



ISSUE 208 - November 2023

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

BRENTHAM NEWS

Chair's Notes

Welcome to our Autumn edition of Brentham News. Eagle eyed readers may have spotted that we usually publish this edition in September but the later date has allowed us to include Halloween and fireworks pictures. I particularly like the Halloween decoration that transforms the estate for one single night, although in the interests of our wildlife it is worth noting that pumpkins can make our hedgehog friends sick. But if not disposing of them in food or compost bins, the Woodland Trust does recommend burying pumpkins in the garden for worms or invertebrates to enjoy. Good advice for next year!

At a recent Brentham Society Committee meeting we discussed "beautification projects". What could we do to help enhance the estate? We came up with a few ideas but we need a little input from residents. Firstly we are going to renovate the street name signs. Many are in need of sanding and repainting and the council are unable to help. We will not start until spring when it is drier but please do get in contact if you would be interested in helping. Alongside this we also plan to plant more flowers around street trees next year. Some already have lovely splashes of colour around them but we think many more would benefit from this simple enhancement. The Brentham gardening group will be lending its expertise in advising the best varieties and planting time. Again we will provide the flowers but may need some help with planting.

If, like me, you think our bins are an eyesore in our front gardens, you'll be interested to know how some residents have used a simple and cost effective way of hiding them. Willow screen pinned to a basic wooden frame provides discrete masking. I am going to try building one so will share my results next time!



We have highlighted useful planning advice available on our website in this edition. We do also provide new residents with Welcome Packs, a handy printed folder with a range of information to set you up for living in Brentham. But they are not exclusive to new residents. Existing residents who may not have received one in the past or have mislaid theirs are welcome to ask us for a replacement.

From my front window I saw a wonderful rainbow this afternoon spanning across the sky to the north. I



wondered where it ended and then realized - of course Brentham is the pot of gold at the rainbow's end!

Jo Bradley
chair@brentham.com

How to be kept informed...

We want everyone in Brentham to be aware of the latest news and what events may be scheduled in the future. One way is to keep an eye out for announcements posted on our notice boards, which are placed around the estate but the best way to keep in touch is to subscribe to our website. At the bottom of the website Home page there is space to write your contact email address. Fill that in, press subscribe and you will be added to our list and receive notification of all future posts.



Brentham Garden Suburb



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– a short version can be viewed [here](#)

Guided Walks around the Brentham Garden Suburb are usually organised as part of London Open House weekend. The Brentham Society also leads walks for small interest groups on an ad hoc basis (for more details [click here](#)). Guided walks have been re-introduced following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

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Guided Walks around the Brentham Garden Suburb

Brentham Visitors from Around the World



▲ Emilio & Ada Rodriguez with their daughter Luisa

As part of the London Open House event in September, the Brentham Society conducted two guided walks around the estate. They proved very popular and brought people from near and far. Emilio & Ada Rodriguez had come from Honduras to visit their daughter Luisa in Ealing and were very enthusiastic about Brentham. Emilio said "We have nothing like this back home - most people live either in the crowded city or in the country. This layout seems to combine the best of both worlds." Luisa, who studied architecture and the history of urban design, is also very fond of Brentham and would love to come and live here.

The walks ended at the club and visitors were able to visit our archive room and buy books and other merchandise.



BEAT: Ealing's Art Trail

Brentham Artists were well represented in this year's displays of hundreds of works of art at more than 70 venues in the borough. Here are three by Brentham residents.



▲ Rosanna Henderson



▲ Maggi Marmion



▲ Elizabeth Loach

Ding Dong Merrily

Last Christmas saw the very successful revival of the Brentham Carol Singing tradition. Fourteen residents and friends sang their way around the estate and raised more than £400 for charity. There was a consensus that it was a great way to liven up Brentham streets in the run-up to Christmas.

We have been granted a street collection certificate and would like to continue the tradition this year, so if you'd like to take part please email us at carols@brentham.com



It's all for charity and enthusiasm matters more than musical ability!

Steve Jenkins

Volunteers Needed

The street signs in Brentham are a distinctive part of our landscape and some of them are showing signs of wear and tear.

In theory, the signs are maintained by the council, but they take their time in carrying out repairs. The Brentham Society has in the past repainted them and repaired the wooden backboards on which they are mounted. Any volunteers to assist with this work would be welcome - if you can help please write to signs@brentham.com



Summer and Autumn Front Garden Awards 2023

We were fortunate enough to escape the extreme temperatures experienced by mainland Europe this summer. Autumn arrived late after an unusually sunny September, and has produced gorgeous displays of colour, especially on the acers dotted around the estate.

The effects of the climate crisis are becoming more apparent each year. A shift in timing of the seasons and changing patterns of the seasonality of vegetation have been ongoing for several decades. The Met Office predicts that summer-like weather will stretch into autumn as a regular feature. We can expect to see increased flooding from wetter winters, and more droughts as a result of hotter, drier summers.

Our Summer Garden winner: 11 Ludlow Road ►

This is a lovely cottage garden with an eclectic mix of ornamentals, fruit and vegetables packed into every available space. A mini-greenhouse has been tucked into the garden, near the front door.



Summer runners-up

◀ **26 Ludlow Road** had an attractive selection of pretty bedding plants and perennials set in a gravel garden layout.

Other runners-up were 33 Holyoake Walk, 44 Denison Road and 20 Brentham Way.

Street Planting ►

There was some magnificent street planting around the trees on the estate this summer. One of the most colourful and joyous examples was outside 44 Denison Road.



◀ Our Autumn Garden winner: 29 Denison Road

A varied selection of shrubs and flowers provides a good mix of greens and autumn colour (including sedum, heuchera and maple).



Autumn runners-up

1 Ruskin Gardens ► has a gentle autumnal vibe.

Other runners-up were 5 Meadvale Road and 33 Holyoake Walk.

Teresa Mazur

Tree Talk

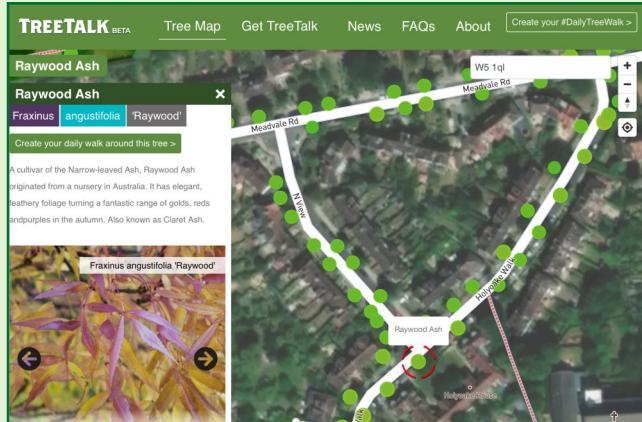
Many people who have seen 'Brentham From Above', featuring the estate filmed from a drone, commented on how lush and green Brentham looks from the air. Our street trees, the trees in gardens and other open spaces such as allotments, and our hedges all contribute to this. Brentham's status as a conservation area means that trees and hedges are protected; most tree work requires approval by the local authority, and the removal of hedges requires planning permission. Ealing as a borough is proud of its street trees which do so much to soften the landscape. They are inspected



every three years, and any diseased tree presenting a danger to the public will be removed – as happened recently with a tree on Meadvale Road.

There is an ambitious tree planting programme, and by 2030 they aim to increase Ealing's tree canopy by 25%. And to celebrate the borough's most beautiful and inspiring trees, Ealing recently launched a 'Trees are Brilliant' campaign in which you can nominate your favourite tree. Search online for Ealing Brilliant trees.

If you'd like to identify the trees in your immediate area, you can just type your postcode into a website called Treetalk: www.treetalk.co.uk



Before the leaves fall in autumn, many trees give us a wonderful display of colour. The foliage of the hornbeams I see through my windows in North View



turns from green to gold, and the leaves of the magnificent ash tree (*Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood') at the junction of North View and Holyoake Walk gradually go from mid green to a coppery bronze.

Dealing with fallen leaves in the autumn can seem an endless chore, but it's worth remembering the many positives of street trees. They provide shade in summer, a habitat for wildlife and birds (though I do wish we had fewer pigeons), and of course contribute to the aesthetic pleasure of living in a garden suburb.

If you are interested in finding out about how the anti-pollution and other environmental benefits of trees can be calculated and valued, take a look at the London i-Tree study, *Valuing London's Urban Forest*.

Search for: valuing London's urban forest i-tree report

This gives an analysis of the tree canopy in inner and outer London and discusses how trees help us in terms of:

- Removal of pollution from the air, by absorption of pollutants through leaves
- Reduction of ozone levels by cooling the air temperature
- Carbon storage and sequestration: tree stems and roots can store carbon for decades, and several tons of atmospheric carbon dioxide can be absorbed by a single tree during its lifetime
- Stormwater alleviation: their roots help heavy rainfall to be absorbed into the soil, preventing surface water flooding
- Saving energy in buildings: trees near buildings can help keep them cool in summer and warmer in winter

Leaf mould

One more way in which trees can help us is supplying leaf mould for use in the garden. If you have a supply of fallen leaves – and some patience! – you can with very little effort turn them into leaf mould, by letting them rot.

Leaf mould is an excellent resource, very useful as a mulch to suppress weeds and to help retain moisture in the soil.

Smaller leaves such as beech and hornbeam are good for making leaf mould; chunky ones such as horse chestnut take much longer to rot down. Don't add leaves to your compost bin but make a separate heap or put them into plastic sacks (with holes punctured to allow rain in) and leave them for a year or so.

Leaves need to be kept damp as it is a fungal process that turns them into leaf mould, whereas making compost

depends on bacteria – an efficient compost heap should have some air pockets and generate heat to aid decomposition. Leaf mould, in Monty Don's words, is 'a rich brown, with a crumbly texture, and smells sweetly of fungi and autumn'.

Alys Fowler says that although leaf mould is not nutritionally rich, it's useful to all plants. 'It increases the fungi in the soil, including mycorrhizal fungi, which are important in helping plants take up water and nutrients.' She recommends keeping compost for use where you are growing vegetables and annuals, as these plants prefer soils dominant in bacteria, and using leaf mould as a mulch with perennials, shrubs and trees. You can also use well rotted leaf mould as part of a homemade potting mix for seedlings.

Margaret Barfield

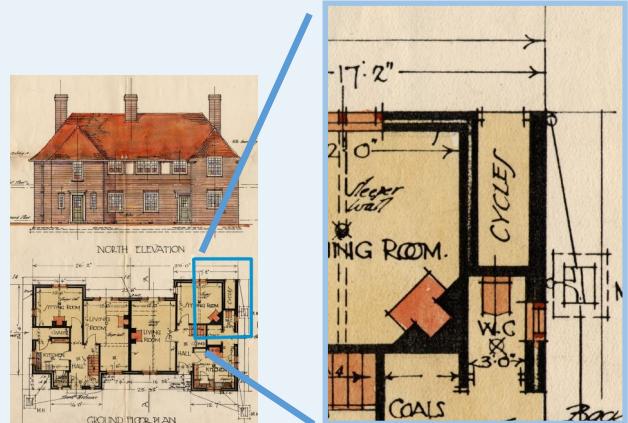
The Mystery of the Cycle Storage Area

Elly Castellano, who is Treasurer of the Brentham Society, is also a keen cyclist. She was browsing the house plan, dated 1922, that appears on one of the Brentham postcards and noticed an area labelled CYCLES. This got her wondering just how popular was cycling more than 100 years ago?

A look into the archive revealed ample evidence of cycling as a pastime and means of transport. Among several photos of people with bicycles, one group shows members of the Fletcher family - who lived in Winscombe Crescent - with their bikes.

An edition of The Brenthamite magazine from April 1923, details regular cycle trips to far flung places such as Watford, Gerrards Cross and Putney Heath. There's also a Cycling Lecture on Buckinghamshire illustrated by Lantern Slides. So it looks like cycling was as popular back then as it is today!

Elly, whose curiosity has been piqued by these results of research, is planning to further investigate the extent of this early cycling boom. Sadly, the house whose plan featured the cycle store, was never built: it was intended for the planned northern part of Fowlers Walk which wasn't needed when Brunswick Road was laid out.



Two members of the Fletcher family in Winscombe Crescent 1922

Architecture Videos on Website

The recent video Brentham From Above is now available on the Brentham Website. Using drone cameras, the video shows the architecture of the estate from a whole new perspective. www.brentham.com



Also available from the archive is a recently restored interview with architect Clive Hicks, one of the founders of the Brentham Society, in which he gives insights into what makes our estate special.



Planning Advice sheets available

The planning process for making any changes to properties in Brentham is not always straightforward and we are always trying to find ways of helping people navigate the way through it.

To this end we have beefed up the planning pages on the Brentham website. As well as general guidance notes there is now a page of advice sheets on the topics that come up most often in enquiries.



Home Brentham Garden Suburb Brentham Society Living in Brentham Conservation and Advice News Archive Contact

Supplementary Guidance

Here we list a number of Advice Sheets to be read in conjunction with the [Design Guide](#). We are in the process of developing more of these Advice Sheets based on the most common queries that we have dealt with recently.

The sheets cover ADVICE about what will normally need an application. Applications can be refused or be approved by conforming to the conservation policies relevant to Brentham. Note that final Decisions on the outcome of a Planning Application will be made by the Planning Officers at London Borough of Ealing.

Advice Sheets are no longer than 2 sides of A4 paper and can be downloaded and printed.

[Boundaries and Pathways](#)

[Boundary Renovation](#) – including hedges

[Dormers](#) – see also Rooflights

[French Doors](#)

[Front Gates](#)

[Garden Buildings](#)

[Rainwater Goods and Soil Vent Pipes](#)

[Rooflights](#) – see also Dormers

[Wheelie Bins](#) – Including Bin storage

[Windows](#)

For any other advice including lists of suitable Suppliers / Tradesmen contact advice@brentham.com

From the Home page the sheets can be found under Conservation & Advice/Advice to Residents/ Supplementary Guidance.

The topics available are:

- [Boundaries and Pathways](#)
- [Boundary Renovation](#)
- [Dormers](#)
- [French Doors](#)
- [Front Gates](#)
- [Garden Buildings](#)
- [Rainwater Goods & Soil Vent Pipes](#)
- [Rooflights](#)
- [Wheelie Bins](#)
- [Windows](#)

If you need further advice or guidance then please tap into the experienced minds of the planning panel by emailing: advice@brentham.com

Planning in Brentham - A Case Study

In 2021, when Dermot and Annie first saw the house in Neville Road, they knew it was the one for them. They weren't keen on the position of the staircase and the wall that faced the front door but they knew that could be sorted out. In fact over the next few months they drew up plans that would transform the house – creating a modern home in a Brentham skin.

Many of the changes that Dermot and Annie planned only affected the interior, such as removing the chimney breasts, moving walls and the staircase. Several steel joists were needed to achieve these alterations, and although building regulations had to be observed throughout the work, planning approval was not needed.



The exterior was another matter. The couple were keen on a rear extension but were well aware of the strict planning constraints that apply to Brentham houses.

Dermot says: 'The secret was to appoint an architect who knew the estate and who had close links with a local builder. It means you have your debates with the architect and not with the planning department, it's much quicker and cheaper that way.'



With extensions, the main constraint is size. They are normally limited to a maximum depth of 2.4 metres and a width of half that of the house. The extension here is larger than normally allowed because the house and garden are wider than most Brentham Cottages.

When the plan was submitted, the Brentham Conservation Advisory Panel raised some concerns over the fine details on the extension. For example the position of the south wall of the extension where it joins the house was moved about 25cm to ensure the original beam over the adjacent French door was not obscured.

Annie says: 'We were sorry to lose a little space in the extension but it does look better. Also, the size of the roof-light in the extension roof was reduced to match the size of the original roof-lights seen in Brentham houses.'



Matching new and old brickwork and careful positioning of where the new wall meets the old

Dermot says: 'Windows and doors must be in a style that matches the rest of the house and the same goes for the new brickwork and tiling of the extension.'

'When they took down some of the walls, the builders saved the old bricks and could recycle them for the new walls. And they knew where to get the matching roof tiles. Along with new French windows to the rear, all the windows in the house were replaced by a company with experience of matching heritage styles, right down to the glazing bars.'

All in all, Dermot and Annie are very happy with their house. The exterior architecture matches the Brentham style and while they acknowledge that their interior changes have made for a less cottagey look, they do enjoy the greater space.

They believe the secret of their success lies with hiring people who understand the architectural quirks of Brentham and are able to deal quickly with any questions that arise with planning authorities.



Halloween and Fireworks night brighten the streets of Brentham



Arts Society Ealing



Lectures at St Barnabas Church Hall, Pitshanger Lane

The next lecture will be on Monday 27th November at 7.30pm.

8 Buildings for 8 Faiths in London with Charlie Forman, a London tour guide and lecturer. Stretching over 300 years, new arrivals have brought with them a large range of religious buildings, from synagogues to monasteries and cathedrals to mosques.

Then on Monday 22nd January 2024, you can hear about **Medieval Gardens** with Sally Dormer, lecturer and tutor at the V&A. Illuminated manuscripts, goldsmiths' work and tapestries reveal secrets of religious and secular gardens. For more information our website is www.theartsocietyealing.org.uk



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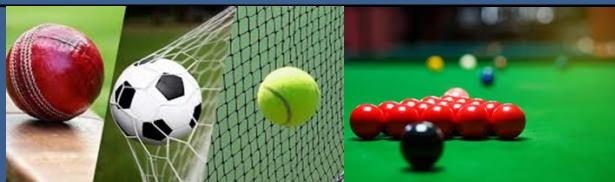
Sale Agreed

Brentham Way

A refurbished character Brentham property.
Quoting price
£1,125,000

THE BRENTHAM CLUB

Tennis, Cricket, Football, Snooker, Bowls, Darts & Bridge



Sport and social activities for everyone

- Why not buy someone a social membership for Christmas? *Contact the Club for more information on this special offer*
- Licensed to hold weddings and civil ceremonies
- Great venue for celebrations - from birthday & Christmas parties to weddings and wakes

THE FRED PERRY CAFÉ

Members & non-members are welcome
Mon: 10am - 4pm / Tues & Wed: 10am - 5pm

Thurs: 9am - 4pm/ Fri: 9am - 5pm
Saturday & Sunday: 9am - 2pm

MEMBERS' BAR AND BALCONY

Monday -Friday: 5pm - 11pm
Saturday: 12pm - 11pm
Sunday: 12pm -10pm



What's on ... at a glance

Saturday 18 November – SILENT DISCO

Saturday 2 December – ALREADY LEGENDS CONCERT

Friday 8 December – CHRISTMAS STREET FOOD MARKET

Saturday 9 December - COLIN FREARSON (Classic songs)

Saturday 16 December – BEATLES TRIBUTE ACT

Sunday 17 December – CHRISTMAS CARVERY

Monday 18 December – CHRISTMAS CAROLS / Ealing Choral Society

Sunday 31 December – NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Saturday 27 January 2024 – DEREK NASH CONCERT

For more details on events, see website:

www.brenthamclub.co.uk

For general enquiries, email:

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