



BRENTHAM NEWS

Welcome to the first Brentham News of the year and our first edition under the stewardship of new committee member Jacqueline Shakespeare. We've also given it a light refresh, I hope you like the new look.

Members of the Society and Brentham residents were in full festive flow before Christmas. Brentham carol singers braved the streets over two chilly December nights, raising close to £2,000 for Ealing Foodbank, a fantastic total. St. Barnabas Church Hall hosted our sold-out Cheese and Wine evening, once again providing a lovely social occasion with expertly selected wines and cheeses from Harrison's. St Barnabas also held its Frost Fair, with Mother Sarah kindly inviting the Society to take a stall selling Brentham merchandise. This festive event, now in its second year after a pause during Covid, already feels set to become a firm community favourite.

I've lived in Brentham for nearly nine years, though that still falls some way short of the 50 years shared by Martin Mortimore and Tony Moore, both featured in this edition. Each has made a significant contribution to Brentham in quite different ways, from sympathetic architecture to historical media and storytelling, leaving an important legacy. An even longer legacy is marked this year, with 125 years since

the founding of Ealing Tenants Ltd in 1901. Established by Henry Vivian, the pioneering association built houses that members would collectively own and rent, later to become known as the Brentham Estate. Observant residents may have noticed the commemorative 1901 plaque built into a house on the south side of Woodfield Crescent.

This is also the time of year for membership renewals, still just £5. If you've ever wondered how your subscription is used, a breakdown can be found on page 7. As I often say though, membership is about far more than a financial contribution, it's about being part of a community and collective voice for the estate. The Society committee is made up of volunteers, and your support really does matter. If you're interested in joining the committee, please get in touch by email or speak to us at the AGM.

I hope to see many of you at the AGM on 17th March, and I'm very much looking forward to what promises to be a fascinating talk from local resident and photographer Andy Golding.

Jo Bradley
chair@brentham.com

BRENTHAM SOCIETY, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | 17TH MARCH



The Brentham Society AGM is your opportunity to hear what the Society has been doing for the community, meet the people quietly doing the work, and add your voice to the decisions that shape the Suburb.

Coming along matters, it keeps the Society strong, representative, and able to protect Brentham's character for the next generation.

This year we're pleased to welcome Andy Golding as our keynote speaker. Andy brings a rare mix of creative practice and academic leadership to Brentham.

Andy is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, Chair of its Education Committee, a Visiting Professor of Photography at Haikou University of Economics in China, and an Academic Advisor and photography tutor for the Open University.

He and his family have lived in Fowlers Walk since 2008. You'll find him cheering on the bands at 'Teenage Gigs' (which he established), setting up the maypole each May Day and taking photographs of people in Brentham.

At the AGM, he'll be talking about Brentham Garden Suburb: community, conservation, multiculturalism and how to survive the loss of Robert Dyas and Samrat.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Martin Mortimore

A personal reflection after 10 years
as Editor of Brentham News

Martin Mortimore has called Brentham home for 50 years, been a member of the Brentham Society for 23 years, and edited Brentham News for the last 10.

As a BBC TV producer and director, his credits include BBC Two's *What the Romans Did for Us* (a BAFTA nominee) and the iconic science series *Tomorrow's World*.

Throughout his editorship, he has brought a broadcaster's eye and a real affection for the suburb to every issue. As he steps down, he reflects on his time in Brentham.



My Brentham life started on a fine day in July 1976 when my wife and I came house-hunting in Brentham. Winscombe Crescent, where we viewed a house, felt green and civilised, with a little village green at the bend in the road. The house was unlike any other we'd seen in Ealing, with battlements on top of a modest tower. It was irresistible and we sealed the deal for just under £20k.



Martin's photograph of Keeley Hawes during filming on Vivian Green.

Soon the history of Brentham began to emerge. Neighbours who had lived here for decades shared stories of childhoods in the horse-and-cart days, before motor cars



Photograph by Andy Golding

made the streets unsafe for play.

As our family grew, we moved round the corner to Fowlers Walk, and by now I'd got to know quite a bit about Brentham. But the real revelation was when the definitive book was launched to mark the estate's centenary in 2001. I was fascinated to learn more about the architecture and the estate's Co-Partnership origins, and as a TV documentary filmmaker, I thought it would make a good film. I went along to a Brentham Society meeting aimed at recruiting new committee members. The Chair at the time, Sue Elliott, persuaded me to join, and before long I was commissioned to make a film about Brentham's history and architectural importance.

I loved making the film. The archive of pictures, plans and documents, so well organised by Alan Henderson, proved vital to

telling *The Brentham Story*. It was completed in 2006, and you can see a shortened version on the website.

In 2016, I inherited the job of Editor, Brentham News. There's nothing like a newsletter print deadline to keep you focussed on what's going on in Brentham. There have been many residents with fascinating stories to tell, such as Rena Stewart recalling her top-secret wartime work at Bletchley Park, and Barbara Murray who remembers sharing Brentham Air Raid warden duties with her father - including the day he came home with an unexploded incendiary bomb in his pocket.

In putting the News together, I tried to include as many pictures as possible - sometimes dashing out to capture a special moment such as the jubilee street parties, or the TV drama filming on Vivian Green with Keeley Hawes.

Over the last ten years, key Brentham people have helped me do the job: Garden Group members, the May Day committee, special event organisers, long-time residents and those dedicated souls who help residents with planning advice. I would like to thank all the many contributors as well as the street distributors for their support.

I've enjoyed my time in the editor's chair and am now handing the reins to Jacqueline Shakespeare. I wish her good luck and I'm sure she will continue to make the newsletter a central part of the community of Brentham.

BRENTHAM THIS SPRING

at a glance

BRENTHAM SOCIETY AGM | 17TH MARCH

MAY DAY | 16TH MAY



May Day parade, 2025

This year we celebrate 120 years of May Day with the traditional street parade, followed by maypole and country dancing in the grounds of the Brentham Club.

It's an exciting opportunity for local children, from nursery age, to take part in traditional community life and have plenty of fun!

Enrolment takes place on 22nd March, 4 - 5pm, in the Main Hall at the Brentham Club (£20 joining fee per child). Alternatively you can enrol online (bit.ly/4qQKiXZ).

OPEN GARDENS | 7TH JUNE

Brentham residents love their gardens, and the annual Open Garden afternoon is a brilliant chance to stroll around the suburb and discover hidden green spaces.

It's not about picture-perfect planting, it's about real gardens, loved and cared for by real gardeners. If you're tempted to open your garden this year, please email gardening@brentham.com.

STRAWBERRY TEA

Join us for the annual Strawberry Tea this June. It's a lovely way to catch up with friends, meet new neighbours and celebrate the start of summer together.

Details will be on Brentham noticeboards and website.



Tony Field's garden in Winscombe Crescent, Open Gardens 2025.



Brentham Strawberry Tea

BRENTHAM CLUB

Kate Bush Experience | 28th Feb

The Kate Bush Experience perform Kate's hits, Babooshka, Cloudbusting and more.

Teenage Gigs 4 | 14th March

Showcasing the talents of local bands as they take centre stage for sets of covers and original material.

Back to the 80s | 21st March

Enjoy hits from one of the greatest decades of music. Bring your dancing shoes!

Bootleg Bee Gees | 2nd May

Bootleg Bee Gees brings the Bee Gees' greatest hits to life, from early classics to Saturday Night Fever disco favourites.

www.brenthamclub.co.uk

ST BARNABAS CHURCH

Joint Choirs Concert | 28th February

For the first time, St Barnabas Choir and the EJMS Adult Chorale come together for a musical programme spanning all ages and tastes. Free entry, with retiring donations in support of the St Barnabas Music Fund.

3pm, followed by refreshments.

The Memory Café | Thu mornings

The Memory Café meets every Thursday morning from 10.30-12.00 in the church.

Everyone is welcome, especially those who are lonely or live alone and those who are having memory difficulties.

www.barnabites.org

VIVIAN'S *vision* BRENTHAM'S *design*



The estate was a social experiment, conceived by Henry Vivian, a carpenter, trade unionist and MP. Working with a small group of local builders, he established Ealing Tenants Ltd, a pioneering co-partnership, created to develop and manage the suburb collectively.

In part one of a feature celebrating 125 years of Ealing Tenants, architects Tony and Sonny Moore reflect on what makes Brentham's planning and design so distinctive. Tony has lived on the estate for over fifty years, while Sonny was born and grew up in Brentham. Together, through their architectural work, they have shaped and restored many homes across the estate.

Henry Vivian wanted to provide quality houses for working people, but just as importantly, he wanted to create spaces. The first houses to be built on the estate were Vivian Terrace (now part of Woodfield Road). Although a beautiful example of Edwardian architecture, they were traditionally designed, the sort of houses you could see up and down the country, and they didn't yet reflect the Arts and Crafts feel Vivian wanted Brentham to become. The architectural team had ambition, but they hadn't quite found the way to translate it into a new kind of place.

So, they brought in new architects, George Lister Sutcliffe and Frederic Cavendish Pearson, with the Arts and Crafts expertise to

help realise that ambition. You can see transitional houses that move Brentham from hard-edged Edwardian architecture to a more fluid Arts and Crafts design as you walk from Woodfield Crescent to Brunner Road. These houses still have Edwardian sash windows, but the Arts and Crafts influence starts to show itself, especially when you look at the back elevations and gardens.

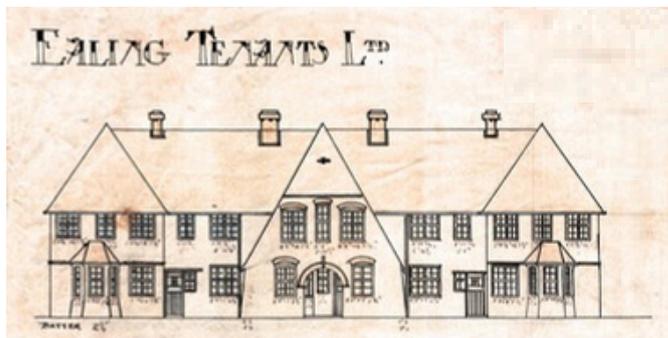
There are a huge variety of designs in Brentham, all using the same architectural language and vernacular, but in varied applications. Where and how the traditional Edwardian houses and the Arts and Crafts houses come together is part of what makes Brentham, Brentham.

The town planning on the estate is very creative. It changes how you feel walking through the estate: there's room to breathe, and the views open as you move. The grouped houses are designed to look like large country houses.

The symmetry and uniformity, whether you're looking at the front, the back or the ends of the houses, is important. But just as



Tony and Sonny in one of their Brentham-designed extensions.
Photo by Andy Golding.



5 Cottages Nos 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 West Side Ludlow Road

Grouped buildings are designed to look like large country houses.

“Sutcliffe and Pearson were seriously good architects; they brought a quality of design which is quite astounding.”

important is the space around the buildings. Vivian set out to create a very fluid layout. As you turn corners, the estate doesn't feel tight or boxed in, there are curves in the roads and spaces between the houses.

And although the estate was set up to be a social space, you don't feel as though you're overlooked by everybody. Because of how the terraces work, and because the frontages are slightly wider, you do get a degree of privacy you wouldn't otherwise. The whole area was designed to help people live alongside each other, but you still have this sense of your own space running through it.

“The design of Brentham is so very clever.”

That same thinking shows up inside the houses. The architects could have designed three smallish rooms downstairs, but instead you often get one larger, multi-functional living room, and then a small kitchen. The houses are wider but less deep than traditional Edwardian terraces, and rooms often have dual aspect windows. Those decisions make a difference day to day, even in smaller houses, the rooms feel more generous, and they are flooded with light. It's lovely sitting in those spaces, with views front and back, bathed in light.

These were co-partnership properties, so they weren't built to the highest specification, but it was more than adequate, and better than many places at that

time. The Arts and Crafts houses were built with single brick outside walls (often rendered externally), single glazed windows and uninsulated roofs. Upstairs, you have these plaster of paris blocks that are interlinked to form unbelievably thin internal walls. It's one of those oddities you only really appreciate once you've lived here or had the chance to see behind the partition linings. We've never seen anything like it anywhere else.

The downstairs was rather more refined than the upstairs: you'd see curved, moulded skirting boards downstairs and more utilitarian design upstairs. Where there was going to be compromise, it was going to be upstairs. But in certain aspects, the houses were quite adventurous for their time: boiler systems, electrification, gas if you wanted it and upstairs bathrooms. Very few houses on the estate now remain as they were inside, people have changed them to improve thermal efficiency, make space work for modern life, and so on.

Sutcliffe and Pearson incorporated subtle variations in the design details. There are seven or eight window designs, mixed up across the terraces. Eaves are finished off with projecting rafter tails, some raised, some not, just to give a different feeling. Even the way the roof verge tiles meet the wall varies from house to house, sometimes

A co-partnership suburb

Residents, or tenant-members, bought shares in Ealing Tenants Ltd and the estate was owned collectively rather than each household owning their home outright. Homes were rented individually. The principle behind the model was to combine decent homes with mutual responsibility and long-term affordability, with tenant-members having a stake in the success of the wider estate.

By the mid-1920s, Ealing Tenants took the decision to build some houses for sale (not just for rent). They also began selling some existing rented houses to sitting tenants - first on 99-year leases, and after 1931 as freeholds.

As a result, some homes remained in the same family for decades.

The Ealing Housing Pioneers by Clive Evans (Brentham News, Feb 2025) is on the Brentham Society website and is well worth a read if you'd like more details on the co-partnership.

you see the clean edges of the tiles, sometimes they're finished with mortar, sometimes with a shaped Brick detail and sometimes with rendered corbels. These small design details are everywhere.

These details are the finishing touch on each house. The bigger achievement was bringing Vivian's vision to life, an Arts and Crafts suburb where the planning, the light, and the space between buildings matter as much as the houses themselves. It's why Brentham still feels so special, and a place it's a real privilege to call home.

Tony and Sonny Moore



And finally...

Your favourite house or houses?

The Dutch houses because they're just so unusual.

What's your favourite road?

Ludlow Road. It's such a potpourri of arts and crafts, designs and features. It's the barmiest road and I love it.

What's kept you in Brentham for 50 years?

I love my house. I love the surroundings. I love the people we've met here, I love working here. I just think it's a glorious place.

BRENTHAM LIFE

in little pictures



Christine Dawson being photographed by Andy Golding for the June edition of Brentham News.



Tamara Colton, Gina Jenkins, Louise Burns and Paul Broome collecting donations for Ealing Foodbank during December's carol singing.



Lucy Taylor (left), who lives on Woodfield Road, with her sister Adele Brennan. Both grew up in Brentham and met in Thailand over Christmas for a family wedding, pictured here with their Brentham totes.



Wildflowers on Brentham Meadows- photo by Teresa Mazur.



Jan Harrison (fourth from left) hosting a Brentham Gardeners get together in January.



Buzzkills performing at Teenage Gigs 3. Photo by Lyndsay Haywood.

FRONT GARDEN AWARDS AUTUMN 2025

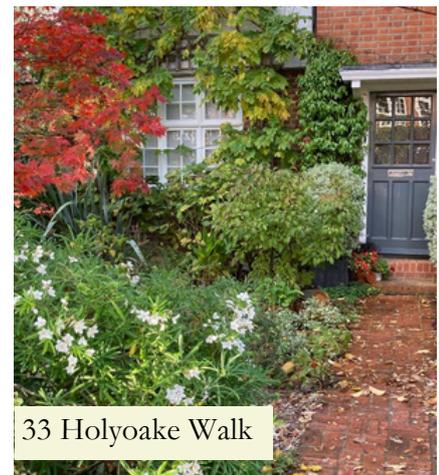
Autumn seemed to arrive quite suddenly last year with its stunning red, amber and golden glowing colours. We continued to see above average temperatures in the autumn after our hot dry summer. The above average rainfall in recent months has eased the shortfall in spring and summer with the UK's 2025 total averaging out at 90% of the average annual rainfall.

Signs of spring are in the air. The days are longer and warmer. Snowdrops have appeared and narcissi and daffodils are starting to flower. Our gardens are waking up for a new year of growth. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful green area, with its many trees and the lovely gardens maintained by Brentham residents.

Teresa Mazur

WINNER - 33 Holyoake Walk

Our autumn front garden winner was 33 Holyoake Walk, a beautiful, lush garden packed with a variety of greenery. It is enhanced by the white flowers which contrast well with the splash of red from the maple in its autumn glory.



33 Holyoake Walk

RUNNERS UP

26 Fowlers Walk
90 Meadvale Road
5 Ludlow Road



26 Fowlers Walk

KEEP BRENTHAM *thriving*

Since 1970, the Brentham Society and its members have helped protect what makes our garden suburb special, the green spaces, the character, and the events that bring neighbours together.

What the society does.

- Brings neighbours together through community events.
- Offers friendly, free guidance if you're planning changes to your home.
- Reviews planning applications and works with Ealing Council to protect the conservation area.
- Cares for Brentham's history and keeps the archive alive and accessible.

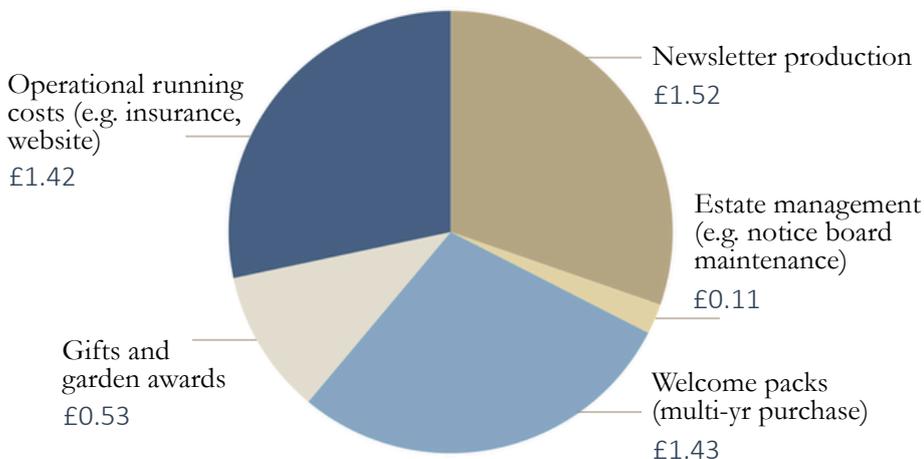
Last year, together, we -

<p>Welcomed 15 new households</p>	<p>Hosted 6 community events</p>	<p>Advised 97 residents on local queries</p>
<p>Guided 100 people on walks</p>	<p>Delivered 2,027 newsletters</p>	<p>Reviewed 47 planning applications</p>



Membership is open to every household in Brentham through a £5 yearly subscription.

Each £5 annual membership helps cover the essential costs of running the Society and caring for Brentham as a garden suburb.



Some members choose to give more, the additional donations help us invest further in events, conservation and community life in Brentham.

It's easy to renew or start membership, simply transfer £5 to:

Bank details: CAF Bank
Name: Brentham Society

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account No: 00019660

Payee ref: the first line of your address

Please email us at membership@brentham.com to confirm payment.

We love a transfer as it means we don't incur bank charges, but if that doesn't work for you, other ways to pay are detailed on the website.

If you wish to pay with cash, please contact Alan on 07983 672 773 who will arrange collection.

The Brentham Club

Sports and social activities for all

The Club offers a wide range of sports and social activities, including tennis, cricket, football, bowls, snooker, darts, bridge and social membership.

It is also a welcoming venue for celebrations of all kinds, from birthdays and Christmas parties to weddings and special occasions and is fully licensed to host weddings and civil ceremonies.

THE FRED PERRY CAFÉ

Monday 10.00am-4.00pm

Tuesday and Wednesday 10.00am-5.00pm

Thursday and Friday 9.00am-5.00pm

Saturday and Sunday: 9.00am-2.00pm

FRIDAY NIGHT STREET FOOD MARKETS

13rd March and 10th April.

See you at the AGM on 17th March.

Brentham News is shaped by the people who live here. Whether you have an article idea, enjoy writing, or have photos from Brentham events, we'd love to hear from you at news@brentham.com.

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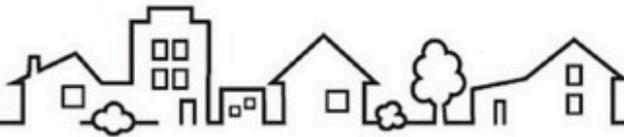
www.brentham.com



[brentham_garden_suburb](https://www.instagram.com/brentham_garden_suburb)



If you, or someone you know, is sight impaired and would appreciate a newsletter with a larger font, please contact Jacqueline editor@brentham.com.



020 8992 5661 • www.grimshawhomes.co.uk



If you are considering a sale, contact Hugh Grimshaw or Liz Cullinan to arrange an appointment to discuss how we can help with your property move.



FOR SALE

Meadvale Road

Brentham house

2 reception rooms | kitchen

3 bedrooms | shower room

Garden

Quoting price £875,000