



ISSUE 189 - JUNE 2017

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

# BRENTHAM NEWS

## Chair's Notes



**W**elcome to the latest edition of Brentham News.

There's been a lot going on recently, not least the survey delivered to all our residents in May. Thanks to all who have taken the time to submit responses, with many useful comments and ideas, the initial collation of which is summarised elsewhere in this News. Some of you responded at greater length and I will reply as soon as possible. If you just haven't got around to completing the survey yet, we'd still like to hear from you.

One thing confirmed by the

responses is that planning is of great interest and concern to residents. Budget cuts at Ealing Council mean there's less communication on the subject, and as a step toward clarifying what's happening, we have started posting current planning applications on the Brentham website.

For many years Heather Moore has steered the Committee through the complexity of planning in Brentham. However, she has now stepped down and her incredible depth of planning knowledge will be a hard act to follow. The Committee acknowledged her long service with a presentation of flowers to thank her for all that she has done. Fortunately she has agreed to continue to share her wisdom when needed.

Talking of flowers, Brentham has burst into summer lushness and the trees, hedges and flowers are a constant delight. Trees are a vital element of any environment, in part because they soak up pollution, but also because they are, quite simply, beautiful and a balm to the soul. In

Brentham we're lucky that the original planners preserved so many of the existing magnificent oaks and other species, incorporating them fully into the ethos of a garden suburb.

All our trees and hedges are protected under Conservation laws which does mean any pruning other than minor trimming needs planning permission. Any removal without approval is nearly always reported and a fine or order for replacement planting can be made.

Going to the bigger picture, we have begun work on the idea of forming a National Association of Garden Suburbs. There are several lesser-known suburbs such as the one written about elsewhere in this News, and we would all benefit from collaborating. It would further the idea of the Garden Suburb as the way forward for future generations of architects and planners, a way that incorporates the essential ingredients of a life-enhancing place to live.

**Gina Mallin**



## May Day 2017

Rain held off for the traditional May Day procession and Maypole dancing this year. Organiser Pat Chapman said "It was a lovely day - the procession was very professional, the dancing faultless and the music great. Best of all the children appeared to enjoy themselves!"

Molly James was crowned May Queen 2017 and making her second appearance as Britannia was Brentham resident Suzie Bryant.





## Front Garden Awards

Springtime can be a spectacular time of year in Brentham and the judges were out again looking at our lovely front gardens. As usual the variety of gardens on offer was a delight after the winter months.



Pavement plantings were a particularly welcome sight and I have now finally started planting round two of the trees near my house. However, the judges were dispirited to see that the ghastly wheelee bins are still on display in

quite a number of front gardens where no attempt has been made to camouflage them. It is very difficult in small front gardens but we hope more people will find a solution as it does spoil the look of the estate.

The front gardens shortlisted for the Spring Award 2017 are:

30 Brunner Road, Pavement Planting in Fowlers Walk Cul-de-Sac, 21 Ludlow Road, 26 Ludlow Road, 50 Meadvale Road, 57 Meadvale Road, 67 Meadvale Road, 3 Neville Road and 27 Woodfield Crescent. Congratulations to all the owners.



We look forward to judging the Summer Award on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Time to get busy tidying, deadheading and weeding!

All the Award winners will be announced later in the year.

**Vicky Snodin**

## Brentham Open Gardens



While front gardens are always on view, the delights of rear gardens are normally hidden, but on 11th June six of our finest will be open to enjoy. Tickets at £4, available on the day from 2pm at 13 Brentham Way and 15 Meadvale Road. There will also be a plant sale and teas served.

## Residents Survey - A Snapshot

Many thanks to the residents who responded to our request for your views on how the Society should work for you. The full results will be available later; meanwhile here is a summary.

Most of the respondents were already members of the Society who had lived on the estate for some years. The average time was 24 years, although one resident has lived here for 93! It's probably no surprise that the reasons given for why people like living here often referred to the sense of community, the green and open spaces, the village atmosphere and, of course, the architecture.

The majority feel that the planning controls are applied appropriately whilst those who feel the controls are either too strict or too lenient were pretty well balanced numerically if not in their opinions. Planning clearly raised some passionate responses as did environmental issues such as speed and parking controls: all matters which we will be taking up with our local councillors.

The core of the questionnaire sought to establish what sort of activities you think the Society should be undertaking and how we should be communicating with you. This evinced a wide range of suggestions, most of them polite, but top answers were to give more advice on planning matters, to ensure the Council properly enforces its decisions, and to facilitate better information on property maintenance and appropriate tradesmen.

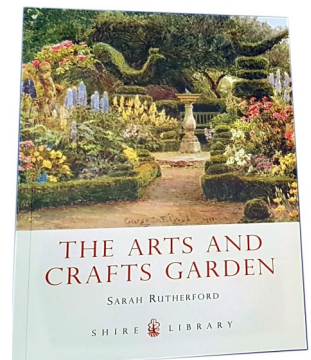
We will endeavour to grasp the various nettles of planning - although it's Ealing Council budget cuts that often contribute to delays and frustration - and we'll look in more detail at all the various comments and suggestions.

Oh, and most of you said that you find the Brentham News 'very', or at least 'fairly', interesting. Thank you!

## Notes from the AGM

There was a distinct Garden theme at the well-attended Brentham Society AGM held on 14th March in the Brentham Club. There were presentations to the winners of the 2016 front garden awards, announced in the last Brentham News, and also an illustrated talk on a closely related subject - Arts and Crafts gardens. Author Sarah Rutherford showed slides and discussed some very fine examples from around the country, including many designed by the famous Gertrude Jekyll. Sarah's book on the subject is a very useful guide.

In committee business, Gina Mallin was confirmed as Chair, Ann Wolf as Secretary and Andy Akerman as Treasurer. The other committee members this year are Geoff Baxendale, Richard Costella, Clive Evans, Alan Henderson, Tony Miller, Martin Mortimore, and Patrick Mylon.





# New Tea Towel Designs



In 1911 the INSTITUTE was opened to provide education, social events and sports for the estate's residents & featured on the cover of the first edition of the Brentham Magazine in July 1913. Now, as THE BRENTHAM CLUB, it offers sports and social activities for all.

I seem to have become the face of Brentham tea towels as I am often stopped in the Lane and asked how sales are going, where the designs came from and where they can be bought.

The original idea was to make use of some of the attractive material in the archives. Each design played its own part in Brentham history. The Brentham Magazine cover was the work of Percy Fairchild who lived in Meadvale Road. His signature can be seen under the foot of the cricketer.

We know from the archives that Percy was a keen rambler and amateur actor. He conducted walking parties of Brenthamites around the Ruislip field paths and received favourable reviews for his appearances with the Brentham Players. Apart from his marriage to a certain Edith Chester and his probable service in WW1 we've not been able to

garner any more information about him.

The Map design was drawn by architect G.L.Sutcliffe in 1911 but it incorporates the distinctive features proposed earlier by Parker & Unwin, including curved streets and houses placed at different angles. Although the final layout of the estate was changed in places, the original plan remained largely intact.

The 'architecture' tea-towel design is based on original Sutcliffe plans held in the archive. Digital printing can now faithfully reproduce on cloth the water colours of the lovely original drawings.

The design showing Brentham houses for rent and for sale (a detached property at £650!) illustrates inflation over the last century. Last year the average selling price of a Brentham house was £867,000.



The tea towels cost £6.50 singly or a set of all 4 designs for £20.

To buy your own:

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**Geoff Baxendale**

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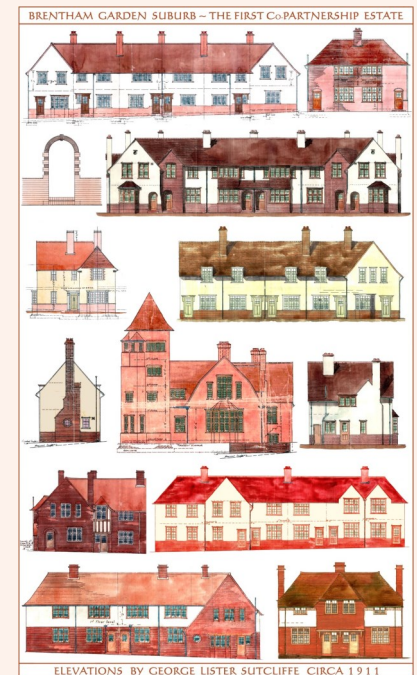
*Sketch in Ludlow Road on the Estate.*

**12 Acres Recreation Ground with Cricket Ground, Tennis Courts, Bowling and Croquet Greens. Institute with Club, Reading and Billiard Room, etc.**

**SOCIAL PLEASURES FOR TENANTS.**

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**SECRETARY EALING TENANTS,**  
7, Winscombe Crescent, Brentham, Ealing.  
Telephone, Ealing 388



## Strawberry Tea – A New Venue

The famous Brentham Strawberry Tea will be held this year on 9th July. The venue is 73 Brentham Way and we are very grateful to Mike and Anne Gandon for hosting the event. Open to Brentham Society members and their guests, tickets are on the gate and start time is 3.30pm.



## Membership Reminder

A gentle nudge for those wishing to pay their £5 subscription to the Brentham Society, but who haven't got round to it yet.

Please contact Mike Gandon at 73 Brentham Way. 020 8997 2348





# Penkhull Garden Suburb

It is always good to discover examples of lesser known Garden Suburbs. Recently we heard from a former Brentham resident now living in Colonel Light Gardens near Adelaide. This time we've had contact with somewhere closer to home—Penkhull in Stoke-on-Trent.

It all began when two residents, Sara Harvey and Lisa McDermott, contacted Brentham requesting a set of our postcards. One thing led to another and soon Heather Moore and I were giving Sara and Lisa a guided tour of Brentham.

They were impressed with what they saw, remarking that it was uncannily similar to their own suburb in Stoke. Eventually, my curiosity piqued, I made a return visit with my wife Rosanna.

It's fascinating to see the similarities, there are street



corners that look just like Brentham, with small grassed areas and houses in the same style. It's not as well known as Brentham – probably because it's smaller (only 117 houses) and it's not as well preserved. Penkhull is a conservation area but they don't have the crucial 'Article 4' protection that we have, which limits alterations and extensions to the properties.



Like Brentham, Penkhull has its origins during the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the Garden City movement was at its height. In 1903 the search was on for land in North Staffordshire to start a large garden city, but after searching for several years it was decided instead to build at Letchworth, closer to London.

However local interest continued and a proposal was put forward to create a

garden village at Penkhull. In April 1910 the site was bought and a society created – The Stoke-on-Trent Tenants Ltd. Its stated objective was to “afford working people and others an opportunity of renting a cottage with a garden within easy reach of their work and at a moderate rate.”

It's no surprise to discover that Parker and Unwin, architects of Letchworth Garden City and key figures in the layout of Brentham and Hampstead Garden Suburb, had a hand in the project at Penkhull, but the houses were designed by local architects W Campbell & Sons of Hanley.



Stoke-on-Trent Tenants



Ealing Tenants

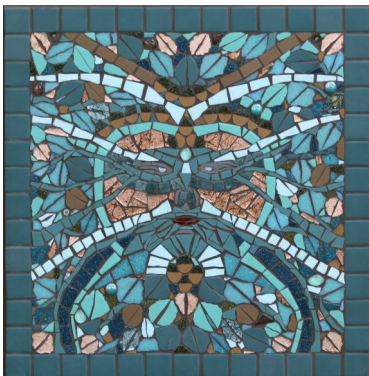
The houses were laid out in clusters and pairs, each cluster differing slightly in architectural style from its neighbour, all strongly influenced by the Arts & Crafts style and built of plain or whitewashed brick with pitched roofs and steep gables. The houses were positioned to be as south facing as possible to get as much sunlight as they could. Outbuildings were kept to a minimum and each house was given a garden of an eighth of an acre. Existing trees were retained and residents encouraged to have window boxes. Hedges were used to mark boundaries, rather than fences and walls.

By 1914, 95 houses had been built, along with a bowling green and tennis courts. Many more homes were planned, as were an Institute and Community Centre. However the First World War halted work and the land was instead turned into allotments for tenants of the Garden Village. This small village of 95 houses was a far cry from the original proposal of 250 to 300.

Eventually, as a result of selling the houses to their tenants, money was found to continue building and an extra 22 houses were built in 1938-9.

It's a pleasure to discover other parts of the country that have that 'Brentham look' and especially when they also have ancient traditions that match our own. There's no May Day in Penkhull but they do have Morris Dancing, and they were particularly interested in our Green Man!

The comment prompted Rosanna, a mosaic artist, to come up with a new inspired design.



**Alan Henderson**

## The Club Tower – A Change of Direction

**I**t has been four years since we started on the project to repair the Tower and provide a home for the Brentham archive, during which time there have been major changes at the Club – not least the election of a new Chairman last year.

This new administration is giving serious thought to the controversial idea of converting all of the Meadvale Road end of the Clubhouse (including the Tower) into flats, to be rented out commercially. This would provide a steady stream of income for the Club, remove the costs of heating and lighting, and – perhaps most importantly for the Estate – ensure ongoing maintenance of the building. In that regard, this is a welcome development.

The Club will of course have to comply with all the regulations about Listed Buildings, it will no doubt face local objections, and it will have to find the finance for the project: all

this remains to be done.

This ambitious project also changes entirely the basis on which we were collecting money to repair the Tower: this is a commercial venture, not a charitable one and that means that we will have to contact all our donors and ask them if they are willing to continue to support the new project. Many will not – the Pilgrim Trust has already notified me that they will not be able to provide the £10,000 of promised



funding, as the project no longer meets their criteria.

This is very frustrating for those of us who have been collecting funds over the last four years, but if the end result is a building that is thoroughly refurbished and maintained into the future, then I think we just have to grin and bear it.

We will try and make some short-term repairs to the Tower – particularly the top floor – so that it will cope with yet another year of neglect. We will be contacting those of you who made personal donations to the fund, to see what you want us to do with your money, which is still safely held in a separate account.

I am personally very disappointed not to have achieved our original objective or restoring the Tower as the focal point of the Brentham estate. But perhaps in the long run, this is the better choice.

**Clive Evans**

## David Humphries 1938 – 2017

David came to live on the Brentham Estate in 1964. He was an Ealing boy, growing up on the Greystoke estate, going to North Ealing School and then on to grammar school. He started work with Ealing Council as a trainee and then qualified as a Chartered Surveyor, also working for some years at Harrow Council. Colleagues who knew him then admired his attention to detail and his meticulous record keeping, done in his characterful handwriting.

He later used these skills as a member of the Brentham Advisory Panel until he left to pursue his private practice. In this capacity he prepared many schemes for alterations to houses in Brentham and was actively engaged in drawing up plans and giving advice until the end of his life. His distinctive plans displayed his knowledge of Brentham architecture. They were very attractive, carefully drawn by hand at his drawing board on A1

paper, a rare skill in this computer age. David saw no need for a computer or a mobile phone. His training as a chartered surveyor made him a valued source of information on building matters.

David's family enjoyed caravanning - it began with his father who built their first caravan. Their favourite destination was France, which they visited regularly. David became quite a Francophile - he particularly liked French food and wine and gave his children French names. David made a considerable contribution to our local community and will be missed by all who knew him.



**Heather Moore**

## Coming Events

### Party in the Park

25<sup>th</sup> 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 Brentham Tours

17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September: conducted tours of Brentham with Clive Evans starting at the Club at 10.30.

### Pitshanger Pictures

Films at 8pm in St Barnabas Millennium Hall

12 June: Eye in the Sky (15)

21 June: Into the Arms of Strangers (PG)

24 June: Hail Caesar! (12)

25 June: Otello (E) at 7pm

26 June: A Monster Calls (15)

10 July: The Crying Game (18)

19 July: Letters from Baghdad (E) at 8.15 pm



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## The Brentham Club

38A Meadvale Road, W5 1NP Telephone: 020 8997 2624

The Club offers a range of sporting and social opportunities for everyone, including Tennis, Cricket, Football, Bowls, Snooker, Darts and Bridge. Other activities include Yoga, Art and French classes. Watch live sports from BT Sport, SKY Sports and ESPN in the Top Bar.

Why not take advantage of the special deals for new members – for example, it's only £50 for Social membership and up to half price on certain sections (Tennis and Bowls included). Whether you want to relax with old friends or meet new ones, celebrate special events or play one of the many sports available, the Brentham Club offers a warm welcome.

### The Perry Café

Our ever-changing, versatile menu offers a mix of old favourites and new dishes

- Paninis, sandwiches and homemade soups
- Seasonal salads and daily specials
- Delicious cakes and pastries
- Speciality teas, Lavazza coffee, fruit juices and other cold drinks.

Monday–Friday 9.00am–4.30pm  
Saturday & Sunday 9.00am–4.00pm  
Everyone welcome (non-members included)

### Summer is here!

The Top Bar and Terrace will be open from 12 noon every day throughout the summer - for members and their guests.

### Forthcoming Events

'HOE DOWN' Saturday 24 June – Members and their guests are welcome to join in the 'Hoe Down' organised by the Tennis Section, with line dancing, raffle, food and fun from 7.30 pm. Tickets are £20, available from the Top Bar. Contact Toby King for more information 07949 758249 or email [tobyking62@gmail.com](mailto:tobyking62@gmail.com)

QUIZ NIGHTS are held monthly on Fridays at 8.00pm sharp so please come along at 7.50pm. Contact the club to book a table on:

23 June 2017  
21 July 2017  
18 August 2017

NB: More Comedy Nights to follow from September

The Brentham Club is active on Facebook, please 'like' our page and comment on our news and pictures when you can!  
[www.facebook.com/brenthamclub/](http://www.facebook.com/brenthamclub/)

For enquiries, contact the Club on 020 8997 2624; email [secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk), or go to [www.brenthamclub.co.uk](http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk)

For hall/room hire or to book an event, contact Anwen Roberts on 020 8997 2624 or email [events@brenthamclub.co.uk](mailto:events@brenthamclub.co.uk)

