



ISSUE 212 - February 2025

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 first edition of 2025. And let's hope this year has no road closures on the estate! The disruption from the HS2 works is finally over. They do however have a fund from which they can allocate money towards community projects where residents have been affected. So we are going to try to apply for a small grant to fund the Estate Signs we would like to put up (Brentham News September 2024) and perhaps help with the continued renewing of the road signs. I will let you know the outcome.

In other news, Ealing Council have confirmed that they have appointed a Conservation Officer. Having a dedicated planning officer once again with a more in-depth and sympathetic understanding of Arts and Craft Architecture is hugely positive for Brentham.

It's that time of year when we ask residents to renew their Society membership or of course join for the first time (see p.7). Still at an inflation busting £5, I note it is the same as the original offer price of shares in Ealing Tenants Ltd. Although you will not own a share of a Brentham house with our membership it is nonetheless valuable to share in being part of a collective with a common purpose of protecting the conservation area. The estate founder Henry Vivian does of course have Vivian Green named after him but you may not know that part of Woodfield Road was originally called Vivian Terrace. The reason for the name change is not documented but had it

remained we would definitely have fewer mix-ups on our post being delivered to the wrong Woodfield!

Last year as part of our beautification campaign for the estate, Brentham Gardening Group volunteers planted up many of the street tree beds with mostly perennials from their gardens. This year they would like to expand the planting to include annuals and bulbs. So if any residents would like to donate plants or bulbs or contribute to the purchase of suitable specimens, or just to give their time to the project, do please contact committee member Tamara, tamara@brentham.com

It is also the time of year when we invite you to the Brentham Society AGM (see below) where we reflect on the year, present the Garden Awards and are entertained by an expert speaker. This year we welcome long standing resident, and Brentham News editor, BAFTA nominated TV Producer Martin Mortimore who will be recollecting stories and anecdotes from a 40 year career at the BBC and elsewhere in "Tales from Telly" Not to be missed! I hope to see many of you there and if anyone would like to join the committee please do get in touch. We are not the largest committee at the moment and new volunteers would be most welcome. We are particularly looking for a secretary and someone interested in planning.

Jo Bradley
chair@brentham.com

Brentham Society AGM at the Brentham Club 18th March at 7.45 pm



Long-time Brentham resident & TV Producer Martin Mortimore tells

live
Tales of Telly

Refreshments provided



The Rose Bowl front garden winner 2024

Brentham Autumn 2024 Front Garden Awards

The glorious colours of autumn bring cheer to Brentham as the long days of summer gradually fade away. Playing spot the brightest maple is an entertaining pastime when walking around the estate during the autumn months. We have some beautiful acers in Brentham, as well as many other lovely trees to keep our conservation area green and vibrant. Autumn may now be a long and distant memory but spring is just around the corner with snowdrops appearing and gardens poised to start blooming again.



► Our Autumn Garden winner: 6 Ludlow Road

This well-tended garden has a pretty mix of shrubs and other plants with a silvery tone in the main flowerbed. There is a good variety of different leaf shapes and textures which add interest. The small maple tree provides a central focal point.

Autumn runners-up:

68 Meadvale Road, 33 Holyoake Walk, 26 Ludlow Road and 30 Holyoake Walk.

Our 2024 Rose Bowl winner is 30 Holyoake Walk (picture on page 1)

This gorgeous garden with its cosy bench and abundance of greenery was a runner-up in our spring, summer and autumn front garden awards for 2024. It consistently looks good throughout the changing seasons and has been a firm favourite with the garden judges.

Teresa Mazur

Gardening in Brentham – Grow Your Own

My joy at watching tiny seeds germinate and burst into life never diminishes. Growing your own fruit and vegetables can be fun and rewarding - treat the occasional failure as a learning experience!

Some crops, such as raspberries, blackberries, strawberries and mint, can be propagated quite simply from cuttings or runners. Many vegetables and herbs are easy to grow from seed. You don't need a greenhouse and it's surprising how much you can cram into a small garden. It's often better to grow from seed rather than buying seedlings from a garden centre as there is greater choice, especially if you buy online. A heated propagator can be useful for starting off germination. I sow seeds indoors or in small trays outside to avoid slug damage, and to distinguish seedlings from weeds.

Easy crops to grow in our Brentham gardens include

tomatoes, beans, lettuce, courgettes, and a variety of herbs. There are, of course, numerous other options.

► Summer lunch with home-grown tomatoes and cucumbers. Smaller varieties of cucumber grow well outdoors in a sheltered sunny location

Now is the time to plan ahead and buy seeds if you haven't already done so. Spring is ideal to start sowing. My favourites are tomatoes and French climbing beans.

These are good croppers providing a steady supply of produce from mid-summer through October. Climbing beans and cordon tomatoes take up relatively little space, growing up tall cane supports either in the ground or in pots. Tomato blight can be a problem in wet weather; cherry tomatoes tend to be more resistant as they ripen more quickly than larger ones. Flavoursome high yielding varieties that I've harvested include Chocolate Cherry, Golden Nugget and Sungold. There are plenty of others to try.



► I have successfully grown Blue Lake and Blauhilde French climbing beans in large pots. Both types are delicious and stringless, provided you pick them young. Their white and mauve flowers are pretty. The exotic looking purple Blauhilde bean pods turn green when cooked.



I love courgettes and several Brentham residents have grown some fabulous plants. Sadly, my attempts at cultivating courgettes have so far failed to produce any actual vegetables!

There is a wealth of free information on propagation available online.

www.gardenersworld.com and www.rhs.org.uk are a couple of useful resources.

Happy sowing!

Teresa Mazur

► Romanesco courgettes grown by Jurek Narozanski on his allotment



Films of Sally Kelly

Sally Kelly, who died last June, spent most of her life in Ruskin Gardens with her husband John and their four boys. Here she was able to follow her hobbies of creative embroidery and gardening.



Recently films have come to light of Sally at work in her 'sewing studio' and in her garden - and the film portrait of her creating with textiles has been made available on the Brentham website. We hope to make the films of her in her garden available at a later date.

You can find the embroidery film at www.brentham.com



Lectures at 7.30 at St Barnabas Church Hall

Monday 24th February

Dora Carrington: the Tragic Muse of Bloomsbury. Lecturer Alan Read

Monday 24th March

Banksy: Fraud or Genius.

Lecturer Pepe Martinez

Monday 28th April

Saving a Century: Pevsner, Conservation and the Victorians. Lecturer Susie Harries

Monday 26th May

Glorious Illuminations: the Art of the Illuminated Manuscript.

Lecturer Clare Ford-Wille

Further details at www.theartssocietyealing.org.uk

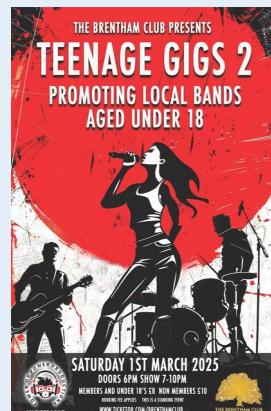
Teenage Gigs 2 to Rock Brentham Club

On March 1st, *Teenage Gigs* is returning to the Brentham Club with an evening of music made by young people from Brentham and the local area.

The events (the first was back in November) were the idea of Fowlers Walk resident Andy Golding and his daughter Lilah. It came to them after seeing his son Johnny play in a Battle of the Bands event.

A chance meeting with sound men Tudor Davies and Dave McGrath, along with help from Colin Hearn and Monika Wolska at the Club led to the creation of this safe space for our 12 to 17 year olds. Five acts, including Johnny's band, will play a range of rock and pop at the event. Book now for a night of electrifying performances: www.brenthamclub.co.uk and click on the poster.

If you are interested in playing a part in *Teenage Gigs* events contact Andy Golding at WFiveLive@gmail.com



Brentham May Day

This year's parade and dancing will be held on **Saturday 17th May**



Enrolment for children will take place on Sunday 9th March between 4pm and 5.30pm at the Brentham Club.

First rehearsal is on Sunday 23rd March at 4pm. The enrolment fee per child is £20.00.

Volunteers to help with teaching Maypole dances to the children would be much appreciated.

Enquiries: mayday@brentham.com

The Ealing Housing Pioneers

Brentham is often described as the 'Pioneer Co-Partnership Garden Suburb', but what, exactly, is Co-Partnership? It's useful to think of it as an extension of the Cooperative movement, which grew out of frustration in the North of England at the high price of basic commodities, such as bread and butter. Workers took matters into their own hands, bypassing the traditional shops, and selling direct to their customers, at affordable prices. Not only that, but at the end of each year, their customers were given a share in any profits, depending on how much they had spent – the Coop Divi.

While this was very successful in providing affordable basics to its customers, it did not do much for its own workers, the shop assistants. They had no share in the profits, and no say in the management of the shops.

Co-Partnership addressed these issues: the workforce was entitled to a share of any profits, and also a say in the running of the business. They were Co-partners.

Brentham Garden Suburb was similarly driven by frustration among working men that they could not afford decent housing for their families, all too often condemned to Dickensian conditions in damp, dark and



The building of Vivian Terrace begins

overcrowded tenements. They too took matters into their own hands, meeting in the Haven Arms pub to discuss how best to build houses at reasonable prices. As many of them were builders, many of them thought along the lines of buying some cheap land, and building houses in their spare time. But then they invited Henry Vivian to address them. He was a fervent supporter of co-partnership, and involved with a local business called Ealing Builders Ltd which was run along these lines.

And so Ealing Tenants Ltd (ETL) was born, with the mission to build affordable housing in Ealing. Henry Vivian was the Managing Director, the men in the Haven Arms were board members, and the members were all those who wished to buy a house. They became members by buying shares in ETL at £5, but since they were working men with families, they could not possibly supply enough capital to purchase land and begin building. So 'sympathetic friends' were persuaded to invest in the project, by buying loan stock, which yielded 4 percent.

ETL began building houses, which it continued to own and maintain, renting them out to its members. They were expected to increase their shareholding so that in the long term, they could 'buy out' the loan stockholders, and ETL and its members would own all the properties.



Henry Vivian addresses Brentham crowds on Co-Partnership

Members would live at affordable rents, and by slowly increasing their shareholding, could earn as much as their rent, thus living effectively rent free.

Brentham was indeed a pioneer in this form of housing finance, and it spread all over the UK, with direct assistance from Henry Vivian. It also spread into Europe and into the USA and Canada. An umbrella company called Co-Partnership Tenants Ltd was set up to which ETL belonged.

And then? Following the first World War, major social changes were under way, especially that local Councils were charged with building houses for rent and building societies grew with the promise of actually owning one's own home. But the coup de grace came in 1936 when Co-Partnership Tenants decided to sell ETL to an independent property trust. The underlying properties were worth far more than the outstanding shares, thanks to the relentless increase in house prices, so the purchasers were able to offer more than double the price of outstanding shares, which softened the blow somewhat.

After renting out most of the houses for several years, the trust gradually sold them off on the open market, and today the vast majority are privately owned, but not, in the main, by hard-working builders.

We who live on the estate should be grateful to Henry Vivian, not just for his use of Co-partnership to get the estate started, but also for his vision of a community, with shared facilities and room to breathe.

Clive Evans

Jack Jones

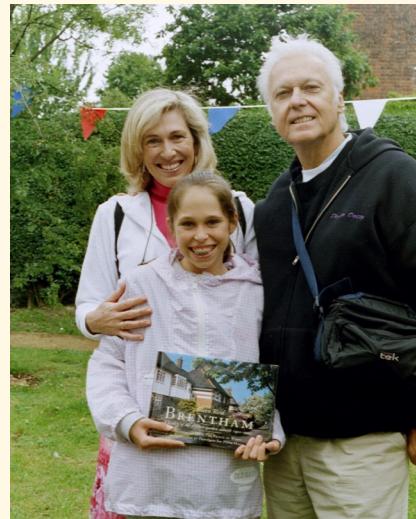
Popular American singer Jack Jones, who died last October aged 86, had a little known connection to Brentham. He was married six times and his fifth wife was Kim Ely, who originally lived at 91 Fowlers Walk and was Brentham May Queen in 1972. They were married from 1982 to 2005 after Jack met Kim when she was an air stewardess.



The singer who had become a crooner on the cabaret circuit, once played on the same bill as the Beatles, but throughout the 1960s and 70s stuck to his old style of music. He credited Frank Sinatra, with whose daughter Nancy he was at school, with convincing him to become a singer.



In 2002 on a tour of Europe Jack and Kim, along with their daughter, found time to visit on Brentham May Day to remember Kim's role as Queen 30 years earlier. As well as helping us to promote the Brentham



book Jack mentioned his visit to Ealing when he appeared on Gloria Hunniford's TV show.

Christmas Carol Singers Break Collection Record

A huge thank you to the volunteer carol singers and street collectors, and to all the Brentham residents who donated to Ealing Samaritans. In 2023 we found it difficult to get around Brentham in one evening so this time we decided to sing carols on two evenings, covering half the estate on each. Some people, including a couple visiting from Budapest, were only able to join us on one of the evenings but we had around 10 singers on each night, a few of whom were clearly very talented. Despite the cold and damp weather, we all had a great time and the total donated by residents, including gift aid, was an amazing £1,208.

The treasurer for Ealing Samaritans, who lives in Neville Road, said, "Thank you very much. Your donation is absolutely invaluable in supporting the branch and it's incredibly encouraging to feel that the Samaritans is valued by the local community. I'm sorry that I couldn't join you for the singing but I can assure you the contributions would have been sharply reduced if I had!"

Steve Jenkins



Swiss Cheese & Wine Tasting Success



Douglas explained that production of Swiss wine is quite limited but they have a distinctive quality. The stand-out cheese which many thought the best of the evening was *Kaltbach Alpine Creamy* - a sort of creamier version of Gruyere - and its paired wine was a delicious *Terre Alte Bianco 2022*.

Once again the Brentham Society in partnership with Douglas Harrison from the delicatessen in Pitshanger Lane hosted an evening of wines and cheeses - this time from Switzerland. Four unusual cheeses and four wines were sampled by the audience, eager to try some unfamiliar flavours of Switzerland. With little land suitable for vineyards,



Christmas in Kyiv by Steve Jenkins

Steve and Gina Jenkins live in Fowlers Walk and because Gina is Ukrainian, they have a special interest in the country.

On 20 August 1944 a German V1 “Doodlebug” flying bomb landed on 45 Meadvale Road, killing four residents. The blast caused 26 houses to be demolished. I sometimes wondered what it was like to live in Brentford during World War II when there was a tangible risk of being bombed. This Christmas I found out.

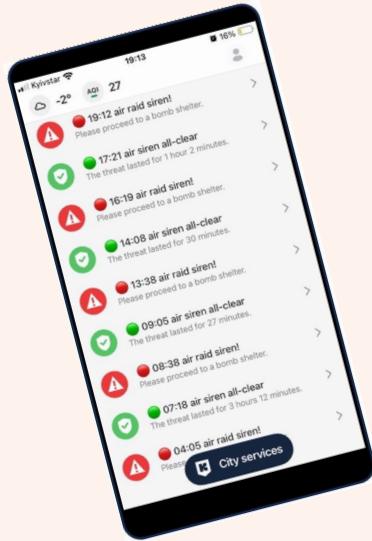


The car in Fowlers Walk - the start of the journey

My wife Gina and I purchased a second-hand 4-wheel drive pickup. On 21 December we drove it from the UK to Ukraine and donated it to the Ukrainian military. It took three days, driving 8 hours per day with stops in Germany and Poland. After customs and order checks, our paperwork was approved and we handed the car over to ‘Car for Ukraine’, one of the charities that prepares vehicles for use by the Ukrainian defence forces. We visited one of their workshops and less than a week later received photographs of our repainted and ‘upgraded’ vehicle ready to be dispatched to the frontline.

Having delivered the car, we spent Christmas and New Year visiting Gina’s family and friends in Kyiv. Alcohol was consumed but it was a sobering experience. Despite being far from the frontline, Kyiv is under the constant threat of air attack. Meanwhile, people try to go about their business, and live as normally as possible.

There are air raids most days and the Kyiv city authorities provide a mobile phone app that displays air raid alerts, the location of the nearest shelter and the schedule of power cuts at your home. Each time the air raid sirens (identical to the ones heard in WWII London)



Red air-raid alerts in a single day

wailed throughout Kyiv, our mobile phones sounded an alarm and displayed a message. On a number of occasions this was followed by explosions like loud thunder claps which either meant a building had been hit, or that the air defence systems had successfully intercepted the drone or missile. Some people sought shelter - others took their chances. The metro trains still ran underground during the alert but most people simply waited on the platform until the all clear. There was no panic. As in WWII London, people “keep calm and carry on”.

One of our friends, Julia, a consultant at a children’s hospital on the outskirts of Kyiv, invited Gina and me to catch up over coffee. We arrived at the location to find it had been hit by a missile a few days earlier. The windows of the surrounding high-rise buildings had already been boarded but there was debris strewn across the street. We phoned Julia to confirm it was the right place. She emerged from a doorway under some steps and beckoned us to cross the red and white tape. Despite the surrounding devastation the coffee shop had already reopened. The windows had shifted a few centimetres



The café is under the steps on the right

inwards due to the blast but the safety glass had remained in situ so it was deemed safe to open.

Like many places in Kyiv, electricity was temporarily supplied by a small generator.

Inside, people sipped coffee and chatted as if they were sitting in a café on Pitshanger Lane.

During our time in Ukraine everyone we spoke to, whether civilian or military, said the relentless attacks over the past three years were mentally and physically exhausting. Many have family or friends who have been injured or killed. Despite this, they remain extremely

resilient and are determined to fight for many more years to prevent Russia achieving its publicly stated ambition of annihilating Ukraine's culture and subsuming the country into a new Russian empire. Ukrainians know they are facing a truly existential threat and see no other option but to fight to protect their children's future. However, as Churchill realised in WWII, Ukrainians also know they cannot succeed without the help of others.

So, what was it like to live in Brentham in 1944? I suppose, just like in Kyiv today, residents were trying to cling on to a normal daily life, while praying for the safety of their family and friends, and hoping for victory on the battlefield.

If you would like to donate funds or a vehicle to Ukraine then please visit www.car4ukraine.com.



PHOTO: car4ukraine.com

The car about to be sent to the front line

New Resident Mary Heyler

In December, Denison Road welcomed a new resident – Mary Heyler – and she's already visited the Brentham Archive in search of the plans of her new home.



It's been a long journey from her beginnings in Los Angeles. Mary says she started singing before she could speak and grew up to become a prize-winning opera singer by the age of 20. When she was 30, it was a singing

competition that brought her to England. It was held at Snape Maltings in Suffolk, where she fell for English architecture and also the man she would marry.

Later, while living in Hammersmith, Mary's interest in music education began when she offered to sing with her three-year-old son's nursery class. The response inspired her to do more work with children, leading workshops and eventually singing and making music on a regular basis in schools with little tradition of music. This commitment to children and young people led her to teach singing on an area-wide basis for the British Federation of Young Choirs and eventually to start up a new Music Service in the Borough of Ealing.

Most recently Mary became Head of Sheffield Music Service, where she lived until her retirement. In search of the best of English culture, she decided to return to London and it was the attraction of the facilities in Pitshanger Lane that led Mary to look for a home in the local area. When she explored Brentham, she loved the warmth, character and human scale of the houses. Since moving in, she has enthusiastically embraced the green and peaceful environment along with the community of our estate. We are delighted that she has already agreed to become the Brentham Society Street Representative for Denison Road.

Brentham Society - Membership Details

The annual subscription, still only **£5 per household**, is now due. (By giving more, you can help support more of the Society's work)

You can set up a Standing Order or make a payment by Bank Transfer/Faster Payment using the following payee details:

Bank: CAF Bank

Account Name: Brentham Society

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Account No: 00019660

Payee Reference: Your house number and street name

And confirm you have done so by emailing: membership@brentham.com

Alternatively you can pay by credit/debit card or PayPal via our website: www.brentham.com or scan the QR code with your smart phone.





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The Brentham Club - Tennis, Cricket, Football, Snooker, Bowls, Darts & Bridge

Sports and social activities for everyone

- Why not hire the Club for your special event
- Perfect for weddings, celebrations and corporate events
- Members enjoy low prices in the bar and café, as well as discounts on all events
- Licensed to hold weddings and civil ceremonies

THE FRED PERRY CAFÉ

Treat yourself to coffee and cake, or come for lunch – non-members are very welcome.

TOP BAR AND BALCONY

Enjoy a relaxing drink in our main bar with guest ales and a choice of great wines; chill out on the balcony in the spring sunshine.

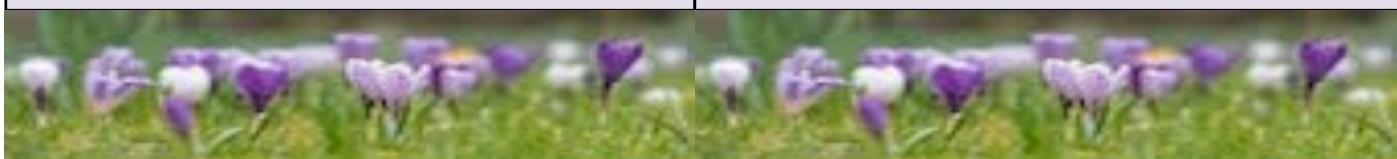
For all enquiries, email: manager@brenthamclub.co.uk

WHAT'S ON ... at a glance

Saturday 1 March – TEENAGE GIGS 2
Saturday 15 March – CODY JR GUITAR BAND
Sunday 23 March – QUIZ NIGHT (BAR)
Saturday 5 April – TINA TURNER TRIBUTE ACT
Friday 11 April – STREET NIGHT FOOD MARKET
Sunday 13 April – QUIZ NIGHT (BAR)
Saturday 26 April – DEREK NASH CONCERT
Saturday 31 May – ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE ACT

To book tickets: www.ticketor.com

See website for more details: www.brenthamclub.co.uk



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