



ISSUE 185 - FEBRUARY 2016

DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF BRENTHAM GARDEN SUBURB
BY THE BRENTHAM SOCIETY - REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1079724

BRENTHAM NEWS

Chair's Notes

Welcome to the first Brentham News of 2016. The Christmas festivities seem a long time ago now and daffodils are appearing in the verges. We are fast approaching the time when the estate is at its prettiest and it is useful occasionally to take time in our busy schedules to remember how lucky we are to live here.

The Brentham Society had 3 main projects in 2015 – the Tower Restoration, the double glazing debate, and the proposed introduction of wheelie bins. I am pleased to say that there is good news to report on the first two of these, as is reported elsewhere in this BN. However, we have been less successful with the wheelie bins.



From our meetings with the Council, it is clear that these bins will be introduced this year, together with alternate weekly collections. The current timetable is for the details to be distributed to all households during February, the bins to be delivered in May

and the new regime of collections in place from June. The Council believes that this form of collection will save money and increase recycling rates, and there will be a punitive regime for people exceeding new limits of landfill waste.

Nearly 50% of Brentham houses may have to store the bins in their front gardens, changing the nature of the estate and detracting from some of our hallmark views. The Brentham Society believes that these bins will have a detrimental effect on the look and feel of the estate, and so we have therefore opposed them on conservation grounds.

We have had discussions with the Council on mitigating this effect. They are offering smaller bins for landfill waste free of charge, but note that collection will remain bi-weekly.

However, if a resident wishes to have a smaller bin for recycling, they will charge for this.

They will also only be willing to offer this if a minimum of 500 houses request it, so we have been talking to other conservation areas to see if we can combine forces. Please read the separate sheet distributed with this Newsletter if smaller recycling bins interest you.

From the conservation point of view this is all bad news, although we accept that for some residents this method of waste collection would be welcomed. We ask all residents that, whatever size bin you have, you keep them at the side or rear of your house if you can, or try to disguise them with greenery or other methods if you have to keep them in the front. Our conservation area is fragile and we must all work together to maintain it.

Richard Costella

2015 Garden Awards

The annual Brentham Garden Competition is a good way to draw attention to the imagination and hard work that so many residents put into their front gardens. Their colourful charm is something that we can all enjoy.



Last year's results, announced at the AGM, were as follows:

Spring Award - 101 Fowlers Walk

The judges were delighted with this wild spring garden, a sea of white wild garlic and clouds of blue forget-me-nots with the pretty viburnum in full flower. An exuberant picture.

Runners up: 13 Winscombe Crescent, 14 Denison Road, 194 Pitshanger Lane, 67 Meadvale Road and 46 Meadvale Road.

Summer Award - 26 Brunner Road

The judges loved the swathe of beautiful pastel delphiniums dominating this small but very attractive front garden. The curves of the path and beds reflect the brick curve over the front door. Mauve scabious and lavender add to the picture. The daisy edging down the side of the house brightens the scene throughout summer and beyond.

Runners up: 14 Denison Road, 10 Ludlow Road, 26 Ludlow Road, 115 Fowlers Walk, 50 Meadvale Road and 67 Meadvale Road.

Autumn Award - 44 Denison Road

A pretty mix of pink and white Japanese anemones, a red hydrangea, pink sedum and crocosmia create a colourful scene. There is also a lovely hanging basket and an amazing display of pink cosmos and dahlias surrounding the tree in the pavement next to the garden.

Runners up – 11 Ludlow Road, 20 Ludlow Road and 26 Ludlow Road

Rosebowl Award - 67 Meadvale Road

The Rosebowl is awarded to the garden judged to be the best throughout the year. This time it goes



to Pam Webster who has created a lovely courtyard garden full of interest all year round using a variety of pots.

In spring the primula and white magnolia stellata were particularly attractive and in summer the judges loved the pale yellow rose over the door, pink roses in pots and the hebe. A pale pink fuchsia and pink Japanese anemones, white and pink geraniums in pots and many attractive evergreens look very pretty in autumn. A sophisticated and restful garden throughout the year.

The judges enjoyed looking at front gardens of all shapes and sizes during the year. Small front gardens can be just as beautiful as the bigger ones! Congratulations to Pam and all the winners.

Subscription Renewal

Normal Brentham business has continued alongside the three main projects mentioned in the Chair's Notes. Planning activity remains high, mainly in the area of extensions and loft conversions. As we have noted before, it is Ealing Council that approves or rejects applications, but it's worth taking advice from the Brentham Society before starting, as we can save you considerable time and effort. Please contact the Society through planning@brentham.com for free advice if you are considering any changes to your property.

We held several events for residents to get to know each other during the year and three issues of Brentham News were delivered to every house to keep us all informed. Work continues on our extensive archive. Our new website has been popular, with some lively discussions between residents.

As this is the first Brentham News of 2016, included with this newsletter is a request for you to return your annual subscription. We have provided an envelope for you to use and urge you to return this to your street collector as soon as possible. The address is on the envelope.

The subscription of £5 per household compares favourably with other residents' groups in the area, but will not cover all our running costs or costs of the additional work we wish to do. Many residents add small donations to the subscription which help to make up the shortfall, and if you are able to do this, it will be very welcome.

The majority of the houses on the estate are members, meaning that we have good standing with the Council when making representations on planning and other matters.

Open Gardens Day

This year's event will be held on **Sunday 5th June**. As usual we are looking for first time garden openers and if you are interested, plenty of support will be available from the gardening group. This year, as well as beautifully planted gardens, we'd like to highlight herbs, fruit, vegetables, water features, quirky pots & garden artifacts and unusual front gardens.

We'd also welcome help selling tickets, making cakes, preparing teas or at the plant sale. Teas will be served at 10 Winscombe Crescent by Diana Hill. Proceeds from the event will go to Moorfields Eye Charity.

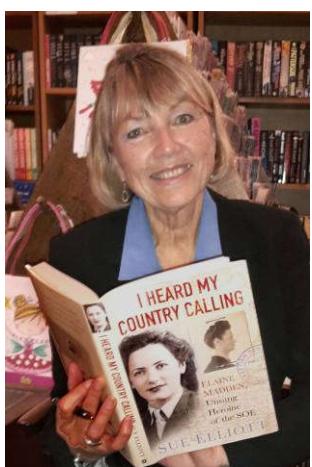
For information contact: sheila@brentham.com or call on 07905 13449

Sheila Fowler



New Book from Local Author

Local Brentham author Sue Elliott has just had her fourth book published. It's the extraordinary life story of a courageous woman who took on secret missions for the Special Operations Executive during WW2.



At a packed launch at Pitshanger Bookshop, Sue explained how she first discovered Elaine Madden: "She was one of the stars of my previous book, *The Children Who Fought Hitler*, about children who grew up in Ypres, in Belgium, among the

Great War cemeteries of Flanders. But I could only include some of her amazing story. After meeting her in 2008, I knew she deserved a book of her own. Sadly, she died at 89 before I could interview her again, but research and help from relatives have filled many of the gaps." It's a bit of a departure for Sue, who usually writes straightforward non-fiction. "Elaine's story is so dramatic and so moving, that I wanted to write it in novel form - even though everything in it is based on fact. Everyone who has read it says it's a page-turner. I hope so!"

I Heard My Country Calling: Elaine Madden Unsung Heroine of the SOE is published by the History Press and available from Pitshanger Bookshop.

Pitshanger Lane Triumph

Brentham residents have long been aware how lucky they are to have the shops in Pitshanger Lane on their doorstep. Now it's official - 'The Lane' has been judged the best high street in London.



In a competition to identify Great British High Streets, the lane beat two other sites in the London category: Raynes Park High Street in Merton and Roman Road in Tower Hamlets. The campaign, led by Pitshanger Village Traders Association and estate agent John Martin, impressed judges according

to the organisers: "After a campaign to galvanise the local vote, Pitshanger is the deserving winner of the London category. With its great community spirit, social media campaign and a commitment to supporting local retailers, Pitshanger delighted our judges."

Of course, history books tell us it could all have been different. Original plans for the layout of Brentham show shops and civic centre half way down Brentham Way.



The straight terraces of the three Woodfields: Road, Crescent and Avenue comprised the first streets built in Brentham. Then, as the estate expanded eastward in 1907, new plans were prepared by architects Parker and Unwin showing the distinctive garden-city features - curving streets, houses facing across corners, along with open spaces and wide vistas. Several layouts were tried and one shows a civic building and shops arranged around the junction of Woodfield Crescent and Brentham Way. However by 1909, shops had started appearing at the eastern end of Pitshanger Lane and the plan was abandoned. Brentham went on to be completed as a purely residential estate.

Meanwhile Pitshanger Lane continued to expand westward and by the 1930s, apart from the shopfronts, it looked much as it does today.

Pitshanger Lane Parking Threat

Ealing Council is proposing to make changes to the parking provision in Pitshanger Lane, including the introduction of charges - only payable by phone. Pitshanger Lane traders are campaigning against this and there are petitions in many of the shops if you would like to join their campaign.

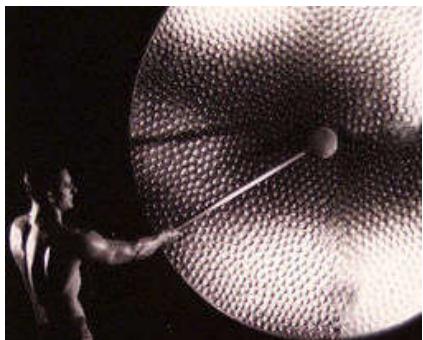
Brentham Lives (and the ones that got away)

Brentham Lives is a new addition to the Archives section of the Brentham website, www.brentham.com, that features notable past residents. This is a permanent and growing project intended to memorialise individuals, give snapshots of the social history of Brentham and provide a resource for family history researchers. We've started with some early residents but in time it will include more recent notable neighbours. The only criteria for inclusion are that they definitely lived in Brentham, they are deceased, and that we have some basic detail about their life: dates of birth, death and residence; career, interests and personalities; and spouses and children where appropriate.

One promising candidate is **Bombardier Billy Wells**, boxing champion and the iconic 'gong man' at the start of Rank films.

His colourful career would make a great addition

to Brentham Lives and we're hoping that former residents' stories about him living in Ludlow Road during WW2 prove correct.



Another name that emerged from our research was that of **George Hardie MP**, who was the brother of famous Labour leader Keir Hardie. He lived here in the 1920s but it transpired that his house was on the corner of Barnfield Road and Meadvale Road so just missed qualifying as a 'Brentham Life'. This is a pity, especially as his wife **Agnes** sounds quite a character. A Glasgow shop girl who became a union pioneer and Labour Party organiser, she joined the Women's Peace Crusade in WWI and opposed conscription in WW2. After her husband's death she took over his constituency and was the only M.P. in Parliament who refused to cheer Churchill on V.E. Day! It seems likely that the Hardies' choice of home was influenced by the 'co-operative' spirit of Brentham, which in those days attracted radical idealists who hoped to find like-minded neighbours.

If you subscribe to a family history website and would be willing to spend some winter afternoons in pursuit of Billy, or other former Brenthamites please contact news@brentham.com

Pat Baxendale

Tower Restoration Project

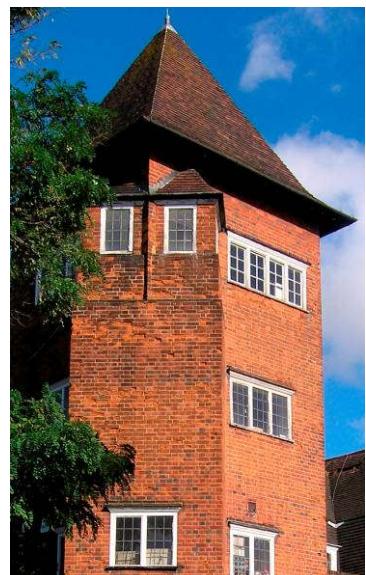
The funds for the project to restore the fabric of the Brentham Club Tower continue to grow. The big surprise was that the Fred Perry organisation gave us £8,000. They used the Clubhouse for a meeting recently, and we laid on a display of the items from the archive, which they found interesting. But we were not expecting such a generous donation – our heartfelt thanks go to them.

The Pilgrim Trust awarded us £10,000 and the Sylvia Waddilove foundation gave us £2,500.

We weren't so fortunate with other donors - for example Veolia were unable to contribute.

The total raised now stands at £37,000 of the £70,000 target. That's still not enough to start the work. However, the Brentham Club has ridden to the rescue: the management team plans to sell the flat that is part of the Clubhouse – originally built to house the Institute manager and his family – which will raise enough capital to fund a number of badly-needed improvements to the Club, as well as topping up the Tower fund.

Our selected contractors – Mitre – have confirmed they are still willing to carry out the work at the same price, and we are optimistic that they will begin the project before the summer.



There is still lots to be done – we need to get Listed Building Consent, the Club needs to appoint a Contract Administrator to manage the project, and we plan to continue to raise funds especially for the internal works necessary to turn the top floor of the Tower into the Brentham archive. You can help with this, by joining up with Greenredeem – it could lead to an extra £1,500 for the Tower fund. See elsewhere in this Brentham News for details.

Do join in – a few clicks might make all the difference.

As ever, if you have any questions, or wish to contribute, feel free to contact us at tower.restoration@brentham.com or on 07855 725 614.

Clive Evans

Windows Working Group

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 group has considered the Council's Management Plan for the estate as well as developments in similar areas such as Hampstead, Letchworth and Bedford Park.

A draft report is being finalised for the Committee. Thereafter it will be shared with residents and, if appropriate, discussed with Ealing Council's Conservation and Planning officers. The Committee recognises that residents are anxious to move forward as quickly as possible.

Pitshanger Pictures - February 2016

Screenings in St Barnabas Millennium Hall at 8pm.

Mon 8 Feb: **Everything you always wanted to know about sex...** (18) Woody Allen comedy. £5.00 at the door.

Wed 17 Feb: **Senna** (E) The story of the motor-racing legend. £5.00 at the door.

Sat 20 Feb: **45 Years** (15) Marriage drama. £8 at the door (incl. drink & snack) Under 16: £6

Mon 22 Feb: **The Kite Runner** (12) Drama set in California and Afghanistan. £5 at the door

Brentham May Day



This year's Brentham May Day will be held on **Saturday 14th May**. Enrolment of the children wishing to participate in the festivities this year will be on **Thursday 17th March** from 4 p.m. until 5.30 p.m., in the main hall of the Brentham Club. The enrolment fee is £10 per child. The May Day committee welcomes any offers of help with this event, either at weekly rehearsals or on May Day.

For further information contact Pat Chapman on 077 4046 4137 or email patricia9@sky.com

Green Redeem

Greenredeem helps Ealing Council to achieve its recycling goals by encouraging everyone to get involved. You can earn points just for doing your weekly recycling, and earn more by making

greenredeem
rewarding action

pledges and taking quizzes. And now you can donate those points to the Tower Fund.

If you have already registered and collected some points, you can 'spend' them on a Community project - and at the top of the list you will find the Brentham Society/Brentham Club project.

To register, simply go to greenredeem.co.uk - but remember to use the Advocate ID of CFA. This will generate extra points just for enrolling, and these will go direct to the Tower Fund.

Prize Winning Photograph

A photographic competition run by Thames21 - an organisation that works with communities to improve London's waterways - has been won by Brentham resident Clive Hicks. His remarkable picture of the River Brent in frost was praised by the judges.



Clive says: "The photo was taken 40 years ago, in December 1975. I have always called it 'Lothlorien', which is a place in Tolkien's 'The Lord of the Rings' cycle. Lothlorien is pretty well fairyland, and this is what the frost scene evoked in me. I submitted the photo on the last day before the competition closed, and was surprised to win first prize. Water - rivers, lakes, canals - always give a locality a special quality and I'm delighted that the image will be used to encourage people to visit and enjoy their local waterways".

Brentham Architectural Salvage

Available: internal pine doors, external rear door, two bedroom fireplaces, dresser, large window for Sutcliffe house.

Original items gratefully received.

Contact: heather@brentham.com

Planning Improvements?

If you are contemplating making any house alterations which could require planning approval, you could save yourself time, money and trouble by first seeking free advice from the Brentham Society. Just send an email to planning@brentham.com

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Sale Agreed – Fowlers Walk

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The Brentham Club

Set in 12 acres alongside the river Brent, the Brentham Club provides facilities for bowls, football, tennis and cricket. Indoors, there's bridge, darts and snooker, along with Weightwatchers, Pilates, Yoga and art classes.

Housed in a Grade II Listed Building, the Club is managed by volunteers and it's a welcoming place to play sport or just eat & drink with friends in the thriving bar and café - where Sunday lunches are a speciality. Membership fees are offset by lower prices than local pubs so why not support your local Club and try us?

Fred Perry Café - Opening Hours

Mon to Thurs – 10am to 5pm for drinks/snacks and sandwiches
Fri to Sat - 10am to 5pm for hot meals and specials
Sun - 10 am to 4pm for hot meals, & roast dinners

Please call 020 8997 2624 to book ahead.
Every Friday, food is available in the Top Bar.

Forthcoming Events

6th Feb onwards – Six Nations Rugby till 10th March - come and watch the games.
14th Feb - Valentine's Day carvery
6th March - Mother's Day carvery
17th March - St. Patrick's Day live band in Top Bar
21st March - AGM in Hall 8pm
14th May - May Day and Club Open Day.

Quiz nights are on Fridays 26th Feb and 18th March – please book a table

Come and watch live sports from BT Sport, SKY Sports and ESPN.
For details of events, classes and other enquiries, phone the Club on 020 8997 2624,
email secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk or go to www.brenthamclub.co.uk
For hall/room hire, contact John Capps on 07402 711982

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