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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 Summer edition of Brentham News.

Well, the wheelie bins have arrived, and they are every bit as awful as we anticipated, and the chaotic way in which they were delivered by the Council did not help. We accept that some residents prefer this form of refuse collection, but



I am sure that most would agree that they are an eyesore on our pretty estate.

The Brentham Society fought long and hard against these bins, and won a last-minute concession from the Council. The choice of smaller bins for recycling has only been offered to Brentham and Bedford Park, not to the rest of the Borough. About half of the houses on the estate have opted for these smaller than standard bins. Much thanks must go to Adel Golding for gaining this concession. She has been tenacious in her efforts, standing her ground with Council Officers both face to face and by e-mail. She has burnt much midnight oil co-ordinating the ordering and delivery of the smaller bins.

Thanks Adel! See more later in this BN.

Now the bins are here, we can all help to reduce the visual effect. If you can store them away from the front of your property, please do so. If this is not possible, and for around half the houses here this is the case, there are ways to hide them, either behind foliage, or by buying one of the many types of wooden or wicker "bin sheds".

One positive result from this has been the community spirit shown by residents, particularly by the numerous volunteers during the collection and delivery process. It was great to see so many people working together for the good of the estate.

Richard Costella

May Day: A View From The Street

Brentham was looking its brilliant Spring best for this year's May Day celebrations. It was a good ten degrees cooler than the previous weekend's 25C, with a keen Northerly rustling the bunting, but that was putting no-one off, least of all the young participants in this delightful annual tradition.

After enjoying the procession from the comfort of my garden gate for years, this time I was out on the streets volunteering as a steward. Our Master of Ceremonies, Malcolm Darvill, (who has led the May Day procession with aplomb and a carnation buttonhole quite possibly since it started in 1920) briefed us beforehand that the Met had better things to do that day, so our brave band of 8 volunteers would be on traffic duty. I wasn't entirely confident, even with the power a borrowed PCA hi-vis jacket bestows, that I'd be able to halt an E2 barrelling down Pitshanger



Lane, so I was relieved when a van full of Community Support Officers turned up unexpectedly, just as the Yiewsley and West Drayton Band were tuning up. Even so, ensuring safe passage round Brentham and across two major thoroughfares for a brass band, 100 or so infants, sundry May Queens, Britannia, sailors, a sweep and a Green Man with restricted vision, is no mean feat. To add to the fun, a huge articulated truck, no doubt associated with the ongoing gas main works, seemed intent on following the procession up Brentham Way and into Winscombe Crescent. And the younger of the two lovely sailors at the front of the procession decided he'd had enough when he got to Pitshanger Lane and started to wander off towards the pavement. Luckily Dad was on hand to scoop him up and keep the show on the road.

But held-up drivers were forgiving and the people on the top of the halted E2 had an unrivalled view of the sea of white dresses, white cardies and Spring posies as it flowed into Denison Road.



Thanks to Malcolm, the PCSOs, doughty procession helpers and a bunch of amateur stewards, the procession was safely delivered to the Club grounds bang on schedule for part two of the proceedings, the crowning of Queen Thalia Sandelson and Maypole dancing.

Sue Elliott

Thoughts of a Brentham Newcomer

New resident Gina Mallin has recently joined the Brentham Society Committee. We asked her for her thoughts on her new home.

“I needed to move. Trouble was, I really needed a beautiful, green environment to live in. I discovered Brentham in the nick of time before



thinking I would have to move out of London altogether, despite my need to keep my work, to find my peace and tranquillity. So luck was with me and I found

my new home nestled in amongst the other unusual adorable houses and greenery that define Brentham Garden Suburb. I fell in love with the alleyways, the old street lamps, the post boxes with GR on them, the quaintness and quirkiness of all the white houses – similar and uniform but all unique. What a marvellous feat of architectural imagination and forward planning – whilst the world teeters on the brink of mass environmental annihilation we are lucky enough to have a little “village” within London, which with foresight and ethical thinking, laid out a whole environment that nurtures the soul with our need for nature and pride in our locality. And so, I want to help care for this delightful environment, because unless residents care about

what they actually came here for, it will slowly get lost under the inexorable march of “progress” and “individuals vs community”. But I believe with patience and listening to people’s views, there’s a good chance such clashes can be negotiated satisfactorily.

And then this little treasure called Brentham might still be here way into the future”.

Virginia (Gina) Mallin

Controlled Parking Zones

Although the proposal for controlled parking in the Pitshanger area including the edge of Brentham was heavily defeated after a vociferous campaign a couple of years ago, the Council is now proposing to introduce two zones covering the whole area including part of Brentham. The two zones would cover the whole area to the north of Pitshanger Lane, up to and including Neville Road; and the area to the south of Pitshanger Lane, up to and including Mount Pleasant Road. Both would have an effect on the rest of the estate from displaced parking.

Bearing in mind the opposition to the earlier proposals, and the apparent lack of need in our area for such a zone, the Brentham Society has expressed opposition. Hopefully we will all be able to make our views known when the formal consultation takes place. The proposal is being discussed at the June Council Cabinet meeting. There is also a current proposal for a complete day time parking ban on the west side of Woodfield Road. This is just outside our estate but would have a knock-on effect for us. Local residents have already expressed concern at this “CPZ by stealth”.

Strawberry Tea – A New Venue

The famous Brentham Strawberry Tea will be held this year a little later than usual, on 3rd July. For the first time in 35 years we have had to change the venue, and it will be held in the garden of 6 Brentham Way, a few houses away from its traditional site. Thanks to Allison McAllister for stepping in to save the day. Barbara Murray, who has hosted this event for as long as we can remember, feels that it is time for us to move on, so we thank her for the many years that we have been able to use her garden and look forward to seeing her as an honoured guest in the new venue.



Facebook Volunteer

The Committee are considering starting a Brentham Facebook page and are looking for anyone interested in helping with this. Please contact chair@brentham.com

Brentham's Wheeley Queen

Adel Golding didn't know what she was taking on when she began her year-long campaign against Ealing Council's imposition of wheelie bins in Brentham.

Months of negotiations and much frustration later, she achieved a major concession of smaller refuse and recycling bins for all households that wanted them. The refuse bins would come via the Council but the brown wheelies for recycling had to be delivered to Brentham directly from the manufacturer. The climax came on May 26th when 191

brown bins arrived at Denison/Ludlow Green. But for Adel the day didn't start well: "The bins didn't arrive on time! They finally arrived four hours late. Very frustrating for everyone who'd turned up to help and those hoping to collect their bin".

Heather Moore was among the helpers: "Adel's enthusiasm generated a small army of volunteers on Denison/Ludlow Green awaiting the arrival of the bins. We were well equipped – sharp knives to slit open the plastic wrappers, a sledge hammer to bang on the wheels, scissors for cutting labels, pens for writing them – but we waited in vain. Delayed delivery! A huge anti-climax! Nearby neighbours appeared with trays of tea and cold drinks. The day wore on until at 1pm, amid a flurry of excitement, a huge lorry reversed into



the entrance. Inevitably, the driver was greeted with a shout of 'Where's your bin?' Suddenly the peace of the morning changed - pallets unloaded, wrapping removed, bins pulled apart, wheels on, labels stuck on (5 in all) and bins parked in groups for collection or delivery".

Deliverers sped back and forth on foot. A builder with a van, calling to collect his own bin, returned with two men to take a vanful to outlying streets. A few bins were delivered in a smart open top red sports car to the surprise of the recipients!



Heather: "That the day didn't descend into utter chaos was down to Adel's careful planning – and she even provided biscuits!"

By the end of the day Adel was exhausted but happy. "I feel joy that I've helped save the estate from almost 500 large bins – if you count these brown ones and the black ones the Council are providing. And we had so many hard-working helpers yesterday – matching sizes to order, labelling and numbering, and delivering to those who couldn't collect. Some lovely people were there the whole day until the job was done, I couldn't have done it without them.

"But it's been a long road. Last year the Council were asked to consider exempting Brentham from the Wheeley Bin scheme but they said no. So then the negotiations on smaller bins started – first they wanted to charge us £77 – then they finally agreed to our sourcing our own bins. This week's task has been reconciling and checking 258 orders by name, address, bin size and delivery instructions".

But the message still hadn't got through to some people about ordering smaller bins. "It was frustrating and hard. Inside I felt a little bit of despair. I've lived in many places [Adel is Canadian] and I know how special it is here, so I feel passionate about it, but I also understand that for many people it's just a bin. People's lives are busy."

Now it's – almost – over, how will she spend her time? "The housework has suffered dramatically! My first job today is clearing up after my daughter

Ellie's birthday party last week – 40 four year olds make a lot of mess!"



To check out the different types of screening available for the new wheelie bins, go to the website www.brentham.com

Missed out and want a smaller brown recycling bin? It's not too late. You can order a 120L or 140L bin direct via the dedicated page on the Brentham website.

White box or brown box?

I returned from an Easter break to find Fowlers Walk and Woodfield Crescent being excavated - part of National Grid's programme to renew all gas mains by 2020.

The process involves pushing new plastic pipe through the old metal ones. Sounds simple, but on some of the spurs that connect the main in the street to the meter in the house, this is not so straightforward. In many properties, including mine, the meter could not be reconnected in this way because of bends in the original pipe - so the meter had to be re-located outside.

National Grid had told us that it might be necessary to relocate the meter but not the options available. The easiest option was to fix a



white box on the wall and put the meter in it; the more time consuming one was to put the meter in a brown ground box, which sits low in the ground and can be hidden by planting. I had to be very assertive to get a brown ground box, but now that it's in place I am delighted.

Why am I telling this story? In the hope that our lovely Brentham houses will not be blighted by a rash of white boxes stuck on the wall next to the front door! National Grid will be in your street sometime in the next few years and you can insist on a brown ground box.

Postscript: As Brentham is a designated conservation area we are seeking advice from Ealing Council about whether the installation of external meter boxes is controlled.

Heather Moore

Peter Cattermole 1933 – 2016

We regret to announce the passing of Peter Cattermole, long term resident of Holyoake Walk. Peter played an active part in the community, locally and more widely. For many years he distributed Brentham News, and was a prolific letter writer to the Ealing Gazette on subjects such as changes to living in Ealing since 1935, the rise of house prices, support for the hospital café and praise for the Polish contribution to the war effort. His letters are held in the Brentham archive.

Peter met his wife in Malaya while on military service. They were married for 61 years, 34 of them living in Brentham. Peter worked for British

Rail as a signalman and later for London Transport as Assistant Operations Manager at Hanwell Garage.

Our condolences to his family. He will be much missed.

Tower Restoration Project

In the last issue of Brentham News, we were very optimistic about the Tower project, but there is, indeed, many a slip 'twixt cup and lip. The plan was that the Club would sell the old Manager's flat within the Clubhouse, and use the money to fund several necessary projects, including topping up the Tower fund. However, a significant number of Club members were unhappy about the long-term wisdom of selling the flat, and called a Special General Meeting to postpone it, at least until October, while other possibilities were evaluated. This led to the departure of the Chairman and Treasurer – John Kinder, who felt that he no longer had the support of the membership. The Club Committee is currently seeking new members, to fill the vacant places on the main Committee, to help build a Business Plan and establish new sources of revenue. Until there is a functioning committee, with a Chairman and a Treasurer, everything is on hold, including the repairs to the Tower.

It is still possible that some of the work will be done this summer: the money raised remains safely in the Development bank account. It will be a tragedy if at least the external works are not done this year, not least because our grant from the Pilgrim Trust of £10,000 is conditional on work starting in August.

So we will be pressing for the work to go ahead. In the mean time, you can help us to win the Greenredeem recycling competition and earn a further £1500. We are currently at the top of the table, but we must not be complacent: so far only about 50 people have registered, out of 700 households – please do it now! See below for details of how to do it. Thank you.

Contact tower.restoration@brentham.com or on 07855 725 614. **Clive Evans**

Green Redeem

You can earn points just for doing your weekly recycling, and you can donate those points to the



Brentham Tower Fund. It's at the top of the list of Community projects. 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, which go directly to the Tower Fund.

Alley Gates

Residents around the triangle formed from Meadvale Road, Holyoake Walk and North View were shocked one day recently to find that the gates across their communal alleys had disappeared. The gates had been erected by the Council sometime earlier.

After some investigation it transpired that the Council had removed the gates as they had not given themselves the necessary planning permission to erect them, although they had gained permission from all the residents with access to the alleys.

There are many examples of alley gates on the estate, and the Brentham Society has offered to help the residents gain the necessary planning permission and has offered some good examples to be used. Cllr Lynne Murray has taken an interest and it is hoped to get the permission quickly and the gates re-erected as soon as possible.

Windows Working Group

Residents will remember that the Brentham Society set up a small committee to recommend a set of guidelines for double glazing which would preserve and enhance the character of the Brentham Garden Estate Conservation Area. The Committee came to some conclusions in February, and sent some recommendations to the Council Planning team for comment. Despite several reminders, the Council has not responded, but a meeting has now been set up in early June to discuss this and several other planning issues that have arisen in the meantime. Hopefully we will be able to report a conclusion in the near future.

Spring Front Garden Awards

The Front Gardens Committee has been out looking at Brentham front gardens in spring and found some lovely sights despite the dank April weather. We were particularly impressed with the working gardens combining vegetables and flowers. There were some good pavement plantings around trees on the Estate. It would be good to see more of these – so get planting!

Gardens shortlisted for the Spring Award:
36 Brentham Way, 14 Denison Road, 44 Denison Road, 99 Fowlers Walk, 111 Fowlers Walk, 127 Fowlers Walk, Pavement Plantings Fowlers Walk, 43 Ludlow Road and 9 Meadvale Road. Congratulations to you all.

We looking forward to judging the Summer Award at the end of June. The Award winners of will be announced at the AGM in October.

The Front Gardens Committee

Open Gardens Day

The sun came out to celebrate on Sunday 5th June as 11 Brentham gardens opened their gates



to visitors. 150 people strolled around the estate and saw just why we're called a Garden Suburb. The day made more than £1300 for Moorfields Eye Hospital.

Planning Improvements?

Almost all alterations to the outside of your property are controlled and require planning consent. Save time and trouble by seeking advice from planning@brentham.com.

We keep a store of architectural items removed from Brentham homes so if you need something or have anything to donate please contact us.

Coming Events

Ealing Flower Club

The club has moved to St Barnabas Church and meets on the third Wednesday of the month.
15 June 7pm: Display demonstration 'Bygones'. Enquiries to Christine on 020 8998 8228

Party in the Park

26th June: In Pitshanger Park there's a full programme of events on the open air stage together with a Carousel, stalls in the Village Fayre, food in the Gastrodome and a Beer Tent.

Open House Tours

17th and 18th September: conducted tours of Brentham starting at the Club.

Pitshanger Pictures

Films at 8pm in St Barnabas Millennium Hall

13 June: **A Separation** (PG)

15 June: **Waltz with Bashir** (18)

27 June: **Stolen Kisses** (15)

11 July: **The Cabinet of Dr Caligari** (U)

13 July: **The Battle of the Somme** (E)

26 July to 6 Aug: **Centenary Film Festival**

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The Brentham Club

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.

The Club is mainly 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 between 7 and 9pm.

Forthcoming Events

Quiz nights are normally on the last Friday of the month – next one is on 24th June at 8pm sharp so please come early. Contact the club to book a table.

Barn Dance – Sat 18th June, from 7pm £20 per person, includes hot food, raffle and welcome drink. Tickets from the Top Bar.

Sun 19th June – Father's Day Carvery

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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