



ISSUE 199 - SEPTEMBER 2020

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

BRENTHAM NEWS



Brentham Unlocked

I concluded my last Chair's notes with 'How lucky we are to live in this wonderful suburb' and of course it's still true. But fortunate as we may be, it is not just through luck that Brentham is a wonderful suburb. It is made wonderful by the community that live within it along with its enviable physical features. The community spirit has been so prevalent during these extraordinary times and I'm sure we could all give examples – picking up prescriptions for others, dropping off food or just having a socially distanced chat in the front garden.

In a more modern twist, social media has also helped. My road, like many others, now has its own WhatsApp group, ensuring we continue to look out for vulnerable residents whilst sharing other important issues, such as how many times does Thames Water need to dig up the same Brentham roads to fix the same leaks?!

Back in March, a lovely resident in our group suggested giving out sunflower seeds so we could enjoy nurturing them during lockdown and look forward to splendid blooms. So, six months later - and six feet higher - I have pictured mine.

My snapshot may not be a prize winner but many photographs did win in the Brentham Gardens Photo Competition which ran over the summer. The results are shown in this edition.

And so to those enviable physical aspects of our estate; one of which is the varied and extensive collection of trees that adorn all the pavements. They absorb CO₂, provide homes to many types of birds and also shed leaves! The July heatwave has given us an early Autumn preview with many leaves dropping early.

I'm sure many of you supported the Lane restaurants and enjoyed the recent Eat Out to Help Out initiative and in the same spirit I would like to propose the Brentham Sweep Out to Help Out. In the continued absence of council sweepers or the provision of leaf sacks by them, let us wield our brooms out the front of our

houses and get sweeping! Hopefully neighbours with spare space in their green bins can accommodate some autumn leaves and keen sweepers can cover more than just their frontage to improve the roads and pavements for residents who are unable to sweep.

But of course the architecture of our Brentham houses is the more obvious physical aspect and the Brentham Society continues to provide (free of charge) planning advice for all residents. Please do use this service before considering work on your property. Contraventions of planning guidelines such as the installation of plastic windows are reported, and enforced by Ealing council. In this edition committee member Steve Jenkins has written about Brentham as a 'Work of Art', and I would add that a number of unsuitable changes, each one small in itself, can have an adverse effect on the overall 'painting'.

So let's ensure Brentham remains a masterpiece!

Jo Bradley



GARDENS and PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS

We are in the habit of celebrating the 'Garden' part of our estate's name and this time we have even more reason to. The winning pictures are featured on pages 2 - 4, more are on Brentham notice boards, and even more on brentham.com.



Photo: Margaret Barfield

Garden & Photo Competition

CELEBRATING A GREAT COMMUNITY SUCCESS

We are thrilled to announce that the Brentham Garden and Photography Competition 2020 has exceeded its fund-raising target of £1,000. The total sum raised for Ealing Foodbank was £1,420! Thank you so much to everyone who entered the competition and to all who donated. Janet Fletcher from Ealing Foodbank said: "Well done to everyone, that is absolutely fantastic". There are many local families who are struggling and our donations will really help. They will be publishing one of our winning photos on their Instagram account.

After a rather slow start with competition entries we had a large flurry of entries in the last couple of weeks. There were so many lovely photos of all sorts it was difficult to choose, but we are delighted to announce the winners.

ADULT ANIMALS AND INSECTS

WINNER: Ben Gale

2nd Regina Jenkins

3rd Steve Jenkins

HIGHLY COMMENDED: John Benson,
Sarah Lawson, Lorna Causton

ADULT FLOWERS

WINNER: Teresa Mazur

2nd Margaret Barfield

3rd Gina Mallin

HIGHLY COMMENDED: John Benson, Jenny Fenton,
Jacqueline Shakespeare, Louise Fernandes-Owen

ADULT FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

WINNER: Steve Jenkins

2nd Teresa Mazur

3rd Tamara Colton

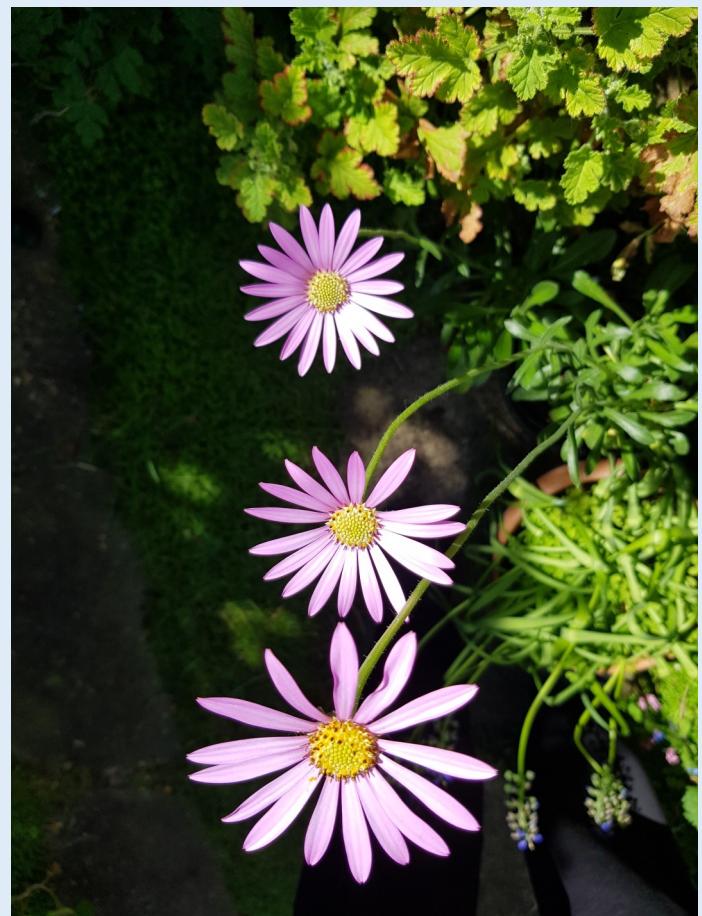
HIGHLY COMMENDED: Catherine Irwin-Childs



Adult Animal Winner: Ben Gale



Adult Fruit Winner: Steve Jenkins



Adult Flower Winner: Teresa Mazur

CHILDREN ANIMALS AND INSECTS

WINNER: Keana Acorn

CHILDREN FLOWERS

WINNER: Keana Acorn

2nd Ellie Golding

3rd Lucien Taylor

Honourable Mentions go to Graham Reid, Greg Swarbrick and Edmund Reid who submitted some brilliant photos in the Adult and Child Photo Categories but unfortunately do not live on the Brentham Estate!



Children's Animals Winner: Keana Acorn



Children's Flowers Winner: Keana Acorn

GARDENS CATEGORIES

FRONT GARDENS

WINNER: Ted Neye

2nd Kelvin Meredith

3rd Tamara Colton

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Simeon and Tonia Gann, Sally Lamond

BACK GARDENS

WINNER: Lindsey Parfitt

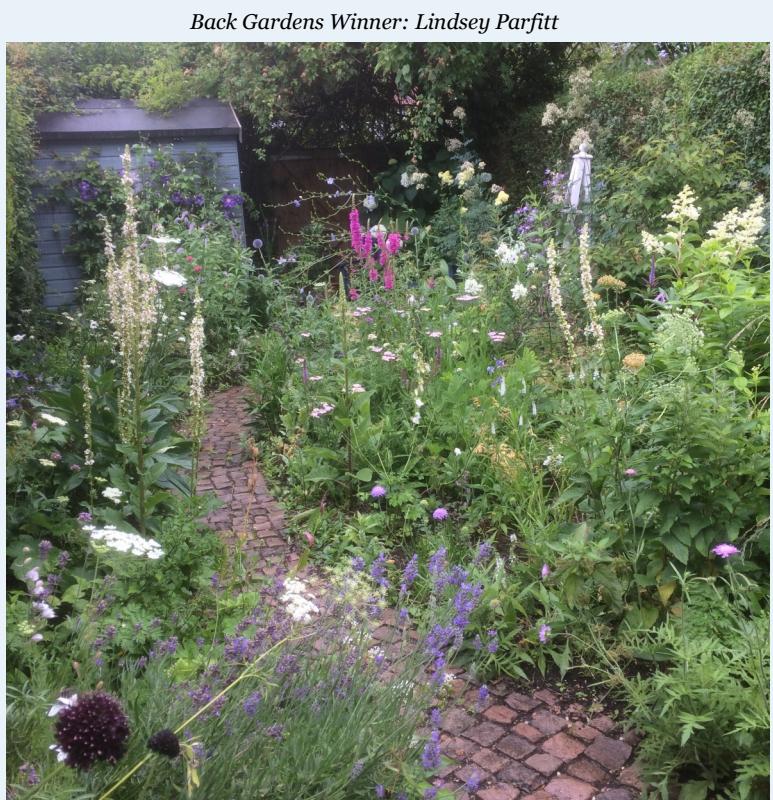
2nd Janet Ballard

3rd Simeon and Tonia Gann

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Lorna Causton, Jurek Narozanski and Kelvin Meredith



Front Gardens Winner: Ted Neye



Back Gardens Winner: Lindsey Parfitt



It was wonderful to see the diversity of gardens, plants, produce and wildlife on our estate in these very strange times. How very lucky we are to be living here in 2020. It was very heartening to see the Brentham Community come together to celebrate the Brentham Estate and to help others in our local area. Thank you to everyone who participated and special thanks to those who devoted so much time and energy to organising the Competition.

Vicky Snodin

Antisocial Behaviour on the Greens



As sorry consequence of the sunny summer weather, combined with the coronavirus measures, has been an increase in anti-social behaviour on both Vivian Green and Denison Ludlow Green. This invariably involves the use of marijuana or silver canisters of nitrous oxide; the latter is gaining favour among the young because it is readily available, being used in cookery as well as in pain relief. Apparently it has been a recreational drug since it was discovered in the 18th century and used by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Whichever drug is used, the debris is left behind for someone else to clear up.

Mostly the young people involved have been willing to move along, but there have been some ugly incidents involving large groups, led by older youths. Understandably, this has led to demands from locals for a gate across the entrance to Denison-Ludlow Green from Pitshanger Lane, which would be a pity – closing off a pleasant open space because of the actions of a few young people.

We have discussed this issue with both the Hanger Hill and the Cleveland Neighbourhood Police who confirm that overall Brentham is a low crime area, but they have asked for extra patrols in this neighbourhood. Their advice is to call 101 when an incident is ongoing, or to report it later via the Met Police website. They do not advise confronting the youths.

Their main concern in the Ealing area is with the increase in fraudulent crime, such as phone calls apparently from BT, or visits apparently from British Gas. In both cases, unwary householders – and particularly elderly ones – can be talked into handing over cash or credit card details. We are all warned to be on our guard and asked to keep an eye out for vulnerable neighbours.



Clive Evans

Art for Charity's Sake



In normal times, BEAT is a chance for Ealing's artists to invite the public into their studios but this year the artwork was shown and auctioned online to raise money for the Ealing Food Bank charity. Two Brentham artists had work in the auction - mosaicist Rosanna Henderson (below, right) and photographer Maggi Marmion.

In the same spirit, Rosanna is donating 25% of her sales during the pandemic to the Food Bank, which included the sale of a mosaic to her friend Maggi.



Brentham Club Bounces Back

After a complete shutdown, the Club has now been able to host weddings and successful Fred Perry and LTA tennis Championships. The Fred Perry event has quickly established itself as the place to spot outstanding young players. Most impressive this year was 11 year old Hannah Klugman, who won in the under 14 group. She's reckoned to be the world's best under 12 tennis player.



Fairy tale wedding carriage

Covid constraints mean that not everything at the Club is back to normal - see back page for details.

A Life in Brentham

In an occasional series featuring long-standing members of our community we visit Guy Hawtin who has lived in the same house in Pitshanger Lane since 1923

When asked about his life in Brentham, Guy Hawtin explains that although he's spent his whole life (except for wartime service) in his present house in Pitshanger Lane, he wasn't born here. "So were you born in hospital?" I enquire. "No" he says, "I was born in Neville Road". It turns out his mother popped round the corner because there was a midwife living there.

Guy will be 97 in October, and in November, his wife, Vera, will be 100. That's a long time to get to know Brentham. Guy spent his early years at North Ealing primary school; he recalls that as he walked along Pitshanger Lane he



passed the workmen who were building the blocks of shops on the South side of the Lane. "We would see the workmen sometimes having their lunch, drinking cold tea out of a bottle" he says.

"I've got a picture of a class in primary school. All the boys were in grey, except one and this boy was in whites. It was my older brother, Jack, because my mother made him wear a white sailor suit. He wasn't very pleased with that. She was quirky, let's just put it down to the Irish in her.

"I think, years ago people were more friendly. We were always knocking on each other's doors.

"On May Day, we wore sort of yokel clothes, country yokels, and on the Silver Jubilee in 1936 whoever was running May Day suggested us boys dressed up as

members of the Empire and I wore Indian clothes, others had blacked-up faces. I was so embarrassed with this, that when I walked down to join the procession I went down the alleys so people didn't see me in the street.

"I had lots of pals, and girls used to join in some of the things we did. It was quiet back in those days, we used to skate all over the place, play roller hockey in the middle of the road, and sometimes - this was before the A40 was built - skate right up through Perivale, past the Ballot Box pub and on to Wembley".

Guy spent a lot of time at the Brentham Club - or Institute as it was then. "We boys had a tent. And we used to buy a packet of five Woodbine cigarettes & smoke them in the tent. But Mr Copestake, the groundsman, used to come and chase us away. And we played cricket and used trees as the wicket. When they had cricket matches they had a very nice pavilion; you had the dressing rooms below, with scorers sitting up on the first floor. We boys used to put the numbers up when the runs were scored.

"Behind the tennis courts we used to go down and make islands in the river Brent. We'd pinch a frying pan and light a fire and cook us fried potatoes.

My father was friendly with the Perrys who lived at No 223 and Jack used to play table tennis with Fred, down at the Institute. And of course, Fred then changed from table tennis to lawn tennis and really made it".



Guy, on the right, with Mum, Dad and elder brother Robert

Guy often used to ride home on the bus down Woodfield Road. "We used to have the same conductor. And as he came down towards the corner, approaching the church, he always used to shout 'St Barnacles' which raised a smile. One evening there were a couple of priests on the bus. So we sat there to see what the conductor would say, and sure enough, this time he announced 'St Barnabas'.

"Brother Jack surprised us once. He came around on horseback - he rode down our entrance and around the garden.

Hard to believe now, but behind the shops in Pitshanger Lane, there was a mews where you could hire a horse".





Guy and Vera with great grand-daughter, Rosie

"And Jack came down on this bloomin' horse because he was home on leave from the Navy. There was a Mrs. Cummings, who lived in a house across the road and he rode this horse round her front lawn too!"

In 1939, Guy remembers, "There was an anti-aircraft battery on Ealing golf course. And they used the clubhouse as accommodation for the gunners. The gunners built a bridge from where the tennis courts are - across the river Brent to reach the guns."

Later that year Ealing County School was evacuated to Aylesbury so Guy and the family stayed with an aunt who lived nearby.

Then, aged 19, he joined the Royal Air Force and served in the Middle East and Northern Italy.

Back home after the war, Guy was demobbed and in 1947 got married to Vera and returned to live in Pitshanger lane. He worked for his father in the city for a few years, then closer to home at Optrex in Perivale. He then moved to Alfa Laval in Brentford, whose offices are now a Premier Inn, and remained there until he retired.

He's had an eventful life but Guy still remembers the old times in Brentham and playing in the streets around St Barnacles. We wish Guy a happy 97th birthday in October and congratulations to Vera on her centenary in November.

Martin Mortimore

We are Living in a Work of Art

Despite living in Brentham for over 16 years I often wondered what made the estate so special. So, when I joined the Brentham Society committee earlier this year, I decided to do some research. This is the first of a series of articles that will explore the estate's design.

At the beginning of the last century, Claude Monet was exhibiting his great work of art 'Water Lilies' in Paris. At the same time, in Brentham, a new work of architecture was being shaped by planners Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin. Unwin in particular was a celebrated author of books that described how good design could enhance the health and wellbeing of communities. His ideas were revolutionary.

Unwin was deeply concerned that towns were developing into collections of mismatched, bland, inferior quality buildings and believed that traditional English villages were attractive because they were built by a small number of skilled local craftsmen using a limited range of available materials. This created a distinct blend of variety and similarity.

The approach was replicated in Brentham by varying the street layouts and house designs but also by limiting the selection of building materials, adding intricate design details and deliberately repeating design features in windows, brickwork, roofs and chimneys across the estate. It is as if Brentham was created by a small team of artisans.



So, I have discovered that the Brentham Garden Suburb is more than a work of architecture, it is a carefully crafted work of art - like Monet's Water Lilies. It is obviously not in perfect condition. Just as great paintings require skilled and sensitive restoration over time, so does Brentham, but after more than a century, the estate remains a remarkable achievement and a wonderful place to live.

Steve Jenkins



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Sat 10.00am - 2.00pm*

Check the website for up-to-date details of What's On and restricted opening hours

www.brenthamclub.co.uk

Telephone: 020 8997 2624

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