forward it.

## War Memorial Refurbished

Restoration work on the Brentham war memorial outside St. Barnabas church is complete. New paving has been installed, along with lighting, fencing, benches and planting.



# Tower Restoration Project

Fundraising has been going well, following the appeal in the last *Brentham News* - so far we have received just over £4,000 in donations, ranging from £10 to £250: many thanks to all who have responded so generously. If you still plan to donate, just drop a note in to 50, Denison Road or email [tower.restoration@gmail.com](mailto:tower.restoration@gmail.com) with your address and we will send you the flyer.

In all we have nearly £6,500, which is a good start towards our total of £75,000. Demonstrable local support for a project is important when seeking funding. We have made an initial application to the National Lottery Fund, which was favourably received. A full application will follow. We will also apply to other organisations, including recycling companies like SITA and BIFFA.

We hope to run a fundraising kids' disco on October 17<sup>th</sup> but our organiser has fallen ill. Most of the arrangements are made, so if you would enjoy taking this on, please email [tower.restoration@gmail.com](mailto:tower.restoration@gmail.com) or call me on 07855 725 614. And on October 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be running a quiz night: details on page 1. If you would like to get involved with the Tower Restoration Project, or have any questions, please contact me as indicated above.

Clive Evans

*Attentive readers of Brentham News may have noticed the crisper version of our “masthead” in this issue, for which we thank Dave Hobbs.*

## The Brentham Website

Our revamped website finally went live at the end of June and all of those members who have given us an email address should have received a notification and a link to the new site.

Our old site was ahead of its time when first launched some 15 years ago but was beginning to look rather dated. There is a fresh look and feel to the new website, although for your convenience much of the material from its predecessor has been transferred across. In addition, the new site gives us a number of additional features, making it easier for you to use and easier for us to manage it.

We are very grateful to Brentham Society member Louise Honan of Winscombe Crescent for helping to develop the new design, guiding us through the transitional process and continuing as our technical support, all on a voluntary basis.

### Additional features

- A whole new section is devoted to the Brentham Archive - currently with a selection of photo galleries, architects' plans, Brentham Newsletters, a section on May Day and some WW1 related material – with more to follow.
- The ability for users to “comment” on news items and some fixed pages (for example the Chair’s notes from this newsletter)
- The ability for users to sign up to “follow” us – i.e. be notified by email of new content.

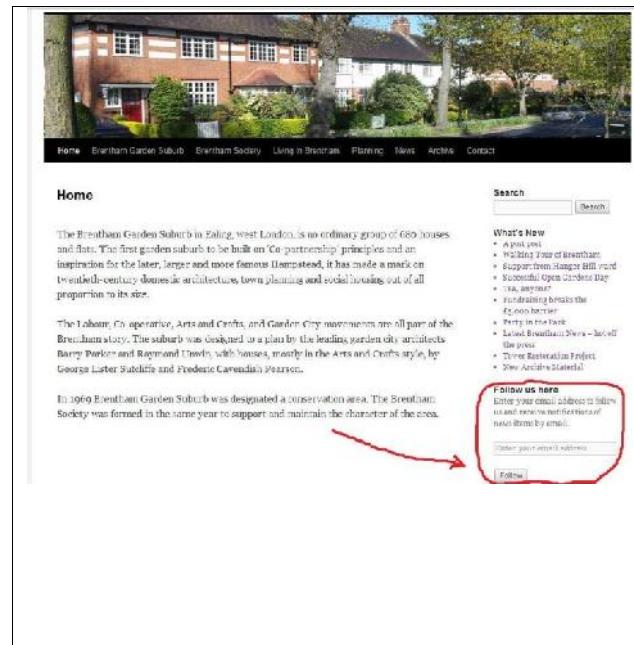
### How to sign up to follow us

Go to the HOME page of the new site [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com) and enter your email address. Then click the “follow” button. You will be sent an email confirming that you wish to register to follow the site but can unsubscribe at any time.

**Follow us here**  
Enter your email address to follow us and receive notifications of news items by email.

Enter your email address

Follow



### How to comment on an item

#### Leave a Reply

Enter your comment here...

At the end of every news item, and on some fixed pages, you have the ability to comment (“Leave a Reply”). Once you have commented, others can respond, and all comments are visible to those visiting the site. This is a good way of generating a discussion and sharing your views with the wider Brentham community. The Chair’s Notes of this news letter have been set up with an option to comment - please do so and let us know your views.

We look forward to more of you signing up to “follow” the site and letting us know what you think of the Brentham website as a whole.

**Alan Henderson**

**Ealing Art Group** will be holding its 99th Annual Exhibition of Original Art & Craft in the PM Gallery, Pitzhanger Manor, Mattock Lane. Openings Friday 24th Oct 12 noon - 8.30 pm, Saturday 25th Oct 10 am - 4.30 pm, Sunday 26th Oct 11 am – 4 pm. Admission free. Contact the Secretary, 8998 5662, if you would like to attend the Private View on Thursday 23rd, 6.30 - 8.30pm. [www.ealingartgroup.org.uk](http://www.ealingartgroup.org.uk)

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### The Brentham Club

We welcome new members and have four rooms, including the main hall, for rental. To book, contact John on 074 0271 1982 or [events@brenthamclub.co.uk](mailto:events@brenthamclub.co.uk)

**Bistro Nights** in the Perry Café, usually on the first Friday of the month from 7 pm. The next ones are 3 and 31 October and 31 December. All are welcome. Food is freshly prepared with each order, and a vegetarian option is available.

**Monthly Quiz Nights** are held in the top bar at 8 pm. All welcome. Money prizes and rolling jackpot. £1 entry per person, maximum team size 5. Next quiz dates: 26 September and 17 October.

For more information and reservations, phone 020 8997 2624.

### New at the Club

BT Sport is now available, plus Sky Sports and ESPN.

#### Special Events

Saturday 8 November: Fireworks Night, from 7 pm  
Friday 21 November: Annual quiz organised by the Cricket Section

Saturday 6 December: music evening with Patricia Hammond

Christmas events: see panel below

Wednesday 31 December: New Year's Eve party

#### Club Website

You can check out the latest news and catch up with the monthly newsletter at our website, [www.brenthamclub.co.uk](http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk)

#### The Fred Perry Coffee Shop

All are welcome to drop in and use the coffee shop.

### Christmas at the Brentham Club

Friday 5 December:	Christmas Bistro, with live music, in the main hall
Sunday 14 December:	Christmas Carvery
Sunday 7 and 21 December:	Sunday Lunches

*Private Parties: The Club is available to host your own private events - evenings, afternoons and lunches - with a Christmas menu option. Special deal for Club members. Contact Roma to discuss and book: send an email to [secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk) or phone 020 8997 2624*

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