



ISSUE 197 - FEBRUARY 2020

DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF BRENTHAM GARDEN SUBURB
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BRENTHAM NEWS

Brentham Society's 50th Anniversary

Fifty years is a long time in the life of a Garden Suburb and since the Brentham Society was launched, much has been achieved, and I think we have reason to be proud.

Many residents have come and gone, although quite a few remain who can remember those heady days when Conservation Areas didn't exist. It is of course a tribute to how well we have kept our little corner of Ealing that many people do not want to leave.

In this edition we have listed just some of the milestones in the life of the Brentham Society and it makes impressive reading. Some of the events have been instrumental in keeping the Brentham charm intact; others have been aimed at telling the world about that charm.

But of course in half a century we cannot pretend nothing has changed. We tend to live our lives differently today. We just seem to be busier and some of the social activities we organised in the early years of the society are less popular today. But the vital planning work continues, helping residents with advice when considering changes to their property.

Brentham May Day 2020 Saturday 9th May



Enrolment of children wishing to take part will be on **Sunday 29th March** from 4 - 6 pm, in the main hall of the Brentham Club. To ensure the event is open to as many children in the local area as possible, instead of Thursday afternoons, rehearsals will now take place on Sundays from 4 - 6 pm at the Brentham Club.

The enrolment fee is £15 per child. Please contact Pat Chapman on 07740 464137 or patricia9@sky.com if you are willing to help with this event or require any further information.

The achievements of the last 50 years are thanks to the dedication and commitment of a band of volunteers and if we are to keep up the good work in the next half century, we will need more committee members and helpers. If you have a skill that could be useful and are able to spare some time please get in touch and do come to our AGM on March 3rd.

To survive, the Brentham Society really does need people to contribute to keeping this place the adorable little architectural and environmental gem that it is.

I'm very pleased that Steve Pound will be speaking at the AGM. He is knowledgeable, always entertaining, and has a real interest in community. He has always been a regular at our annual Strawberry Teas, and I hope he will continue to join us there even if he has now hung up his MP's hat.

This AGM will be my last as Chair but I'm confident the Brentham Society will remain in safe hands. Please remember to keep up your membership because the strength of the Society ultimately comes from our members.

Gina Mallin, Chair of The Brentham Society



The Brentham Society AGM

will be held at 8pm at the Brentham Club

Tuesday 3rd March



Steve Pound

The distinguished recently-retired politician shares some reflections on the occasion of our 50th anniversary.

Front Gardens Competition 2019 - The Winners

The Front Gardens Committee had another good year looking at all the Brentham Gardens in a variety of weathers.

ROSE BOWL AND SPRING AWARD

Winner: 26 Ludlow Road - Mandy and Peter Walker.

We always stop to admire this very well maintained front garden whatever the season. The attractive design is simple with a curved path, pots of colourful plants by the front door and a gravel area with a large grouping of pots at its centre. An unusual and stylish spring display was dominated by shades of red and purple - dark red berberis, bright red tulips and pots of dark primula by the front door were just some of the plants during the spring. When we visited in high summer the garden was full of colour; purple buddleia and blue agapanthus were highlights. It was a gorgeous sight even in the rain. It still looked a picture at the end of October with a mainly red and white theme; 26 Ludlow Road is an absolute treat throughout the year. Mandy and Peter are well-deserved winners of the Spring and the Rose Bowl awards for 2019.



44 Denison Road

SUMMER AWARD

Winner: 27 Woodfield Crescent - Richard Tymkiw.

Although this front garden is comparatively small it packed a punch in the summer with abundant pots filled with pelargoniums, cosmos of various shades and blowsy pale orange begonias. More pale begonias flowered in window boxes and colourful petunias adorned a hanging basket by the front door. Every inch is utilized - an enchanting front garden in full summer bloom.

AUTUMN AWARD

Winner: 44 Denison Road - Tonia and Simeon Gann

This garden is always impressive in the autumn and was bursting with colour at the end of October. Deep red hydrangea blooms, large spiky white dahlia flowers and pink nerines, amongst others, were still at their peak. A sumptuous autumnal scene with an abundance of foliage to complement the large swathes of flowering plants. Runners-up for the Autumn Award: 20 Brentham Way, 38 Fowlers Walk, 33 Holyoake Walk, 44 Holyoake Walk, 5 Ludlow Road, 10 Ludlow Road, 47 Meadvale Road, 10 Neville Road, 1 Ruskin Gardens.

Note: Runners-up for the Spring and Summer Awards were listed in previous editions of Brentham News. Many congratulations to all the 2019 winners. The Awards will be presented at the AGM on 3rd March.

Vicky Snodin, Sue Hulme & Laura Mackiewicz

Garden Designer Celebrates 90th Birthday

Pam Turner, who recently celebrated her 90th Birthday, has a special connection with Brentham. She has loved the estate since moving to Ludlow Road in 1974 and has always supported The Brentham Society, serving as Chair in 1978 and 1984-5. But it was her profession as a garden designer that made her particularly suited to life here.

Pam qualified and practised as an architect but began to change direction when her practice started doing garden design. She was also influenced by an aunt. "She had a beautiful garden in Tadworth which first inspired me. It was the architectural sense of it that appealed to me. But it's the gardens of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens that I have admired more than any others. I think Hestercombe is marvellous"

Pam soon was involved in laying out several large gardens - one client even wanted a swimming pond, which combined aquatic plants with bathing.

She also designed several Brentham gardens - including a corner plot in Fowlers Walk and the open area encircled by houses near the top of Winscombe Crescent.

We wish her well in her 91st year.



Pam explains plans for a Fowlers Walk garden



Nature Notes

by Emmy Azimi (aged 11)



The World of Bees

Beans are an important part of our lives. Without them we would die within 4 years. This shows how important they are. Scientists don't really know how many there are because there are too many to count, but they do know that there are far fewer than there used to be. Let's discover why and what we can all do to help them on the Brentham Garden Estate.

We normally see bees in summer, however many are alive all year round. In winter some species hibernate, which means they take cover from the cold winter and sleep, but some die leaving only the queen alive. Every beehive has a queen bee. The queen bee is the leader and the most important bee in the whole hive. Other bees leave eggs and larvae which grow into bees in the spring.

Bees are an important part of our life because as they fly from one plant to another, gathering nectar, they pollinate plants. Pollination is what happens for plants to grow more plants and produce food for people, animals and other insects. Bees do this by moving pollen between different flowering plants. If they don't do this there will be no more food for anyone. We can't do this with machines.

There are two main reasons scientists think the bees are dying. The first is climate change. The world is becoming too warm. Burning petrol in our cars and fuel on planes is making gases that help make our planet hotter. The second is using chemicals to kill insects which eat our vegetables and flowers. Some of the most dangerous chemicals have now been banned as they were killing the bees as well as the bad bugs.

However, it's not too late to change and for us to help the bees. If we all do things like walking instead of driving, we will use less fossil fuel which means less heating up of the environment. You maybe don't think what little you do will make a difference but if we all do these things together it will! We can walk, cycle or go by bus more instead of driving whenever we can, like to Pitshanger Lane, our school and seeing our friends. It will also help you stay fit.



Don't put chemicals on your plants to kill slugs and bugs, and create a little wildlife area with lots of different kinds of plants, including those with flowers in autumn and winter.

Bees still need flowers when it is cold so that they can collect pollen to feed the young larvae to stay alive. Also, having an area of your garden which isn't tidy but has wild flowers can help the bees (and the hedgehogs need these too). Finally, try buying honey made locally. Did you know that you can buy honey made in Ealing and on the Brentham Estate? The honey is made from local flowers in our gardens and does not have to travel far to be in our shops. It is delicious!

You will feel a rush of emotions, if the bees die out.

I especially know that I would feel heart-broken. This is because they're not replaceable like a toy or a game. You would be upset and worried because the world can't survive without them.

Let's save the bees and the environment. A lot of effort goes a very long way.



Illustration by Olivia Sanandres, aged 10

Brentham Honey is available from bees@brentham.com

Street Lighting Brightness

The street lighting department of Ealing Council is continuing to replace the current warm orange coloured lights in Brentham with much more efficient LED lamps. Some residents have pointed out that these new lights are much whiter in colour and also much brighter. Jarvis Millwood from Ealing Council explains that the colour can't be changed - white LEDs are more



at

efficient than warmer coloured ones - but the lamp brightness can be adjusted. It's just that engineers usually wait until a group of new lamps has been installed before fine tuning the brightness down to normal operating level. As we've noted before, the brightness is knocked down to 75% at 10 pm and again down to 50% at midnight to save energy.

50 YEARS OF THE BRENTHAM SOCIETY

O rigins

In 1967 the Brentham Garden Suburb had existed for more than 50 years and not much had changed in that time. Barbara Murray, who has lived in Winscombe Crescent since 1922 remembers: "In the early days, most houses were owned by Ealing Tenants and its successors. But as houses were sold off some residents were making changes that affected the look of the place.

Some were turning their front gardens into car parks, or putting in picture windows, even cutting down hedges because it was too much trouble to keep clipping it."

But the passing of the Civic Amenities act in 1967 made way for the creation of Conservation Areas. Local Councils were encouraged to nominate suitable areas and in Ealing, Brentham was one of the first to be identified. Tony Scanlan who lived in Brentham recalls: "My father Frank was in the Ealing Civic Society and they were

advising the Council on which places to choose, and in 1969 Brentham became one of the first CAs in Ealing and in fact one of the first in the country." It was at the Civic Society that Tony met architect Clive Hicks, another Brentham resident. Together with other interested residents, such as Brian Fallon (see page 6) they had already seen that if residents were allowed to do anything they liked to their house, the unity of the estate would be lost. They needed to establish a society that would help put Conservation into practice, and in March 1970 the inaugural meeting launched the Brentham Society with 137 members.

Barbara Murray recalls: "It was delightfully vague at the start. People had tended to think 'this is my house, I can do what I like with it', and at first people thought they weren't able to do anything – you'd have to ask before you put a new doorknob on. Then they realised it wasn't quite like that but it took a while for residents to get used to it. I think the BS has been very successful. I dread to think what the estate would look like if it hadn't existed."

M ilestones

1970

Founding of the Brentham Society at a meeting at the Brentham Club and first edition of Brentham News.

1971 - 1976

The Society successfully opposes several proposed building developments: on Brentham Meadows, on allotments behind Holyoake Walk and on Brentham Club land immediately behind Meadvale Road.

1976

Article 4 Direction granted after persistent lobbying, gives Brentham added conservation protection - most significantly to the backlands.

1981

Annual Strawberry Tea started in the garden of Barbara Murray's house in Winscombe Crescent.

1987

Tree fund appeal replaces the 60+ trees lost in the Great Storm of that year.

1988

Brentham Society joins with Ealing Council to preserve the estate's Edward VII & George V pillar boxes.



A Newsletter will be produced at intervals and distributed to all members of the Brentham Society. The first copies are being distributed to all residents of the Brentham Garden Estate, whether or not they have chosen to join the Society.

The Brentham Society was formed at a public meeting on 10th March, 1970, at which the following Steering Committee was elected:

Mr. Clive Hicks,	72 Brentham Way
Miss M. Tims,	137 Fowlers Walk
Mr. C. Higgins,	18 Budlow Road
Mrs. M. Aarens,	8 Winscombe Crescent
Mrs. J. Irvine,	38 Meadvale Road
Mr. A. Scanlan,	3 Winscombe Crescent
Mr. A. Oliver,	48 Denison Road
Mr. B. Fallon,	12 Winscombe Crescent

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Brentham Society is an independent body and membership is open to all residents (whether house-owners or tenants) of the Brentham Garden Estate, the boundaries of which are as specified in the Ealing Council's Report on Conservation Areas.



1990s

Many new community events organised including a Family Picnic, Sports Days and Family Cycle Rides.



1998

First guided walks of Brentham offered on London Open House day. Many other guided tours are conducted in the years since.



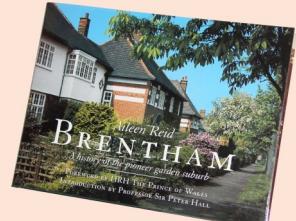
1999

First Open Gardens Day - one of several events to raise funds for the centenary book project.



2001

Brentham: a history of the pioneer garden suburb published to great acclaim thanks to Lottery grants and a 'Co- Partnership Share' scheme that raised £15,000 locally.



The book's many offshoots include the sale of house plans to residents, an enhanced archive and the start of the Brentham website.



2001

Centenary celebrations including a party with games and Edwardian costumes on Denison-Ludlow green.



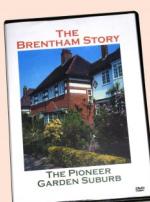
2005

Brentham website redesigned with a 'virtual tour' of the estate, using a photographic survey of every building undertaken by resident Wendy Sender.



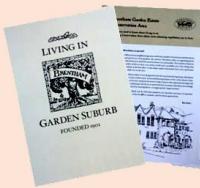
2006

Launch of a 70-minute DVD *The Brentham Story* produced by resident Martin Mortimore.



2010

'Living in Brentham' packs full of planning and other information delivered to all households and subsequently to all new residents.



2010-II

New 'traditional' style street lights installed in consultation with the Brentham Society.



2012

English Heritage Blue Plaque installed on 223 Pitshanger Lane for Fred Perry after a long campaign.



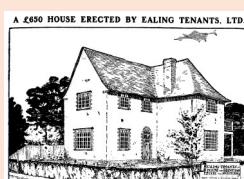
2012-14

New & refurbished street names in the original style installed to replace unsuitable modern ones.



2014

Work starts on digitising the Brentham Archive containing 100 years of history.



2015

With the advent of wheelie bins, a Brentham team led by Adel Golding organises the provision of smaller bins for residents who want them.



2018

After submissions by the Society, Brentham voted into the top ten of *England's Favourite Conservation Areas* in a Civic Voice competition with hundreds of entrants.



2019

Brentham on TV. Vivian Green plays host to Keeley Hawes and others for filming major BBC Drama: Stephen Poliakoff's *Summer of Rockets*.



Brian Fallon

We pay tribute to a staunch supporter of Brentham

Brian Fallon, a founder-member of the Brentham Society and a key figure in the life of Brentham who liked nothing better than stopping for a chat on his perambulations round the estate, died in September last year just a few days short of his 89th birthday. Through these chats, Brian introduced many people to the work of the Society and – more importantly – got them involved. Soon after we moved here in 1987 Brian stopped to talk to me in my front garden and persuaded me to write a piece for *Brentham News* about my first impressions of the place. That was just the start...



The seventh child of eight, Brian was born in Stoke on Trent in 1930. After National Service in the Navy on troopships during the Korean War he signed up for a further seven years, based in Portsmouth. While on holiday in Guernsey he met Thelma at a hotel dance. She was 16

and on holiday with a school-friend and her mother – the first time away from her home in Portsmouth: “I thought he was quite exotic. My parents were appalled – a sailor! If you grew up in Portsmouth your parents’ duty was to protect you from sailors!” However, Brian later developed a close relationship with Thelma’s father. She recalls: “Brian’s father died when he was 13 and my father lost my older brother who died at 16. So my dad and Brian formed a sort of father-son bond. Together, they spent many happy hours peering into engines!”

The courtship continued while Thelma was at London University studying psychology and they married in 1956. Two children, Jane and Nick, followed. After coming out of the Navy Brian joined Esso, negotiating contracts with Cunard and the many Greek shipowners then ubiquitous in London. He stayed at Esso for the rest of his career until his early retirement in 1982. Brian and Thelma had moved to Winscombe Crescent in 1965 during the DIY boom when ‘home improvement’ meant ripping out original features and replacing Brentham’s distinctive small-paned windows with plate glass. Brian soon recognised that the charm, character and integrity of the estate was at risk of being destroyed. After Brentham became a Conservation Area, he joined

Clive Hicks, Tony Scanlan and others in working to persuade residents that conservation would enhance the environment and property values. These efforts culminated in the forming of The Brentham Society. Brian followed Clive as the Society’s second Chairman in 1972 and successfully lobbied for the further protection of Article IV Direction, finally granted in 1976. He returned to the Chair in 1986 for another three-year term. During his tenure the Society was able to stop the Post Office removing its original Edward VII & George V post-boxes and, led by Audrey Jones, oversaw the replanting of the estate with trees after the Great Storm of 1987. One of Brian’s special interests was making contact with other conservation estates and he organised successful exchange visit with Hampstead and other garden suburbs.

Making the most of a long retirement, Brian had many other interests. He started an informal walking group that ‘just grew’ to include local residents of many different nationalities, many of whom he met through Ealing Abbey where he and Thelma were active members. Winscombe Crescent resident Louise Honan joined some of these walks and remembers Brian’s “lovely warm welcome” to her and all newcomers. She also recalls him taking up position in the porch of the Abbey greeting everyone as they came in to Mass. Later, when poor health restricted his mobility, he enjoyed creating beautiful polished stones and ornamental candles. But his preference was always to be out and about talking to people. Latterly, he was able to satisfy his gregarious nature by holding court next door in Diana Hill’s splendid garden at Open Gardens Day, making sure he chatted to residents old and young, familiar and new. That is how many of us will remember Brian, someone who contributed so much to the conservation and life of Brentham over more than 50 years.

Sue Elliott



Help Wanted



The Brentham Society is in need of more volunteers. They are not very onerous jobs but are vital to keep current projects on track. If you have spare time and would like to support your community, please contact secretary@brentham.com

Brentham Society Membership

Subscriptions for 2020 (£5 per household) can be paid, along with any donation you wish to make, to Mike Gandon at 73 Brentham Way. Subs can also be paid online by BACS - known as Faster Payments - to CAF bank, Brentham Society account, Sort Code: 40-52-40 A/C No: 00019660. Please include house number and street in the payee reference.

Planning News

Following a recent conservation appraisal by Ealing Council, work is now progressing on an updated design guide for Brentham. This will set down some of the factors to take on board when considering changes to your Brentham house. Because of the varied architectural styles found in different parts of the estate, it can be slightly more complicated than might be imagined.



Take windows for example. They are one of the key architectural features of Brentham houses and changing their appearance can radically alter the essence of a Brentham house - which is why the Brentham Society cares so much about them.

There is a wide variety of window shapes and sizes and any repairs or replacements have to be carefully matched to the original style for the house, or in many cases, to the style of the terrace of which the house is part.

Recently, there has been a lot of interest in new double glazed units to replace the single glazed panes. This has

been approved in some instances but that does not mean it will necessarily be suitable in every case. It can depend on the position of the window, and most importantly, on the precise nature of the glass and the care with which the window frames are detailed to match the originals.

There are unusual and distinct window details that need to be carefully copied when designing double-glazed units. One such example is windows with split transoms, to be found in many Brentham houses.



This is where the top light closes against the top of the lower casement instead of against a fixed transom. Woodwork of these window frames needs special care to faithfully match the original.

If we sometimes feel frustrated by the effort needed to care for our windows, we should bear in mind just how much they contribute to the visual appeal of our houses.

Whatever the proposed change to a Brentham house, the secret is to get accurate drawings made before applying for planning permission and to ensure the changes are carried out in accordance with those drawings.

When the new Design Guide is complete we plan to provide copies to every Brentham household.



Screenings are in St Barnabas Millennium Hall.

9 Feb	Macbeth (Verdi) (E)	7 pm (supper 6 pm)
12 Feb	C'est La Vie (15)	8.15 pm
19 Feb	Guys and Dolls (PG)	2pm in Church
26 Feb	The Keeper (15)	8.15 pm
4 Mar	Amazing Grace (U)	8.15 pm
11 Mar	Monsignor Quixote (PG)	8.15 pm
18 Mar	Oliver (U)	2 pm in Church
21 Mar	The Phantom of the Opera (12)	7.30 pm In the church with live organ accompaniment
25 Mar	Wild Rose (15)	8.15 pm
1 Apr	Slack Bay (15)	8.15 pm
15 Apr	Singin' in the Rain (U)	2 pm
22 Apr	Microcosmos (U)	8.15 pm

Show off your Brentham Garden

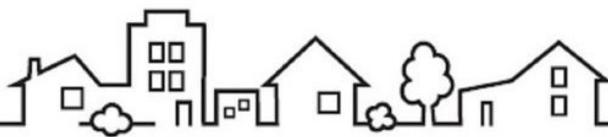


**Open Gardens Day
Sunday 14th June.**

This is an opportunity to see some delightful gardens that are normally hidden from sight, and for gardeners, it's a chance to let others enjoy the results of your hard work, planning and planting.

Anyone wishing to open their garden should contact Teresa Broome at teresa@brentham.com

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and come along to the

The Fred Perry Café

for tea, coffee, milk shakes, soft drinks, soup, lunches, sandwiches, paninis and cookies and cakes

WHAT'S ON *at a glance*

Fri 7 February	OPEN MIC NIGHT 8.00pm, Top Bar <i>(free entry for members and visitors)</i>
Sun 9 February	SUNDAY ROASTS! <i>(New for 2020)</i> 12.00–3.00pm, Fred Perry Café/Top Bar
Fri 28 February	QUIZ NIGHT – 8.00pm, Top Bar
Sat 21 March	SILENT DISCO – 8.00pm, Hall <i>tickets at: www.ticketor.com/brenthamclub</i>
Thurs 26 March	AGM – 8.00pm, Hall
Fri 27 March	QUIZ NIGHT – 8.00pm, Top Bar

*See website for details: www.brenthamclub.co.uk
Telephone: 020 8997 2624*

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

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