



ISSUE 192 ~ JUNE 2018

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

BRENTHAM NEWS

The Rear View: Chair's Notes

Brentham seems to be an area that invites much loyalty and love over generations, and this edition of our newsletter has a local history theme that underscores the sense of community here. Whilst some of that can get eroded with demands on working people outside of where we live, it is instructive to see how people who grew up here or have come here because they fell in love with the area, have such strong attachments to it.



The original design of Brentham was based on community living in surroundings that encouraged the wellbeing of the residents, and the Society is continuing our survey of the linked pedestrian pathways, or twittens, and the larger areas

behind some houses that are communally shared and tended (or not, in some cases). These pathways, rear gardens and allotments form the Brentham backlands, and are protected by what's called an Article 4 Direction, made by Ealing Council. This restricts Permitted Development Rights, so limiting what changes can be made to the area, over and above those covered by our designation as a Conservation Area.

It is rare for areas to have Article 4 so it signifies the importance of Brentham. It prevents development that would ultimately ruin what is an area of outstanding international significance in terms of Town Planning layout, and the Labour, Co-operative, Arts & Crafts, and Garden City movements.

Brentham is unusual in having an Article 4 Direction applied to the rear elevations of houses, gardens and backlands, and that's because the whole layout of the estate is considered a heritage asset. So there is a very much higher standard of protection against infill development on these backland areas. But there's a danger. If we allow aspects of the backlands to deteriorate and their original character is changed, then Ealing

Council may remove our Article 4 protection from the rear elevations and backlands. This means that large, poorly designed extensions could be built without a planning application and infill development allowed. It has happened elsewhere. In Sutton Garden Suburb, Article 4 protection was lost from the rears so developers were able to argue that they could build on the allotments in the backlands. The only way Sutton Council was able to protect the land was to make it Metropolitan Open Land, which was only possible because the allotment site was much larger than our Brentham backlands.

There is a further danger. It has been observed that attractive conservation areas which do allow Permitted Development suffer a greater level of development than non-conserved areas as it is so profitable at the early stages. As development continues, the whole area is degraded and spoilt by the new buildings - beyond recovery.

For these important reasons we are aiming to make the care and condition of twittens and backlands a focus so that their character and the pleasure we can take from their verdant appearance is not lost to us and future generations of residents.

Gina Mallin

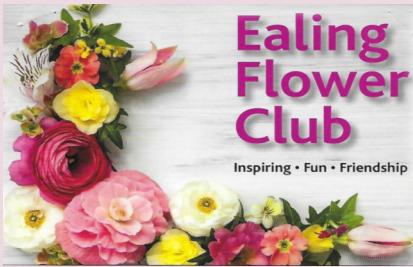
May Day 2018

Despite the rain, the May Day procession through Brentham went ahead as planned. Umbrellas and plastic ponchos were much in evidence except for the Green Man who had his own natural canopy.

However the maypole dancing and crowning of Grace Connell as May Queen was moved to St Barnabas Church as the field was too wet.

Why May Day has become such a special event in many people's lives - see Page 6.





The Ealing Flower Club offers the chance to see top flower arrangers in action, and their monthly meetings are held, appropriately enough, in the heart of our Garden Suburb, in St Barnabas Church.

It's the place to learn more about flowers, watch guest demonstrators weaving their floral magic, and to get to know like-minded people. You might even win one of the evening's finished arrangements in a raffle. Each meeting has a different theme.

20 June: *Round the Solar System* – see how the demonstrator interprets her title in flowers.

18 July: The club's *Coral Anniversary*. Helping to celebrate the club's 35th birthday will be leading NAFAS National Demonstrator Patricia Dibben. Tea, coffee and cake will be available along with a chance to help judge the club's competition.

19 August: *Herbaceous* - a magic word for a new way of arranging flowers.

The Flower Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm for 7.30pm at St. Barnabas Church.

Visitors: £5.50 or become a member.

Enquiries to Jenni: 07772 975554

Spring Front Garden Awards

We went out on a dank, cool Sunday morning to look at Brentham Front Gardens in spring but were soon cheered by many lovely gardens. It was a difficult start to the year weather-wise and spring seemed a long time coming. We then had a few days of hot weather and all the spring bulbs and flowering plants suddenly came into bloom, peaked and faded quickly. It was beautiful while it lasted!

Fortunately we are now experiencing seasonal warmth and our gardens have burst into full growth helped by all the earlier rain.

The front gardens shortlisted for the Spring 2018 Award are:

16 and 18 Brentham Way, 44 Denison Road, 99 and 111 Fowlers Walk, 33 Holyoake Walk, 67 Meadvale Road, 25 and 27 Neville Road, 1 Ruskin Gardens, 14 Winscombe Crescent and 27 Woodfield Crescent.

Congratulations to all the owners. The winner will be announced at the AGM next March.

As I write this it is the week of the Chelsea Flower Show and I am looking forward to seeing what the latest trends are in garden design, gardens and plants. I am sure there will again be an emphasis on attracting wildlife especially bees and butterflies. Creating wildlife habitats is worthwhile in every sense. Here are a few nectar and pollen plants for early summer: Allium, Chives, Comfrey, Echinacea, Aquilegia, Foxgloves, Honeysuckle, Single-flowered Roses, Thyme and Geranium.

A pond also attracts all sorts of wildlife. It is so lovely to see the garden buzzing with insects, birds and butterflies. It does often feel as though I am living in the countryside but with the benefit of all the attractions of London at the same time. The Brentham Estate really is the ideal place to live. Happy Gardening!

Vicky Snodin

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 2017 front garden awards, announced in the last Brentham News, and also an illustrated talk on a closely related subject - the History of Kew Gardens. Kew guide Mary Done presented a comprehensive slide show explaining the Royal origins of the gardens and

how the richness of its collections grew over hundreds of years.

In committee business, Gina Mallin was confirmed as Chair and Andy Akerman as Treasurer. The other committee members this year are Geoff Baxendale, Barn Cleave, Richard Costella, Clive Evans, Alan Henderson and Martin Mortimore. Later Maggie Bukowska was co-opted as Secretary.



25-27 Neville Road



111 Fowlers Walk

Mike Brearley Returns to Brentham



from professional psychoanalyst.

Returning to the Brentham Club fields brought back memories for Mike: "I used to come here all round the year because I used to play pitch and putt golf when I got to about ten or eleven. I used to watch the football when my dad played, and of course cricket in the summer. And it was only three minutes walk from where we lived in Brentham Way. My mother played tennis over there. I remember both my sisters getting dressed up for the May Procession and going round the Maypole, which I used to scoff at, I'm ashamed to say!"

"I went to North Ealing school, and played in the park next to the cricket ground there. We played in the back alleys and in something called the shelter near the allotment which was a bombed-out or damaged shelter, it was a horrible place actually. And we played down by the river and threw sticks to get conkers. I remember once throwing a stick and it landed on a boy's head and it started to bleed and I was so frightened I ran away. I was only about five or six then. I wasn't conscientious enough to stay and help him!"

"I'd forgotten how attractive Brentham Way was, and the houses round here. I remember my dad saying that coming from Heckmondwike in Yorkshire, what a luxury and an amazing thing it was to him to find trees in the street."

It didn't feel at that time anything different from anyone else's childhood, I suppose, but it was different."

Our local Cricket Club has celebrated the new additions to its pavilion with a visit from the most famous cricketer to have been brought up in Brentham.

Mike Brearley cut the ribbon on a bright sunny day in April and declared the much extended and refurbished pavilion open for business.

As a first class cricketer, Mike captained Cambridge University, Middlesex and England. He was captain of the international side in 31 of his 39 Test Matches, winning 17 and losing only 4.

He was the President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in 2007-08, and since his retirement from cricket he has pursued a career as a writer and psychoanalyst.



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



New Councillors

Following the Council elections in May, we have three new Councillors representing the Cleveland Ward part of the estate: Sitarah Anjum, Linda Burke and Carlo Lusuardi. We look forward to working with them over the next few years, and thank the outgoing Councillors, Dave Rodgers, Lynne Murray and Ian Proud for their support in the past. Ian Proud has taken a particular interest in the estate, and as a local resident we know he will still be here to help.

At the Hanger Hill end, Greg Stafford, Joy Morrissey and Nigel Sumner were re-elected. Greg said "We are honoured and delighted to have been re-elected. It is a true pleasure to represent the area. We are committed to preserving Hanger Hill's green open spaces and architectural heritage not least in our wonderful conservation areas like the Brentham Garden Estate. We look forward to continuing our good working relationship and friendship with the Brentham Society over the next four years".



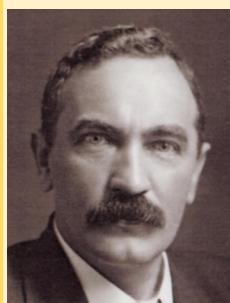
Connecting our Street Names

A stroll through the streets of Brentham reveals charming architecture and fine landscaping, but it's also a journey through history. Several street names are reminders of the movers and shakers in 19th century social reform and radical politics. Some were directly involved with Brentham, others were influential in the late Victorian Co-operative movement. Their lives often connect and intersect in a way reflected in the Brentham street map.

Vivian Green

Henry Vivian was the prime mover in the creation of Brentham. From 1890 he was secretary of the Labour Association which promoted co-partnership housing schemes. A carpenter and a trade unionist, he set up Ealing Tenants Ltd. which began building the first houses in Woodfield Road.

By 1906 Vivian was a Liberal MP and heavily involved in the Co-operative movement.

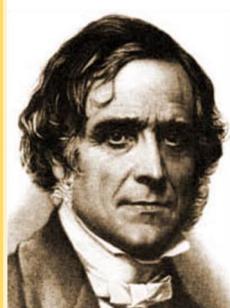


Holyoake Walk

Born in 1817, George Jacob Holyoake was an early advocate of secularism and later a leading promoter of the Co-operative movement which lay behind the building of Brentham.

He is perhaps best known for being the last man in England to be imprisoned for blasphemy after giving a lecture on socialism. He was probably set up by a planted question from a clergyman. He defended himself but was sentenced to 6 months in Gloucester gaol. A BBC play on Holyoake's trial, written by John Osborne, cast Richard Burton as Holyoake.

Denison Road



Frederick Denison Maurice was an Anglican theologian and priest. Unlike the secularist George Holyoake, he believed that Christianity was the true essence of socialism and that the Church must involve itself with the problems in trade and industry. He also became a pioneer in the co-partnership movement.

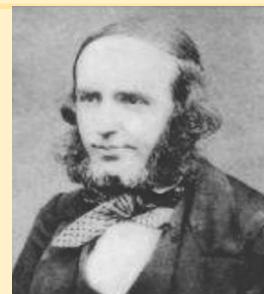
Ludlow Road

In the late 1840s John Malcolm Forbes Ludlow was studying law at Lincoln's Inn when he met Denison Maurice, who was the chaplain.

Both were appalled by the condition of the poor and together they founded the Christian Socialist Movement and the Working Men's College which they saw as means

to improve the lives of working people.

He had been educated in Paris and was influenced by French socialism, especially as he witnessed the 1848 French revolution.



Brunner Road

Sir John Tomlinson Brunner, Bart. gave money to Ealing Tenants when its finances were causing unfavourable comments from their bank. He was an industrialist and politician, setting up Brunner Mond & Co. with his partner Ludwig Mond. This later became ICI, and led to his Times sobriquet 'Chemical Croesus'. He was a generous benefactor becoming a Liberal Party MP in Cheshire. He knew Henry Vivian and among other things is the great grandfather of the Duchess of Kent.

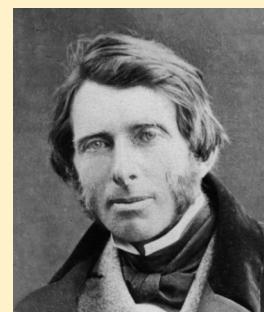


Neville Road

Ralph Neville was a lawyer who invested in Ealing Tenants. He introduced an influential group of other investors to the Letchworth project, which led to the foundation of Letchworth Garden City. Later, in 1905, Henry Vivian who was also involved in Letchworth, brought the Garden City architects Parker and Unwin to Brentham. They, in turn, laid out our streets including the one bearing Neville's name.

Ruskin Gardens

John Ruskin was a member of the Arts & Crafts movement that had a profound influence on early garden suburb design. However his involvement in social reform and politics would have been as important to the founders of Brentham.



He taught at the Working Men's College with Denison Maurice and was interested in the progressive education of girls. At Whitelands College he instituted a May Queen festival which was copied around the country, including Brentham.

Geoff Baxendale

Back in Time for Brentham

When distinguished TV writer and director Stephen Poliakoff went scouting locations for his latest BBC drama, set in the 1950s, his location team led him to Brentham. He needed a place for his leading character to live and also somewhere he could stage a street party. Vivian Green and Holyoake Walk proved ideal. Because



Brentham houses have mostly all their original features, especially their period windows, the

design team didn't have too much work to do to take the streets back to the 1950s. Their biggest challenge was to banish the modern cars from the streets. Local residents were helpful and soon the northern end of Holyoake Walk was empty of vehicles except one period saloon, carefully placed by the designers.

The drama, called *Summer of Rockets* follows Joseph, played by Toby Stephens, a Russian born Jewish inventor and businessman who specialises in manufacturing bespoke hearing aids. When Samuel is approached by MI5 to demonstrate his work it is not just his invention the secret service require...

As Poliakoff has said "I write about the past a lot. It's not always a nice place."

The writer/director is well known for shooting in real locations if he can, rather than on studio sets. It keeps costs down and avoids using too much computer graphics. His dramas always have a distinct look and feel and this one is no exception. In the age of the Cold War, excitement and fear of the future permeates the lives of all. That may explain the many clock faces adorning the Brentham hedges and trees. The Brentham Club tower, currently in need of some major brickwork repairs, was chosen for a large doomsday clock – not we hope a sign of things to come.

The drama stars Toby Stephens, Keeley Hawes, Linus Roache and Timothy Spall and will be seen on our TV screens next year.

The production company were delighted with the two day shoot and were grateful for the co-operation of residents in the area.

Martin Mortimore



Toby Stephens, left & Keeley Hawes, right



Stephen Poliakoff



May Day in the Family

It takes more than a rain shower to extinguish the enthusiasm for Brentham's May Day. In fact, for many people who take part in the event it becomes very special, and this year two families have good reason to remember May Day.

In 1985 Tamsin Connett from Ludlow Road was crowned May Queen and in many of the years since she has helped organise the event. Now, 33 years later, Tamsin's elder daughter, Grace, became May Queen. She explains: "I'm twelve now and I've been in the procession nearly all my life. You have to have taken part for 4 years before you become eligible and then there's an election to choose the May Queen. And I'll also now take part for the next four years."

Tamsin feels very proud: "I know there have been sisters who've been May Queens but I don't know if there's a mum and daughter in the list. It feels special. I do think May Day is important culturally and historically for this area and I think it's lovely that all the children round here get the opportunity to engage with a tradition and an event - the procession, the dancing - that is uniquely theirs. No-one does May Day like Brentham does May Day!"

Grace sums up her day: "I think it's fantastic that it's been going for so long. It's 112 years since the first May Day – to think I've contributed to such a long line of May Queens."



Rita Merchant May Queen in 1958

Also walking in the procession this year was Rita Merchant who was May Queen in 1958. She lived in Meadvale Road until she was 16 and her family moved out of the area. She has very happy memories of May Day: "I came up from Hampshire today because it's the 60th anniversary of my being Queen but also because my elder sister



Rita Merchant & her niece Allison

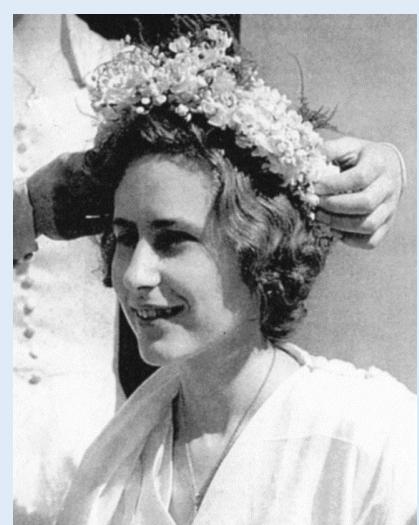
Merriel passed away last year and she was Queen in 1955. Her daughter Allison has come with me as well as Eva, her grand-daughter. Allison has always talked about May Day to Eva, and although she doesn't live in London, she wanted to come to walk with me in memory of her Nana."

Allison says "My mother Merriel left a memoir and in it she wrote a lot about May Day - sewing the dresses and preparing the flowers. It was a big part of family life."



Rita and her great niece Eva walk in memory of Merriel

Rita agrees: "Back then in the 50s, we used to go round local gardens to look for any pickable flowers, pansies and the like. In the evening my mum would have us doing our sticks or posies or headwear." On this return visit Rita can't help noticing some changes in Meadvale Road: "The cars are parked all the way along, In our day there were only one or two down the whole street!" But she says "May Day hasn't changed and it's wonderful to see it again. Maybe I'll come back and have another May Day here, who knows?"



Merriel Merchant - May Queen in 1955

Brentham Way Play Street



We are lucky to have opportunities to connect as a community in Brentham, such as May Day and the Strawberry Tea but we could still do with more time to chat to our neighbours. Add to that the problem of kids staying indoors and playing computer games, and you get the reason for Playstreet.

A few of us started the Brentham Way/ Winscombe Crescent playstreet in 2016 as an opportunity for families to



get to know each other, playing with kids, outdoors, in a safe space. It began with chalk, hopscotch and What's the Time Mr. Wolf, and expanded to include tea and cake with and without children, to pause and connect. With the help of the council, we're able to close the top of Brentham Way for 2 hours a month, and it has become a highlight of many of our children's summers.

If anybody wants to join in, please do get in touch or just turn up. For safety reasons we keep it to residents of the 2 streets and their guests. And if you want to start a Playstreet yourself, do get in touch with the Council. playstreets@ealing.gov.uk

Hayley Spurling

Brentham Open Gardens



Sunday 17 June

1.30 - 5.00 pm

Twelve delightful gardens will be open including three not seen before. Teas will be available.

Tickets £4.50 per person from 115 Fowlers Walk and on Vivian Green (opposite the Brentham Club)

Funds raised to go to Meadow House Hospice.

Plant Sale on Vivian Green - donations welcome, bring on the day or contact sheila@brentham.com

Pitshanger Pictures

Films in St Barnabas Millennium Hall

9 June: The Shootist (PG)	8pm
13 June: Prince of Nothingwood (15)	8.15pm
27 June: Django Unchained (18)	8.15pm
4 July: Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (U)	8.15pm
11 July: My Generation (12)	8.15pm
21 July: The Greatest Showman (PG)	8pm
22 July: La Bohème (E)	7pm
25 July: Jersey Boys (15)	8.15pm

Data Protection

As you are probably aware, the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 came into effect on 25th May. We have updated our Privacy Policy, which can now be read on our website www.brentham.com

Hard copies can be obtained from secretary@brentham.com or by phoning the Secretary on 020 8998 9616.



Strawberry Tea

Sunday 24 June 3.30pm.

This year the famous Brentham event will be held at 10 Winscombe Crescent and we are very grateful to Diana Hill for hosting the occasion.

Open to Brentham Society members and their guests, tickets on the gate.



Children are welcome and face-painting will add to the jollity. Attending will be this year's May Queen, Grace Connell, and her mum Tamsin, May Queen in 1985.

Brentham Architectural Salvage

Available: internal pine doors for re-use.

Wanted: original items, especially window furniture.

Contact: heather@brentham.com

For Sale: Acorn Stairlift

Five months old, never used, presently fitted in a Brentham house – fits any typical curved staircase.



Substantial savings on purchasing new – price includes delivery and fitting by a trained Acorn engineer and a full 3 months manufacturer's warranty.

Price £3,000
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The Brentham Club

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Offering sporting and social opportunities for everyone, whether you want to relax with friends, meet new friends, celebrate special events or take part in one of the many sports or activities available. New members welcome.

AT A GLANCE

- Twelve tennis courts: 1 hard, 6 grass courts and 5 Tiger Turf (three of which are floodlit)
- Championship cricket pitch
- County standard bowling green
- FA-approved football pitch
- Best preserved snooker room in London

REGULAR EVENTS

(members and non-members welcome)

TENNIS – Saturday Flagship Sessions: 12.00–1.00pm, coaching for adults and children: £5

BRIDGE – Wednesday 7.25pm £2 members, £5 non-members. Friday (relaxed Bridge) 9.45am £3 members, £6 non-members.

QUIZ NIGHTS: monthly on Fridays at 8.00pm sharp. Next dates: Friday 29 June 2018 – The club is joining forces with Brentford Ladies Football Club. Friday 27 July 2018

THE PERRY CAFE

Everyone welcome (non-members included)
Treat yourself, try our ever-changing, versatile menu:

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

*Current opening hours: Monday: 10.00–2.00pm
Tuesday–Friday: 9.00am–4.30pm
Saturday & Sunday: 9.00am–3.30pm*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(members and non-members welcome)

Anyone for cricket? Come and watch county cricket for free!

- Tuesday 17 July @ 1pm – Middlesex CCC v Berkshire CCC (over 60s)
- Thursday 19 July @ 1pm – Middlesex CCC v Surrey CCC (over 50s)

World Cup Football

To be shown in the Top Bar from 14 June until 15 July

ENQUIRIES: to hire the hall or a room for an event or any general enquiry, contact the club on:

020 8997 2624 or email: marks@brenthamclub.co.uk

or visit our website www.brenthamclub.co.uk

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You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing news@brentham.com

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