



Issue 184

Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham Garden Suburb

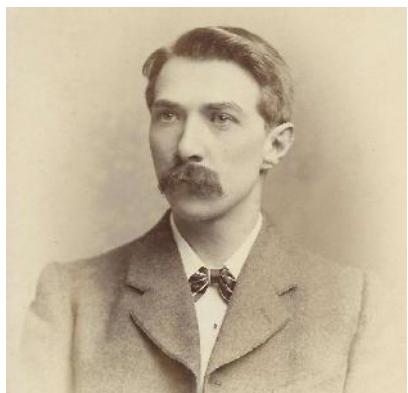
September 2015

# BRENTHAM NEWS

## Chair's Notes

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Brentham News. As the nights draw in, we can reflect on a mixed summer when the mixture of sun and rain allowed the greenery to flourish and gave us many a happy day keeping it all under control. September 2015 marks the centenary of the death of George Lister Sutcliffe, who died at the young age of 50 from a congenital heart disease. Sutcliffe was the architect for the third phase of the Brentham Estate, taking over as the Chief Architect for the Brentham Co-Partnership from Frederick Cavendish Pearson in 1911. He had already some experience of Brentham, being the Ealing Tenants' architect from 1910.

Sutcliffe was a Yorkshireman, born in



Heptonstall in 1864, where his parents ran a drapery and grocery shop. He had an extensive career as both an architect and an author before coming to Brentham. He worked for

Sutcliffe & Sutcliffe of Todmorden and Hebden Bridge - not relatives of his, apparently - and after qualifying as an ARIBA he became a partner in the firm. He was responsible for designing a number of nonconformist chapels in the surrounding area, he himself being a Baptist. He also wrote or edited books on house design, construction and 'sanitary' matters, including *The Principles and Practice of Modern House Construction* (1898) and *The Modern Carpenter, Joiner, and Cabinet-maker: a Complete Guide to Current Practice* (1902). In 1897 he married Alice Johnson of London.

Before taking up the post as Chief Architect of Co-partnership Tenants Ltd, he had designed several large houses in the Surrey and Buckinghamshire commuter belt, in an attractive 'arts and crafts' style with gables and steeply-pitched clay-tiled roofs. Within Brentham he is mainly remembered for his plans for the Brentham Institute in Meadvale Road (now the Brentham Club and a grade 2 listed building),

which opened in May 1911. He was also responsible for designing Holyoake House, a block of 24 flats for elderly and single people, built around three sides of a quadrangle.

However, most of Sutcliffe's time at Brentham was taken up in designing houses. He designed most of the houses in lower Brentham Way, Fowlers Walk, Holyoake Walk, North View and Denison Road, and some of the houses in Meadvale and Brunswick Roads and in Winscombe Crescent.

Sutcliffe's designs were much more restrained than Pearson's, but he had more awareness of the overall picture, providing variety both within and between different blocks of houses. He simplified design, removing complex roof forms with several different angles converging to create complicated and expensive constructional problems. His work was brought to a halt by the First World War, and in any case, the introduction of rent controls and the inflation of building costs after the war made the co-partnership system uneconomic.

The centenary of Sutcliffe's death gives us an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of a man who – like the garden suburb movement as a whole – was years ahead of his time in recognising the importance of house design as a way of improving the health of the nation. His aim was to create new communities rather than just 'places to live'.

*Richard Costella*

*(With thanks to Mike Chitty and the Wavertree Society for additional information included here.)*

## Open Garden Day

Eight gardeners opened their gates to visitors on 7th June this year. As usual there was a wide variety of planting, sizes and styles, and many old favourites. A colourful Mediterranean-style garden in Meadvale Road opened for the first time, providing a striking foil to a large, more formal redesigned garden in Winscombe Crescent. The sunshine brought out the best in all the gardens and thanks



have been passed on to all those dedicated gardeners who showed their gardens.

Around 180 tickets were sold, thanks to Anne in Brentham Way and Clive in Denison Road who were kept busy most of the afternoon. The plant sale, which raised £300, sold out very quickly and Sally Kelly and her helpers must be thanked for their hard work on the day and throughout the year in propagating a wide range of plants.

Teas and cakes were served at a new venue in Brentham Way. It was busy throughout the afternoon and many visitors took advantage of some welcome shade. We are grateful to Allison McAllister and her family for their excellent organisation of the teas and for raising almost £370. In total a record £1,478 was raised, for the Brentham Club Tower Restoration Fund.

Next year we are hoping to get vegetable growers and Brentham allotment holders to open, as well as encouraging new gardens to join in. We are also thinking of providing a list of the different styles of front gardens which you can view as you wander around the estate. For further information contact Sheila Fowler at [sheila@brentham.com](mailto:sheila@brentham.com) or phone 079 0513 4491.



Please also contact Sheila if you are interested in becoming a member of the Brentham garden group, which meets once a month on Tuesday evenings from April to October.

### Tower Restoration Project

It is just two years since the Tower Team met for the first time and fundraising started in earnest. Our initial target was £75,000, to cover all necessary repairs to the building and fit out the top floor as an archive for the Brentham Society. Currently, £18,000 is in our bank account, £2,000 has been promised by the Brentham Society, £10,000 by the Pilgrim Trust, and £1,500 received from the Open Gardens Day.

Two more grant applications are in process - one for £12,200, and one for £33,000 from the Veolia Environmental trust. If we are successful with both, we will have enough to start the work in October: a fitting tribute to the architect George Sutcliffe, who died 100 years ago.

However, it has to be said that the odds are against our receiving these grants, since Veolia

gets four applications for every successful one. So we have to consider whether to just carry on with our fundraising, or do what we can with whatever money we have. The Tower Team



is in favour of the latter, which means we would repair at least the windows at the top of the Tower, as they are the most in need of attention.

Now would be a great time to contribute to the Fund, if you haven't already done so. The more money we have, the more we shall be able to do. Please make out cheques to the Brentham Club Restoration Fund and send them to Richard Costella at 64 Brentham Way, or make a direct bank transfer to the tower restoration fund, using sort code 08-92-99 and account number 65610503. Or pick up a flyer in the Club foyer.

My sincere thanks to the Tower Team - Maggie Hargraves, Ray Goodearl, Simeon Gann, Rosanna and Alan Henderson, Vivien Dymock, and David Ballard - for their continued support. Here's hoping that we shall see some more results from all the effort in the next few months. If you have any questions, or wish to contribute, contact us at [tower.restoration@brentham.com](mailto:tower.restoration@brentham.com) or on 078 5572 5614.

Clive Evans

*STOP PRESS: The Fred Perry Organisation has confirmed an £8,000 donation; but as feared Veolia have turned down our application.*

### Odette Barrow

Many residents will remember with affection Odette Barrow, who died last year. Odette lived in Brunner Road for many years and was a distinguished costume designer whose work on films and television drama is part of the history of theatrical design. She specialised in period costume, and her work marked the flowering of the BBC costume department in the 1980s. She combined meticulous research with theatrical flair and an understanding of how effects could be achieved within limited budgets.

We hope to explore Odette's life and work more fully in a feature for the Brentham Lives page on the Brentham website [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com) and this should appear during the next few months.

### Pitshanger Pictures

***The Greengage Summer*** will be screened on Sunday 27 September, at 7.30 p.m. in the St.Barnabas Millennium Hall. A British film from 1961, set in Epernay in France, it stars Kenneth More and Susannah York in a story about a teenage girl's transition into womanhood. Tickets £5 at the door.



The Annual General Meeting of the Brentham Society will take place on **22 October** at 8.00 pm at the Brentham Club. Refreshments will be available.

### Changes at the Brentham Society

Our Treasurer, David Ballard, has decided to step down from the Committee after seven years in the post. David has been an active member of the Committee, keeping the finances under control, enforcing corporate governance and generally contributing in a constructive manner. We will miss him.

David's resignation creates a vacancy on the Committee, which along with other vacancies already there, we need to fill. This is your chance to serve your community and make a difference to the place in which you live. The prime aim of the society is conservation, but we also act as a focal point and social centre for the estate.

Recently we have spent much time on two particular concerns, wheelie bins and windows, both of which are discussed elsewhere in this issue, and similar concerns arise regularly. The official notice for our AGM appears above. If you would like to join our Committee, or become more involved in other ways, we would love to hear from you. Contact [chair@brentham.com](mailto:chair@brentham.com) to arrange to talk it through.

Michael McCarthy has been the editor of *Brentham News* for more years than we like to remember, and in his care it has gone from strength to strength. He now feels that, as he is spending less and less time in Ealing, it is best to hand the task on to someone more in touch with local events. We would like to thank Michael for his efforts in making sure we complete our copy on time, and squeezing so many items into a limited amount of space.

The next *Brentham News* will be edited by Martin Mortimore, whose contact details appear at the foot of the back page. *Richard Costella*

### Council Cut-back Hits Notice of Planning Applications

Councils have a duty to inform local owners or occupiers about planning applications that might affect them. For some types of applications, they must tell adjoining residents by written notice, as well as placing newspaper advertisements. However, in the case of most minor local

applications the Council can opt either to display site notices or to send letters to adjoining properties, as well as putting details on its website.

From 8 June, where it has this choice Ealing Council stopped sending notices by letter to neighbouring residents. While major developments must still be publicised by letters to adjoining owners or occupiers, for smaller proposals there will only be notices displayed close to the application site, for example tied to lamp posts. The Brentham Society and the Conservation Panel will no longer automatically receive copies of notices of applications within the Conservation Area. In many cases, residents will have in future to watch out for themselves.

See the new Ealing procedure in full at [http://www.ealing.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9996/code\\_of\\_practice\\_for\\_neighbour\\_notification\\_on\\_planning\\_applications](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9996/code_of_practice_for_neighbour_notification_on_planning_applications)

### Plant Pots Please!

If you have visited Brentham on Open Garden Day you may have come to the plant sale I have held at 2 Ruskin Gardens for several years now. I propagate plants as a hobby, specialising in perennial border plants (the good old reliable ones which come back every year). Most of the plants which grow happily in my garden will grow happily in yours, though I have few shade-loving ones. The plants are very reasonably priced and all money raised goes to charity, last year the Brentham Tower Restoration Fund.

I am currently hoping to raise funds for the Moorfields Eye Charity and will sometimes have plants to sell for that purpose. If you are thinking of planting a new border, do please email me at [sally\\_stitch@msn.com](mailto:sally_stitch@msn.com) to find out what I have available.

This is where I would welcome a little help. I need flower pots, *but they have to be of certain sizes!* If you have any which you no longer need, of the right size (but made of plastic, not terracotta), I can use them. They do not have to be washed and can be left in our front garden if we are out.



Manufacturers' sizes vary, but the sizes specified below are a rough guide. You may find that your plastic pots have their size embossed on the bottom, to save you the trouble of measuring.

#### *Square pots*

8 cm. x 8 cm. x 8.5 cm. [length x breadth of base x height.] Smaller pots also useful.

9 cm. x 9 cm. x 10 cm.

11 cm. x 11 cm. x 12 cm.

### *Round pots, not bigger than 1 litre*

The diameter of the top of the pot should be about 130 mm. (equivalent to about 5 1/4 inches).

Please do not bring me any pots larger than the sizes quoted, as I am unable to store them and would only have to dispose of them. Many thanks in advance.

*Sally Kelly*

### **Windows Working Group**

As was noted in the last issue of *Brentham News*, the Brentham Society has set up a working group to look at the vexed issue of



double glazing on the front elevations of Brentham houses. The agreed remit of the group is to recommend a set of guidelines for double glazing which will preserve and enhance the character of the Brentham Garden Estate Conservation Area; and to develop

guidelines for residents to allow informed discussions for the renewal of glazing for their houses. The group has started its discussions and will continue to meet during the autumn. We will keep you informed of progress as it happens.

A slight error made its way into our description of this group in the last edition. To clarify matters, the current position of the Council is that it will reject applications for double glazing on the front elevations in Brentham, except in unusual circumstances, for example where double-glazed Brentham style windows would replace 1970s style picture windows. It does not take the general state of repair of the existing windows into account when making these decisions.

### **Survey on Neighbourly Relationships**

All residents will have received a survey request towards the end of August. Katia Clarke, a 3rd year geography student at Loughborough University, prepared the survey as part of her dissertation on how people develop relationships with their neighbours and other residents. She also surveyed residents in the Prospect Estate in Well Hall, and in Sutton.

Over 140 residents, nearly 25% of the estate, returned the survey either in hard copy or electronically, an excellent response which has given Katia a sound basis for her research. She thanks all who took the time to help her in this, and has promised to share the results with us in a future issue of *Brentham News*.

### **Wheelie Bins**

The threat of the introduction of wheelie bins grows ever more imminent, and at a full Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July, the Council confirmed that they will be introduced across the borough from April 2016. There has been massive opposition to this across Ealing, with the Brentham Society and other



conservation groups lobbying the Council hard and making our case at the various Council meetings where this issue was discussed.

The Society invited Darren Henaghan from Ealing Council to view the estate with us, to consider the detrimental effect that massed ranks of wheelie bins would have on some of our streets. We have also prepared a detailed appeal for exemption, which has been delivered to Bassam Mafhouz, the Cabinet member responsible. At the time of writing we are still awaiting a full response to this.

Our view remains that the introduction of wheelie bins would be inappropriate in view of our 'Article 4 direction' Conservation Area status, and that an exemption from wheelie bins would be in keeping with the Council's own management plan for the Brentham Garden Estate Conservation Area. Many of our houses have shallow front gardens and no rear access, so the bins would have to be kept in full view, creating a true "blot on the landscape".

### **A French Version of Brentham in the 20<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement**



In the east of Paris lies a small enclave of housing, built by a co-operative to provide low-cost, low-rise homes with gardens. Its name, Paris Campagne ["rural Paris"], also links it to our garden suburb. It also resembles Brentham as it was begun early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in 1906, and its construction, which was delayed by the

First World War and subsequent economic problems, continued until the 1920s.

Small houses with gardens are a rarity in Paris, where tall apartment blocks are the norm. So it is refreshing to come across one of the areas of the city (there are others, if you care to search for them) where the development is, like Brentham, on more of a human scale.

Part of Paris Campagne is perched atop a steep hill which was originally a gypsum quarry. Some of the gardens behind the houses slope very steeply downwards, and access to the area is via long flights of steps which climb steeply uphill. It



is however also possible to reach Paris Campagne by a winding road.

The narrow streets of this small enclave have a noticeably old-world atmosphere, emphasised by



the retention of what look like the original lamp-posts (which would not seem out of place in an Impressionist painting) and by the complete absence of parked cars from its narrow streets, at least when I paid a visit. However,

the charming appearance of Paris Campagne is marred in places by wheelie-bins which nearly block the narrow pavements. Brentham beware!

If you happen to be in Paris and would like to stroll around this French version of Brentham, take the Metro line 3 to Porte-de-Bagnolet and climb a nearby flight of steps up the hillside to rue Irénée-Blanc.

*Michael McCarthy*

### **Keith Hutton, 1930-2015**

We regret to announce the passing of Keith Hutton, who had been a very good friend of Brentham, donating rare items to our archive and generously supporting the Tower Restoration Fund. Keith kept up the family connection with Brentham which began when his father lived in North View, from 1912 until the 1930s, and became a very active member of the Brentham Club. One of the Brenthamites

who, sadly, failed to return from his service in the Great War was Keith's uncle.

Keith attended Ealing Grammar School, served for a time in the Royal Engineers, and went on to work for his father's printing and lithographic firm. He was a great joiner of and participator in organisations, especially ones connected to the performing arts. These ranged from the St.Peter's Operatic Society and the Richmond Shakespeare Society to the Board of the King's Lynn Festival. He was also a patron of St.Mary's Perivale, where he had been christened, and along with his friend Richard Morley he founded two theatrical companies. One of Keith's great enthusiasms was enabling young people to take part in drama productions, and he worked tirelessly on projects to give them opportunities to do so.



Keith Hutton was buried alongside his parents, Henry Charles Hutton and Muriel Hutton, in Perivale churchyard. He will be much missed.

### **North View and Holyoake Walk**

Warm thanks to Anne Marchant, who has been delivering *Brentham News* to her neighbours in North View for - even longer than your editor has been calling at her house to hand over a batch of copies. Anne has decided that the time has come to hand on the torch. Similar thanks to David Denscombe, who has been taking care of deliveries to Holyoake Walk, but has unfortunately had to drop out of our team on health grounds. So we are now looking for two volunteers to make the deliveries to these streets.

If you can offer to help, a bagful of copies will be dropped off conveniently at your door three times per year. Please contact the editor (details on the back page) if you would like to volunteer.

### **Local Yoga Classes**

All are welcome to join these classes, which will be held at the Brentham Club and led by local resident Victoria Ayling.

*Monday classes:* Beginners: 6.15 - 7.15 p.m.

Intermediate: 7.30 - 9 p.m.

*Wednesday classes:* Beginners: 7.00 - 8 p.m.

Improvers: 8.15 - 9.30 p.m.

*Thursday class:* Mixed ability: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

For further details visit [www.yoga-tastic.co.uk](http://www.yoga-tastic.co.uk), email [info@yoga-tastic.co.uk](mailto:info@yoga-tastic.co.uk) or call Victoria on 020 8810 7521

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### Planning Some Improvements?

Are you contemplating making any house alterations which could require planning approval? Save yourself time, money and trouble by first seeking free advice from the Brentham Society. Just send an email to [planning@brentham.com](mailto:planning@brentham.com)

### The Brentham Club

020 8997 2624

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

#### Fred Perry Cafe

All welcome to enjoy a Lavazza coffee and more. Opening hours, Monday to Thursday: 10 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., serving sandwiches and light snacks. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 pm., hot meals and sandwiches. Sunday openings 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. for snacks and Sunday roast, which is £9.00 or £8.10 for members with a membership card. Please call 020 8997 2624 to book ahead.

#### Forthcoming Events

Friday 25th Sept. Songs of the 1920's, sung by Patricia Hammond, plus carvery. Tickets: £27 for members, £30 for non-members  
Friday 30th October Quiz in the Top Bar  
Saturday 31st October Rugby World Cup Final  
Friday 6th November Quiz in the Main Hall, organised by Cricket section  
Saturday 7th November FIREWORKS NIGHT  
Friday 27th November Quiz  
Friday 18th December Quiz

Every Friday, food is available in the Top Bar. Besides offering facilities for playing football, tennis, bowls and cricket, the Club caters for people wishing to play bridge, snooker, and darts. In addition there are weightwatchers, pilates, yoga and art classes. Phone the Club for details.

BT SPORT is available - plus SKY SPORTS and ESPN. Come along and watch live football and other sports.

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You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing [news@brentham.com](mailto:news@brentham.com)  
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