



BRENTHAM NEWS

Chair's Notes

Living in our garden suburb is a constant reminder of the regenerative power of nature as the spring bulbs and buds push their way to the light. And it's the time of year when we like to remind residents to renew their subscription to the Brentham Society. Each membership supports our work with the conservation of the built and natural landscape that is the essence of Brentham.

The Society produces the Newsletter, holds social events throughout the year, and gives advice to help ease you through the planning process. The more households that become members, the more influence we have with Ealing council, for example with parking and tackling tricky issues like double-glazing (see Page 3).

The green environment is of paramount importance to Brentham. We've been talking to the council about tree management (see below) and of concern to us is the future of our unique and charming twittens - our magic little pedestrian alleyways that have an old-fashioned, Swallows and

Amazons feel to them. They are joyful places for children to play and they are practical connections between streets and neighbours. Their fate as open-access avenues is under threat, despite their protection under Article 4, as many of them have been closed off with gates, some with permission, some not – but all of them altering the view and restricting access into the backlands. Many of them have been neglected and become dumping grounds for toilet bowls, old fridges, garden rubble, and other rubbish. They can easily become obstructed and form a health hazard. Neglected and overgrown twittens also provide more cover for burglars. The answer does not have to be gates - low hedges and obviously-used pathways that are more openly visible are an effective deterrent.

Cleaning up the twittens is just one of the Society's projects for the coming year. We also plan to strengthen relations with other Garden Suburbs to help fight our corner as pressures mount on conservation areas (see Page 7).

Gina Mallin

Membership

To renew your membership of the Brentham Society, or join if you are not already a member, simply fill in the appropriate form included with this newsletter. Joining costs just £5 and we have provided an addressed envelope for the fee and form, which we urge you to return to your street collector as soon as possible. The subscription does not cover the cost of all the work we do, and many residents add a donation which helps to make up this shortfall. If you are able to do this, it will be very welcome.

Brentham Club Joint Membership Offer

This year we are teaming up with the Brentham Club to allow Brentham Society members to join the club for a much reduced rate. A combined fee of £50 includes Society membership and Club social membership - which can be upgraded to make use of the various excellent sports facilities. This offer is only available until March 31st, so please act quickly: complete the joint membership form instead of your Society renewal form.

Brentham Trees

Residents may have spotted that some street trees have been felled recently and others have notices on them indicating that they will be removed. When contacted about the destruction of apparently healthy specimens, the council's Tree Service Manager, Dale Mortimer, replied explaining that last summer all street trees in the Hanger Hill Ward were inspected and 69 removals were recommended. Dale writes:

"I have to admit that I was quite surprised and disappointed at the volume of removals but individually they are all warranted." Dale explains why a particular healthy-looking Lime tree in Winscombe Crescent should be removed. "The tree is infected with a *Ganoderma* fungus which has heavily decayed the stem and base. The crown may appear healthy but the structure of the stem has been compromised. The controlled removal by the council contractor will prevent the tree failing unexpectedly." Dale also says: "The Tree Service continues to deliver on the Ealing Tree Strategy aim of replacing every significant tree removed within two years." The full text of Dale's letter is posted on the Brentham website.



Clive Hicks

1932 - 2017

In September 2017 Brentham lost a good friend. Clive and Colleen came to live in Brentham in 1966 – more than 50 years ago - about the same time as Thelma and I came to Brentham. I was fortunate enough to meet him and I later sought his professional services as an architect to design and oversee changes to our house and to guide me towards a successful planning application. The work he did and the suggestions he made have benefitted me and my family every day since.

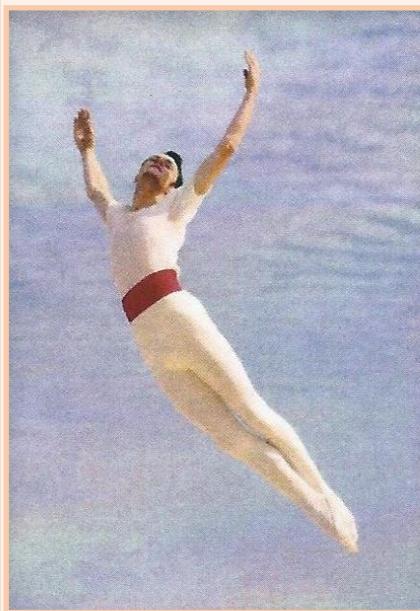
In 1969, a group of us led and inspired by Clive, became concerned at the destruction of some of the features that made Brentham attractive.

From these beginnings the Brentham Society was formed. Clive was the first Chairman and inspiration.

In 1970, Brentham was designated a conservation area and the Brentham Society membership grew. In 1975 Brentham was covered by the Article 4 direction of the Town and Country Planning Act – thus affording it more protection. Even with these protective measures, residents still had to be convinced of the merits of maintaining the distinctive features of the houses. It was not easy. Today we have a situation where no one living in Brentham can be unaware that there are benign constraints on what can be done to their houses.

Clive was born and brought up in South Africa. He studied architecture but soon after qualifying happened to see a ballet in Johannesburg which captivated him. He decided to train as a dancer and eventually became a leading ballet dancer in South Africa, even partnering Margot Fonteyn on occasion. He moved to Britain in 1957 and danced at Sadler's Wells and The Royal Ballet in Covent Garden, but gave up dancing in 1959 and resumed

his career in architecture. Among his first clients, Clive often worked with Dame Cecily Saunders – founder of the modern hospice movement. Dame Cecily felt the buildings should be beautiful, harmonious and uplifting as well as functional and in Clive she found an architect who shared that vision.



Alongside architecture, Clive was also an accomplished author, photographer and book illustrator. In collaboration with William Anderson his works included *The Cathedrals of Britain and Ireland*, *Holy Places – A Guide to the Legendary and Sacred Sites*, and *The Rise of the Gothic*. Clive also made a study of the history of the Green Man – who features every year in the Brentham May Day parade – and published *The Green Man – A Field Guide* in 2000. In fact Clive photographed the May Day event every year since the late sixties.



Clive led many groups on trips to Chartres Cathedral – a place he held in very high regard and he was a member of several local societies including The Civic Society, Hampshire House Photographic Society, and The Study Society.

Clive was a modest man and his wide range of interests made him an excellent companion. Even as recently as the summer of 2017 he enlightened me about South African wines! Clive and Colleen hosted a New Year Brentham gathering at their house which became an annual feature. His home-produced Christmas cards and invitations were quite literally works of art. Without Clive the Brentham Society would not have developed as it did. His enthusiasm and example attracted able and committed people to join the Brentham Society Committee. Happily, even though individuals change, good people are still willing to join the Committee. Now we have a well organised and pleasant environment in which to live – an oasis in an overcrowded London. This is Clive's legacy. I count myself fortunate to have known him both in the context of the community and as a personal friend. Thank you Clive, and may God bless you, Colleen and your family.

Brian Fallon

Brentham Tours

Clive Hicks also contributed to the life of Brentham by conducting walks around the estate, which he did from 1996 until a few years ago, when he handed it over to me. He was very generous with his time and old notes, walking me round the estate, which was an education in itself. Outside every other house he would pause and relate some tale about it, work he had done on it, films that had been made nearby, and point out detailed features of the roofline or the decoration.

Lacking this fund of architectural and local knowledge, the walks are shorter now, but there is a little team of us who handle not only the annual London Open House weekend events in September, but other groups as well. We have raised more than £2,000 for the Brentham Club Tower fund from groups such as the University of the Third Age, the London Appreciation Society, the Friends of the Museum of London and the local Planning Department.



Clive Hicks with visitors on an Open House tour



Clive Evans with pupils from West Acton Primary School

We have also worked with local schools to teach youngsters something of the local history. They like the story about the bomb in Meadvale Road best. Thanks are due to Sue Elliott, Rosanna & Alan Henderson, and Heather Moore who all help with the organisation. The Brentham Club is also very helpful, providing lunches, teas and coffees as well as somewhere warm to start and finish the trips. If you know of a group that might enjoy a trip round Brentham, you can find details of how to organise one by going to the Brentham Society website.

Clive Evans

Brentham Windows Report

One of the continuing challenges in Brentham is to balance the preservation of our distinctive architecture and landscape with new materials and techniques, so with the pressure to save energy, it is appropriate that the Brentham Society should consider the pros and cons of double glazing for our conservation area.

This has taken longer than we first hoped. It proved a complicated matter, as can be seen from the report, which is now published on the Society website at www.brentham.com. If you don't have internet access and would like a printed copy please call Richard Costella on 020 8997 4544.

The conclusions in the report will be discussed with the Conservation Officer for Ealing with a recommendation that they form part of the updated Design Guide for Brentham.

Research continues into the technology and performance of double glazing for conserved buildings so the committee may add appendices to the report with new information in the future. Residents will be advised of these via the website and Brentham News.



Britannia Rules the Waves

Let's face it, even living amongst the delights of Brentham doesn't make you immune to occasional bouts of commuter blues, and make you long for a challenge to snap you out of your routine. But when this happened to Brentham resident Tanya Joyce-Kuzdenyi, some 3 years ago, she chose a truly amazing challenge – to swim the English Channel.



Tanya in mid Channel

Tanya writes "I was brought up in Ludlow Road, imbued with Brentham traditions. Back in 1999 I even led the May Day procession as Britannia! After getting married I had moved to Holyoake Walk and was travelling to Canary Wharf every day for my job as a financial analyst. But I felt I needed something really stimulating to break up the daily routine of my life, a real long-distance physical challenge. By chance, I saw a documentary about someone swimming the channel and I thought, why not train to do that?"

That same day Tanya booked her first 10km swim at Dorney Lake in Eton. Soon she was getting up early nearly every day, going to Canary Wharf pool, swimming for 1-2 hours and then going to work. The following year she booked to do a channel-swim relay with two other people – her first experience of real open water. "The year after, I went on a cold water training camp in Croatia with my swim club and completed the 6 hour qualification channel swim in the sea at 15 degrees – which was jolly cold!"

At last Tanya booked a slot for her swim across the 35 kilometres of busy and cold English Channel. Her first date, in July last year, was cancelled because of bad weather, so a final date was set – the 2nd September. Did she ever have second

thoughts? "Not really, I've always wanted to test boundaries, and to explore. And I wasn't going to do all that training and not get across. I was nervous before, but my coach said there's no doubt you'll make it and I believed that God would give me the strength to get across so I didn't even entertain a negative thought."

On the appointed day, at 6 am in Folkestone, Tanya boarded the pilot boat that would accompany and guide her as she made the attempt. First she dived in just off Samphire Hoe, where she swam back to the shore for the start. Then, with a bit of vaseline under her arms (not the goose fat we hear about) she signalled she was ready and the challenge began. "You have to stay close to the boat but not touch it, and every half hour my coach would throw in bottles of warm energy drink." Was she ever tempted to give up? "Like any endurance sport, it is mentally very tough. I think you have to have a certain sort of mentality. Any time I felt cold, I would say to myself I'm warm. If I was in pain, I prayed and sang my way through it. The hardest time was 10 hours in, when my body started reacting in all sorts of unpleasant ways, including being physically sick. Then as I approached the French coast, the tide turned and I nearly missed the landing area but I pushed hard and eventually my coach threw in a bottle, saying this is the last one, so I knew I was within 30 minutes of the shore.



Tanya recovers after her swim with coach Matt Duggan

He dived in and accompanied me, just to check I cleared the water when I climbed on to the rocks at Cap Gris-Nez in France. I swam back to the boat and just felt drained and exhausted, but thankfully my Dad was there to comfort me. As well as the



Tanya's route across the Channel

physical pain after the swim, one of the other bad effects is how the long immersion in sea-water strips your tongue, just as if you've burned your whole mouth on a very hot drink."

But within two days, Tanya was back in her office, having completed her 'marathon physical challenge' with flying colours. Her time across the Channel was just 3 minutes inside her target of 14 hours.

It's the first recorded case of a Brentham Britannia having truly ruled the waves.

Tanya's greatest satisfaction has come from the money she's raised through her swimming achievements. She has raised about £13K for a charity called Mercy Ships. She says: "They're a small charity but do truly amazing work. Mercy Ships is a hospital on a ship, run by volunteers, which travels to the poorest countries to provide free healthcare (such as life-saving operations) for those that wouldn't normally have access to such care. I've raised money for a lot of charities over the years and I've genuinely never come across such amazing people who really care about what they do".

Martin Mortimore



Front Gardens Competition 2017 - The Winners

Spring Award: 3 Neville Road

Runners-up: 30 Brunner Road, Pavement Planting Fowler's Walk, 21 Ludlow Road, 26 Ludlow Road, 50 Meadvale Road, 67 Meadvale Road, 27 Woodfield Road

Summer Award: 14 Woodfield Crescent

Runners-up: 44 Denison Road, 42 Holyoake Walk, 56 Holyoake Walk, 11 Ludlow Road, 47 Meadvale Road, 56 Meadvale Road, 25 Neville Road, 27 Neville Road, 3 North View, 18 North View, 1 Ruskin Gardens, 2 Ruskin Gardens, 22 Winscombe Crescent

Autumn Award: 20 Ludlow Road

Runners-up: 44 Denison Road, 46 Fowler's Walk, 111 Fowlers Walk, 42 Holyoake Walk, 3 North View, 18 North View, 2 Ruskin Gardens

Rose Bowl Award: 42 Holyoake Walk

Congratulations to all the winners.

Awards will be presented at the AGM on 15th March.



Autumn Winner: 20 Ludlow Road

The Brentham Society AGM

will be held at the Brentham Club on Thursday
15th March at 8pm

Speaker: MARY DONE, a Kew Gardens guide, on the history and work of the Gardens

Pitshanger Pictures

Unless stated, films at 8.15 pm in St Barnabas Millennium Hall

4 February: **Carmen** (E) at 7pm + Supper from 6pm
7 February: **The Theory of Everything** (12)
17 February: **Midnight in Paris** (12) at 8pm
28 February: **Like Water for Chocolate** (15)
7 March: **Franz** (12)
28 March: **Rust and Bone** (15)

Brentham May Day

This year's May Day will be held on
Saturday 12th May



Enrolment of the children wishing to take part will be on **Thursday 15th March** from 4 pm until 5.30 pm, in the main hall of the Brentham Club.

For more information contact Pat Chapman on 077 4046 4137 or email patriciaq@sky.com

The enrolment fee is £12 per child. The May Day committee welcomes any offers of help with this event, either during rehearsals or on May Day.

Barry Murphy

1945 - 2017

Brentham Way resident Barry Murphy, who died in November at the age of 72, had a life-enhancing effect on everyone who knew him. Despite a long period of serious illness he remained unfailingly cheerful, positive and thoughtful of others and was an inspiration to many.

Barry was born in Notting Hill and went to Our Lady of the Visitation primary school in Greenford where politician Chris Patten was a contemporary. After passing the 11+ he and his elder brother Alan ('Spud') went on to St Benedict's. Here Barry enjoyed rugby and played guitar in a band (he became something of an expert on '60s and '70s pop groups, which came in useful on quiz teams later).

He first met his future wife at St. Gregory's youth club when they were both about 16. Jane resisted his attentions for some time but eventually succumbed - *'and that was it!'* They were married in Ealing Abbey in 1970. A naturally outgoing personality perfectly suited a career in public relations, initially with National Cash Registers and later at senior level with BT subsidiary Syntegra.

Despite a high-pressure job, Barry always made time for good food and drink in convivial company: friends and neighbours remember many happy times in local hosteries and at charity quizzes where Barry kept everyone engaged and smiling. And in a busy retirement, when he could indulge his interest in books and music, he was always happy to stop for a chat while walking his beloved dogs or on his way to the shops in the Lane.



Barry and Jane had moved to Brentham Way

from Brunswick Road in 1999 and soon joined in the life of the estate. He served on the Brentham Society committee for five years from 2002, including as Vice-Chair, and will be remembered as 'a great ideas man' who energised others. Neighbours past and present pay tribute to his friendliness, the small but important neighbourly gestures, and the warm welcome he and Jane gave newcomers. All agree that 'he was the sort of Brentham neighbour we might all hope for'.

When he was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2012 Barry used his personality and PR know-how to raise awareness of the disease, appearing in public information videos and on Sky TV, urging people to overcome their embarrassment and do the NHS home test. These campaigning efforts had a personal impetus: he had ignored the test which could have caught the cancer early and resulted in a very different outcome. A positive and proactive approach to his illness stayed with him throughout the long and wearing treatment he bore stoically over the next five years. His courage and refusal to feel sorry for himself during this time provided 'the most extraordinary role model' for others.

A strong religious faith, described by Jane as 'the most important thing in our lives', with the Abbey as its focus, sustained and supported them both. Family has been central too: the arrival of their son Matthew's two baby daughters provided a late but delightful new role as doting grandparents.

Barry will be missed. But, as one neighbour put it, 'the world is a better place for having been blessed with Barry Murphy'.

Sue Elliott

Many thanks to Barry's friends and neighbours who contributed their memories.

The Brentham Tower

Little has changed since the last Brentham News: plans to develop the Brentham Club are still being prepared by the architects. They will no doubt be discussed with Ealing Council, and then be made available to club members and local residents for comment.

Assuming that the plans will include the full refurbishment of the Tower, the funds remaining in the Tower Fund (£23,000) will be applied to setting up the Brentham archive. We are expecting that the new plans will include space for this, and look forward to making a proper home for it.

You will see on Page 1 that we have negotiated a special joint membership with the Club - £50 covers not only your Brentham Society membership but also gives you social membership of the Club. I encourage you to take advantage of this, if only so that we have a significant number of Brentham voices in the debate about the new plans.

Clive Evans



Conservation 50 Years On

Historic England have published a YouGov poll showing strong public support for Conservation Areas 50 years after they were introduced. There are 10,000 such areas in England covering a total area larger than Luxembourg!

The smallest is in Heath Passage in the London Borough of Barnet with just two buildings; the largest in the Yorkshire Dales protects 1000 farm buildings and dry-stone walls.

The Tower Gardens Estate in Tottenham, one of the first garden suburbs, was built by the LCC around 1900 to provide quality social housing designed by architects from the Arts and Crafts movement.

The poll found that three quarters of adults in England believe councils should have the power to restrict changes to buildings and streets to protect the character and appearance of a Conservation Area. The less good news is that the Chief Executive of Historic England warns that the continuing drop in the number of local authority conservation officers could put Conservation Areas at risk.

To read the full report go to
www.historicengland.org.uk/whats-new

Honey Fungus

You may have noticed that some hedges on the estate are undergoing renovation with the old privet being replaced with different plants. This is almost always due to honey fungus which is a common problem with privet.

If only one or two plants are affected the best course of action is to remove the diseased plant and the one on each side, but if you have fungus throughout a hedge it is best to take out as long a length as you can deal with in one hit.

Dig out a trench in the root area and refill with sterilized top soil and compost. A plastic membrane can be put between the new soil and the roots of the remaining hedging. The top of the new bed should be lower than any path or grass to the side of it. This is to avoid water run-off as drought encourages the disease. You may wish to replant with new

privet but you may prefer to put in alternative plants that are less susceptible. Mixed hedging is often used in rear gardens as large, fast growing plants can be put in with

fertilizer, watering in summer and covering any exposed roots.

Support for the new plants can be provided by low chestnut paling or open wire mesh on the garden side of the hedge. Many original boundaries in Brentham had low palings or posts and wire with hedging planted next to it.

Higher chestnut paling or chain link fencing can be erected next to hedges in a rear garden but, depending on the height and the individual situation, this may need a Planning Application. The Brentham Planning Advice Group can give detailed advice for a particular location.

The RHS have a list of trees; shrubs and hedging that are considered resistant to Honey Fungus. Yew, hawthorne, holly, hornbeam & Griselinia littoralis all seem to do well on the estate.

Pat Baxendale



smaller, slower growing ones and cutting staggered.

Autumn or spring is the best time for this and plants should be watered throughout a dry spring and the following two summers. Old hedges can have their resistance improved by applying a general

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The Brentham Club

38A Meadvale Road, W5 1NP Telephone: 020 8997 2624 www.brenthamclub.co.uk

Come along to The Brentham Club where you'll find 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. New members are welcome.

Forthcoming Events

TENNIS – Saturday Family Flagship Sessions 12.00–1.00pm, coaching for adults and children. £5 (with or without a child).

BRIDGE

- Wednesday at 7.25 pm, seated please by 7.15 pm
- Relaxed Bridge, Friday at 9.45 am, seated please by 9.35 am.

Open to visitors. If you don't have a partner, we have a host so you will be guaranteed a game.

QUIZ NIGHTS - Monthly on Fridays at 8 pm. £1 entry per person with teams of 6 maximum.

- 16 February 2018
- 16 March 2018

COMEDY NIGHTS from 8 pm

Members £11.00, Non-members £13.00

- 23 February - Pippa Evans & Alistair Williams
- 23 March - Tez Ilyas, Milo McCabe & MC Jen Brister

Check website for details and tickets:

www.ticketor.com/brenthamclub/

The Perry Café

Everyone welcome (non-members included). The café offers an ever-changing, versatile menu:

- Paninis, sandwiches, homemade soups, seasonal salads and daily specials
- Cakes and pastries, speciality teas, Lavazza coffee and more

Opening hours: Closed Monday; Tuesday to Friday: 9.00am–4.30pm; Saturday and Sunday: 9.00am–3.30pm

For hall/room hire or to book an event, contact Mark Saggers on 020 8997 2624, 07402711982 or email

events@brenthamclub.co.uk

For all other enquiries, contact the Club on 020 8997 2624 or email marks@brenthamclub.co.uk or go to

www.brenthamclub.co.uk

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