



# BRENTHAM NEWS

## Chair's Notes

Summer seems to be heading into a cooler autumn regardless of warnings that the heat wave was to return. The hum of hedges being trimmed will no doubt renew after the holidays before growth of all our lush local vegetation then slows for winter. The beautiful cycle of nature carries on around us here, and in the face of global warming it is a hopeful thing to live in Brentham, where we have preserved a truly green and sustainable natural environment that was the far-sighted intention of the original designers. So many less-conserved areas are being over-built and degraded - which is an impoverishment for human beings and local wildlife. What a joy to live here where we already have a beautiful and life-enhancing environment around us.



The work of the Brentham Society carries on as usual, including responding to a variety of questions and pre-planning queries, organising annual events, publishing this Newsletter, and arranging tours for anyone from local school children to international academics.

One of the highlights is our Open Gardens Day. It is not only the interesting and lovely private gardens, it is also a showcase for the delights of being able to walk between gardens and houses via the network of public pathways, or twittens. Not only do our twittens form a green local mini-highway, they are also a work of intrinsic beauty, leading us alongside charming gardens, allotments and open spaces. For me it's a place to wander or

sit and enjoy a few moments of the restorative qualities of nature.

Several residents have contacted us about looking after and using the twittens, and we are still aiming to hold a clearing-up party to encourage and help with maintaining them.

As part of our focus on our community and the twittens as a shared amenity, we are supporting the Mayor of London's campaign to encourage the greening of London, in particular to promote the preservation of wildlife, from insect diversity (bees especially are under global threat) to hedgehogs which are suffering a drastic decline. Bio-diversity is crucial for the survival of the planet and here on Brentham we have the perfect chance to be at the forefront of all this. What child living here will not benefit and delight in encouraging hedgehogs and perhaps seeing what the Brentham beehives do? (see page 6)

Given our abundance of natural pathways criss-crossing the estate - and hedges which allow natural access for small animals - there's no reason why Brentham can't play a part in the Mayor's campaign. Please contact us if you would like to become involved.

**Gina Mallin**

## BEAT Art Trail

There's a rich selection of art on show this month throughout Ealing for two weekends: 7th to 9th and 14th to 16th September.

The work of Brentham artists will be on display at St Barnabas Church, Gunnersbury Park Museum and in Meadvale Road.

See page 3 for details.



# Happy Birthday E2 Bus

**F**or motorists, they seem to have an annoying habit of clogging up our streets but our buses provide a vital service to many residents. As the E2 bus route prepares to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 30<sup>th</sup> November, Richard Costella recalls its chequered history.

The origins of the E2 route can be traced back to October 1934, when route 97 was introduced to run between Greenford and Brentford. The double decker service went via Castlebar Hill instead of Pitshanger Lane, and it was not until April 1949 that the route was diverted to serve the estate. The 97 was extended to Ruislip in 1952.

The big change came in November 1968 as London Transport modernised its services. The Routemaster buses with conductors, which by then were operating the service, were replaced by "one man operated" single deckers. The conductor was replaced by a fare box into which a flat fare was inserted. The route was renumbered E2 in the local Ealing series, and ran as now between Greenford and Brentford.

The route had an unhappy birth. In the first few days the service disintegrated as the new longer buses were unable to negotiate the badly parked cars in Pitshanger Lane. The corner by St Barnabas Church, which at that time had no parking restrictions, was a particularly bad point. Not much changes!

Over time, summer Sunday extensions to both Syon Park and Ruislip Lido have come and gone, but the longer single deckers only lasted until 1975 when they were

replaced by one man operated double deckers. By the 1980s the service had deteriorated to a mere 3 buses per hour. However, a step change happened in November 1990 - the route was converted to minibuses and was joined by route E9. The service improved dramatically, as together these routes provided 18 buses per hour over our section.

This meant that gradually more people used the buses and soon the minibuses were no longer big enough. They were replaced, first by larger single deckers and then eventually we were back with double deckers. The service was reduced to 13 buses per hour in each direction - still better than the 8 per hour in 1949.

The route has been a success, and together routes E2 and E9 carry a total of 6.5 million passengers each year.

The current buses have a smaller footprint than those in 1968, and although they sometimes have difficulty negotiating the hazards of our narrow streets, the capacity of a double decker is needed at rush

hours to get us to and from Ealing. The service sometimes seems extravagant outside the peaks, but we all benefit from not waiting, and varying the frequency of buses throughout the day plays havoc with drivers working shifts. Scheduling extra drivers and buses for just peak hours is very expensive.

The buses brim with electronic wizardry to make the service run on time. However, traffic flows mean the age old problem of buses running in pairs still continues, so our 1968 passenger would feel very much at home.



## Front Gardens - Summer Award

**W**hat a strange year we are having on the weather front. As it had been hot and dry for several weeks, the judges' expectations were quite low, anticipating parched and frazzled plants struggling for survival. However, front gardens using pots came into their own as long as the owners were able to water them every day. And surprisingly, when we started having a proper look, we found many delightful gardens on our tour in the near-tropical heat.

The front gardens short-listed for the Summer Award are: 18 & 20 Brentham Way; 44 Denison Road; 28, 46 & 111 Fowlers Walk; 42 & 58 Holyoake Walk; 11 Ludlow Road; 1 Ruskin Gardens; 16 Woodfield Crescent.

### Time to plant bulbs...

As we move into autumn, it's time to choose your bulbs for next spring. Most bulbs should be planted in September and October but tulips should be left until November. Order early from a reputable supplier and keep them in a cool, dry place until you are ready to plant (preferably as soon as possible). The bigger and firmer the bulbs the better. It is good to concentrate on a few varieties in larger numbers if you have space, but bulbs grow really well in pots and can be put out on display during their flowering period.

According to Monty Don, bulbs are in short supply after the extreme weather, so now is the time to buy! Happy gardening!



**Vicky Snodin**

## Ealing Art Trail 7th - 9th & 14th - 16th September

This year the Ealing Art Trail - BEAT - will feature four artists from Brentnham. Two have shown before - Celia Busby whose work is on show in St Barnabas Church, and Rosanna Henderson, displaying her mosaics at her home in Meadvale Road. New to the trail this year are photographer Maggi Marmion and water-colourist Tony Herbert.



The other new Brentnham name in this year's BEAT catalogue is Tony Herbert from Brunner Road. His charming water colours will be seen in St Barnabas Church. Now in his 90s Tony has been painting for more than 70 years.

He started while a teenager and when he came out of the army in 1948 he spent the demob money on going to Ealing and St Martin's art schools.

Maggi's images span a whole range of subjects - from family portraits to architecture, and from landscapes to flowers but they are all treated in distinctive and unique ways.

Maggi says: "I spend a lot of time in my office at home in Fowlers Walk. I use Photoshop on the computer to tailor my images. It can adjust colours in infinite ways but I also use a range of filters which allow me to soften or blur parts of the image and add patterns and textures. The software can even distort the shape of objects. The end result tends to

look quite different from the original camera image."

Maggi loves visiting places that give her new opportunities and the images on the walls of her house are testament to her travels. They include a set of monochrome portraits of street musicians in New Orleans, some moody aerial pictures of London from the Shard and atmospheric views in Gunnersbury Park. The last is fitting because Maggi's pictures will be on show in the Park Museum during the BEAT weekends.



He followed a career in advertising in various London studios and worked on children's books for a number of publishers. Eventually Tony decided to go it alone and concentrate on watercolours. He found an agent, and began to exhibit in galleries in London and further afield. His subjects have led to travel in Italy, France, Wales, Suffolk and Dorset. For his outdoor subjects, he usually does pencil sketches and

makes notes about the colours. He then finishes the work back home in his studio.

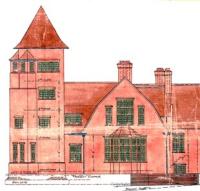
Tony says he feels very lucky to have been able to make a living doing something he loves.

For more details visit  
[www.ealingbeat.org.uk](http://www.ealingbeat.org.uk)

For a brochure contact Rosanna at  
07961 134033

## Conservation in Jeopardy

The safeguarding of valued conservation areas such as Brentham is threatened by recent events at the town hall. At an Ealing council meeting it became clear that as part of a major savings initiative, the post of Conservation Officer in the Planning Department is very likely to be lost.



Councillor Peter Mason who holds the Housing and Planning portfolio explained that with savings of more than £57 million needed, it is just one of many staffing issues that are under consideration. He said that the current arrangement in which the

Conservation officer works two days a week does not allow time for her involvement in all conservation matters, so Planning case officers are already involved. The proposal is that they should now take on all conservation issues themselves. It was pointed out that many Ealing officers already have specialist knowledge in certain areas. In some particular cases, they would look to outside specialists for advice.

Cllr Peter Mason went on to stress the importance of updating appraisals of conservation areas, as well as design guides and management plans. This will make sure that as much information about the architecture and environment is recorded, information which becomes the core reference material for any planning applications.

### The View from Brentham

Those who have had involvement in Brentham conservation are concerned that this will leave the council short of experience and expertise in historic architecture. A familiarity with the work of the various Brentham architects is needed as well as an understanding of the history of garden suburb design.

### Threat to Local Library



Another money saving proposal by Ealing Council could see the Pitshanger Lane library close when the current lease expires at the end of the year. The plan is to move the library to an alternative community location, and to staff it with volunteers.

But at a recent meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee, many spoke in defence of the library in its current location. Estate Agent John Martin said it was a vital part of life in Pitshanger Lane - which had won the 'Best High Street' competition in 2016 - and closing the library would be a terrible loss. With nearly 100,000 library visits per year the loss of footfall could be significant for traders. Residents and businesses have gathered 2000 signatures on a petition calling for the council to reconsider. Leader of the council Julian Bell explained the current operating costs were considerable and noted that co-

While the Appraisal and Management Plan and the Design Guide give a strong indication of the correct approach to conserving Brentham these documents often need knowledgeable interpretation. Planning

applications sometimes need help from an experienced conservation specialist, but it seems unlikely that



this will be sought for non-listed buildings. National policy for conservation makes it clear that the historic significance of form, architectural design and setting need to be fully understood when considering applications.

The future of conservation in Brentham will depend to a large extent on how much we as residents make sure that the council has the information needed for applications to be properly considered; and the council needs to understand that conservation is important to the residents. The work of the Panels and the Brentham Society will be particularly important as we can offer information about history and design that is not always clear in the Design Guide and Management Plan.

### Facing the Future

But those of us who have been involved in this for the past years are now getting older. We need help and we also need successors to take over—sooner rather than wait for us to walk into the sunset leaving no one with any experience of giving conservation advice.



So if you would like to make sure of the future for a conserved Brentham do consider helping the Brentham Society with this. You do not have to be an architect. You just need a good eye for design and an interest in garden suburbs, support for the principles of conservation and to be willing to give up some time for this.

siting libraries with other community centres could work well. For example, in Northolt, the library is in the leisure centre and gets more users than any other of the branch libraries in Ealing Borough.

Ideas to locate a 'community' library service at St Barnabas Church, the Methodist church or the Brentham Club had been investigated although opponents said this would not fulfil the role of the current facility. Julian Bell said they had not ruled out getting a rolling lease on the current site after the end of the year, while a full exploration of alternatives was being made.

# Open Gardens Day



*Jenny Fenton adds more colour to her open garden*

In June, thirteen Brentham gardens - a record number - opened their gates to visitors. The event is an opportunity for gardeners to showcase the results of a lot of hard work and passion they've put in over the years. For residents and friends it's a chance to pick up planting ideas and to appreciate the

sheer variety of gardens hidden in their community.

The afternoon tea, hosted by Gina & Steve Jenkins, and the plant sale on Vivian Green added further attraction.

The event raised more than £1300 for Meadow House Hospice.

Thanks to Sheila Fowler for organising the event.



If you would like to get involved next year, contact her at [sheila@brentham.com](mailto:sheila@brentham.com)

## The Chinese Visitor

There's nothing like a curious visitor from the other side of the world to remind us of the real significance of our Garden Suburb. We've seen intrepid researchers from Hawaii, from Australia, and it happened again in July when a Chinese man turned up on Pat and Geoff Baxendale's doorstep in Ludlow Road. They had no idea who he was. It turned out that he had



been admiring Brentham houses and a kindly local had suggested visiting Geoff and Pat because of their knowledge of Brentham's architecture and history. He identified himself as Professor Weimin Que, from the World Heritage Research Centre, College of Urban and Environment Sciences, Peking University. A long trail had led him to Brentham.

He first came to the UK 18 years ago to study Historical Geography at Cambridge, then returned in 2013 to attend a conference on Industrial Heritage at Ironbridge. Weimin explained that the story of industrial development is an important one for China.

But as he studied further, on later visits he followed the links between the Industrial Revolution, urbanisation and the crisis in city housing. This in turn led to the

## Strawberry Tea

The superb garden of Diana Hill in Winscombe Crescent was the venue for this year's event. Luckily it's one of the largest gardens in Brentham - because a higher than usual number of residents and guests attended. They included several Ealing councillors and the deputy Mayor, as well as local MPs Rupa Huq and Stephen Pound - who were in jaunty mood.

New child friendly attractions included face painting by a very patient Adel Golding.

Thanks to organisers Ann Wolf and Lynn Burdett and to Diana for the use of her garden.



efforts at the end of the 19th century to improve workers' housing away from the smoke and grime.

Garden Cities were one of the these initiatives. Weimin decided to track down all 57 Garden Cities and suburbs in the country. Eventually he reached Brentham.

As he admired our distinctive architecture and green spaces, Weimin stressed that the whole subject of improving living environments is now a vital subject back home, given the worsening problems of pollution in Chinese cities.

With a new copy of the definitive Brentham book in his bag, the Professor thanked the Baxendales, bade farewell, and was last seen heading for the GWR estate in West Acton...

## Bees of Brentham

**A**round eight years ago Donal McGinty, who lives in Ludlow Road, decided he would like to keep bees. And, as Pooh memorably tells us, the only reason for being a bee is to make honey, so Donal now makes quite a lot of honey.

Having bought his first colony in 2010, he now knows a great deal about what has become a productive hobby. “In my first year I was just building up the colony - the following year I had 25 pounds of honey!”

He now has five hives – two in his garden and the others in nearby gardens and allotments. To approach them, it’s on with the protective outfit and out with the ‘smoker’.

Donal explains, “Smoke calms the bees. It makes them think there’s an emergency, maybe a forest fire, and they prepare to evacuate the colony. They start to feed on honey before they leave and this has two effects. It keeps them distracted and calm while the beekeeper invades their home and it also fills up their abdomen so that it becomes less flexible. It means it’s harder to bend their bodies round to inflict a sting.”



Next the lid comes off the hive, and Donal carefully extracts one of the frames – it’s covered with female worker bees and dripping with honey. Each tiny wax cell, built by the bees themselves, is full and most are capped off by more wax.

Donal reveals another surprise: “The cells all look perfectly horizontal - but they’re not. They are angled upwards at 8 degrees so that the honey doesn’t flow out as they’re filling them up.

It takes 12 bees, their life’s work, to make a teaspoon of honey. If you do the maths there’s been over a million bees in this hive over the summer!

“Each layer of the hive is similar, but the bottom layer is very special. It’s the brood chamber where the single queen bee is busy laying eggs and making more bees. She is supported by the male drones. There’s even a ‘queen excluder’ between the bottom layer and the upper ones so the queen doesn’t go laying eggs in amongst the honey.”

The worker bees do all the foraging and return with nectar for making honey and pollen to feed the young bees. “I’ve seen pollen of many different colours – orange, yellow, white or brown – depending on where the bees forage. The great thing here in leafy Brentham is they have a huge variety of plants and trees to go to. That choice also means the foraging season is longer as plants tend to bloom at different times. Some people put hives in say, a field of rape, where there’ll be good foraging - but only for 2 or 3 weeks. My bees can forage from March to September.”

The benefit for those with fruit trees or vegetables in the locality has been spectacular. Because the bees pollinate the plants they visit they are likely to produce much more fruit. Donal’s neighbours have reported increased yields of pears, beans, courgettes and many other crops in their allotments.

Donal says: “I have a deal with neighbours where I place colonies. They let me put in my hive and they get free pollination of their trees and plants - and I also give them a few pounds of honey at the end of the year!”

Donal is always looking for places to put hives, but they do need to be accessible, say an allotment or back garden with side access, and not in reach of children.



*Pollen carried on bee's legs*

**Martin Mortimore**

## The Brentham Club

Those of us who are members of the Brentham Club will probably have seen the outline plans for a major redevelopment of the grounds and the clubhouse, whose objective is to put the Club on a firm financial footing for the future. The next phase in the development process is to discuss these plans with Ealing Council, and get their input. Then will follow a public consultation and finally a formal application for permission to proceed.

It is not clear quite how far this process has got, but certainly the public consultation has not taken place. The hawk-eyed team at Brentham News is on full alert.



Meanwhile, as mentioned on Page 4, one interesting suggestion has been made to relocate the Pitshanger Lane Library in the Brentham Clubhouse. It would be an ideal place: there used to be a library there - now the main bar - and the Brentham archive is located there, except for some items held in the main Ealing library. On both counts, we can but watch and wait.

*Clive Evans*

## OH Open House London

### Brentham Tours 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Learn about the estate's history and architecture with **Clive Evans**. The walks start from the Club at 10.30 am and are a must for visitors and all new residents.



Screenings are in St Barnabas Millennium Hall.

12 September	<b>Girls Rising</b> (PG)	8.15 pm
15 September	<b>To Sir with Love &amp; What we did on our Holiday</b> (PG)	7 pm
19 September	<b>Golden Years</b> (15)	2 pm *
23 September	<b>Un Ballo in Maschera</b> (E)	7 pm with supper from 6 pm
10 October	<b>Even When I Fall</b> (12a)	8.15 pm
14 October	<b>Tosca</b> (E)	7 pm with supper from 6 pm
17 October	<b>Funny Face</b> (PG)	2 pm *
31 October	<b>Metropolis</b> (PG)	8 pm

\* For those looking for something to do during the day, our *Silver Screen* films start at 2 pm on the third Wednesday of every month, usually in the church, though occasionally in the hall. Tea and biscuits will be served and a small charge of £4 made to cover costs. See the programme above for details. There will be a chance to help choose films for future screenings.

## Invasion by Moth

Residents surrounding the fine oak tree on Denison/Ludlow Green were dismayed to discover that processionary moths had built nests there. There has been a significant outbreak of such nests in Greater London this year, and the authorities have an action plan to control them.

The caterpillars build a nest high up in the tree, and rest there during the day. At night they emerge and move about in a head-to-tail formation, which gives them their name. They are a concern for two reasons: one, they can damage a tree severely – there are



thousands of them and they eat its leaves; two, the caterpillars have long hairs which can produce a nasty rash on people and animals. The hairs remain active even when they are shed and lying on the ground.

This outbreak was dealt with by a qualified firm, who removed three nests and have left the tree in a healthy condition. If you live near an oak tree, you should look for the nests and report them at once via the Forestry Commission website: [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

## Box Tree Caterpillar

This is another pest to worry about if you have box trees or hedges. They eat the leaves and have recently done damage in Ludlow Road.

Gardeners are likely to become aware of an attack when they find webbing and caterpillars eating the leaves of box plants. They were not found in private gardens



until 2011 but they have since become widespread in London and the surrounding area.

The pupae are concealed in a cocoon of white webbing spun among leaves and twigs

The adult moth usually has white wings with a faintly iridescent brown border.

Affected plants may also show patches of dieback which may be especially apparent on trimmed plants. This is not to be confused with dieback caused by the disease known as box blight.

It may be best to think twice before installing box hedging at the moment.

Advice can be found on the Royal Horticultural Society website: [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

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## The Brentham Club

38A Meadvale Road, W5 1NP Telephone: 020 8997 2624 [www.brenthamclub.co.uk](http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk)

Set in 12 acres of wonderful green space, the Club offers sporting and social opportunities for everyone - Tennis, Cricket, Football, Bowls, Snooker, Bridge and Darts, or you may just wish to relax with friends over lunch in the café or a drink in the bar. It's a great venue and perfect for weddings, parties or special events.

Why not check us out – come to the Club for a free tour. We'd like all local residents to be members of the club. You can join today via the link on the club website: [www.brenthamclub.co.uk](http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk)

### COME AND TRY...

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

BOWLS – Tuesdays & Fridays, 9.45–12.00: try-out sessions, £2.00 non-members

BRIDGE – Wednesday, 7.15pm: £2 members; £5 non-members. Friday, 9.45am: £3 members; £6 non-members

Weekly Yoga, Art and French classes

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 21 September – Open Mic Night

Sunday 23 September – Brentham 5km Run

Friday 28 September – Brentham Beer Festival

Saturday 6 October – 70s Vinyl Night

Saturday 3 November – Fireworks Night

Friday 23 November – Comedy Night

Saturday 8 December – Michael Jackson Tribute Act

Details/tickets see Events link on: [www.brenthamclub.co.uk](http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk)

## The Perry Café

Everyone welcome – current opening times:

Monday: 10.00–2.00pm

Tuesday–Friday: 9.00am–4.30pm

Saturday & Sunday: 9.00am–3.30pm

**ENQUIRIES:** For general enquiries, contact Mark Saggers on 020 8997 2624; email [marks@brenthamclub.co.uk](mailto:marks@brenthamclub.co.uk) or go to [www.brenthamclub.co.uk](http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk)

For hall/room hire or to book an event, email [events@brenthamclub.co.uk](mailto:events@brenthamclub.co.uk)

Published by The Brentham Society [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com)

Printed by Colormax West Ealing W13 OSR

You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing [news@brentham.com](mailto:news@brentham.com)

The next edition is due out in February 2019

