



Issue 171

February 2011

Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham Garden Suburb

# BRENTHAM NEWS

## BRENTHAM NEEDS YOU!

As most of us who live in Brentham know, this is a special place. It's special because of the flair and imagination of the planners and architects who created it a century ago, but also because of the way succeeding generations have kept faith with their inspiration and conserved Brentham's special features. Conservation inevitably means limiting the sort of changes that we're allowed to make to our houses and streets. It's the price we pay for living somewhere that's more than a run-of-the-mill London suburb with a jumble of plastic windows and car parks instead of front gardens.

And now we'll have to be more vigilant than ever for changes that may destroy that special character.

Swingeing cuts in the Council's Planning Services mean a near 30% reduction in the staff who deal with development management, planning enforcement and conservation/urban design. In all, nearly nine full-time posts will go.

Conservation will suffer as a result. Though the laws and guidelines on conservation are unchanged, there will be fewer professional staff to enforce them. If enough small but important changes slip through the net to change its basic character – the odd satellite dish here, the 'wrong' window there – we may risk losing our Conservation Area status altogether. That would be the end of Brentham as a special place to live.

So we all need to take extra responsibility – not just for our own property, but for our whole neighbourhood – and demonstrate the pride we feel in it.



*Do you want this?*

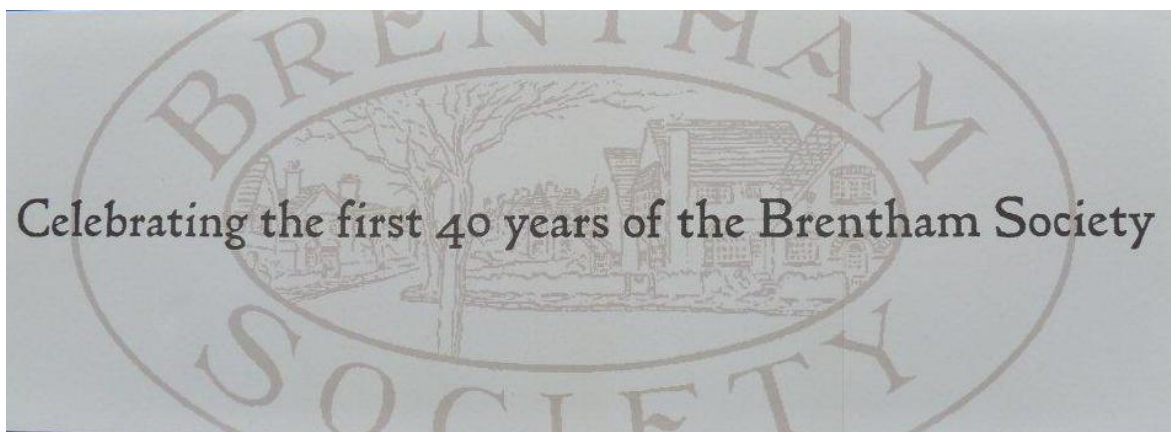
*Wavertree Garden Suburb, Liverpool where conservation lapsed – note plastic windows, satellite dish and front garden car parking.*

A big part of the work of the Brentham Society concerns the broader conservation issues – such as lamp-posts, pillar boxes, street trees and street signs – as well as day-to-day queries about planning applications. The weaker the Council's planning department, the harder the Brentham Society and residents must work to keep our estate looking as good as it does.

**This is where you can help. The society's committee comprises a small number of people who have served for a long time. To keep this work going, and to protect the future, it needs new blood. If you value Brentham and want to help keep it special, please get more involved.**

### **Living in Brentham**

If you are one of the 20 or so new residents who moved to Brentham during 2010 and you haven't yet received your free copy of the new residents' welcome pack "Living in Brentham" with advice on conservation issues, please please contact the Chair of the Brentham Society.



At last year's well-attended AGM we celebrated 40 years of the Society. In attendance were three former Chairs including the first ever, Clive Hicks. All three joined in cutting a specially iced Brentham cake, overseen by members of the current Committee



### **Brentham Garden Awards, 2010**

After a much harder winter than in recent years, followed by a late spring, it had been wonderful to see Brentham's gardens burst into life. In the early part of the summer the gardens looked in fine shape, particularly around the time of the Open Gardens Day, but then came the month of drought which spoiled gardening for some time until the

rain and cooler temperatures in August brought another wave of colour and growth, lasting well into the autumn.

### **Spring award – 5 Brunner Road**

Runners up: 34 Ludlow Road, 47 Brentham Way, 76 Brentham Way.

### **Summer award – 21 Ludlow Road**

Runners up: 42 Holyoake Walk, 93 Fowlers Walk, 10 Neville Road.

### **Autumn award – 58 Holyoake Walk**

Runners up: 119 Fowlers Walk, 1 Ruskin Gardens, 29 Denison Road



*Presentation of the rose bowl to the 2010 winner*

### **Rose Bowl – 38 Holyoake Walk**

The garden that really stood out right through the year is 38 Holyoake Walk. A developing garden with lovely curves and changing views in all directions, it is well stocked and has attractively varying areas. Truly a garden for all seasons with very well maintained hedges, it features plenty of bulbs and shrubs in spring, an arch of roses and clematis early in the summer, and a beautiful white rose repeating its flowering later on in the year, together with colourful dahlias and planting in autumnal hues.

*Our thanks to the judges, Sally Kelly, Nita Davis and Gilda Kelly for their sterling work in this the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the garden awards.*

## Community Spirit in Action

*Groundforce clears 20 sacks of rubbish and finds 'treasure'*

A team of clean-up volunteers found more than they bargained for when they set to work on the triangle of No Man's Land between Fowlers Walk and Brentham Way in the autumn. Among the usual detritus, they found a Tesco bag full of old fag-ends, a copy of *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, several Graham Greene novels, and more than a dozen empty wine bottles.

Altogether, more than 20 sacks of rubbish and cuttings from overgrown trees and bushes were taken to the Recycling Centre, and a particularly nasty bramble infestation was removed – with a pickaxe!



A return visit to finish the tree pruning is planned for Saturday 19 March. If you live nearby and can help, you'll be very welcome. Coffee, buns and a warm glow will be your reward. **Futher details: Sue Elliott – email [sue@brentham.com](mailto:sue@brentham.com)**

## Membership Subscriptions, 2011

Please take time to renew (or take out) membership of the Brentham Society. Annual subscriptions, held at **£2 per household** are now due, and can be paid by using the envelope enclosed with this issue.

## Lamp-posts

We are pleased to see replacement lamp-posts finally appearing in the two alleyways, following funding from the Hanger Hill and Cleveland ward forums for specialised lifting equipment. At the moment all these columns



still await their Victorian lanterns and have to be re-painted; this will be done when the weather improves.

## Mrs. Sophie Lewis (née Leiprect von Burg) 1915-2011

We regret to announce that Brentham's oldest resident had died at the age of 96. Born in Switzerland, she trained as a children's nurse and was posted to Aachen in Germany at the end of the Second World War to care for some of its child victims.



There she met her future husband, Selwyn Lewis, who was working for the British Control Commission.

Their first home was in Devon, but in 1953 when her husband found a teaching post in west London the family (they had two children by now, Nicholas and Rhiannon) moved into Ludlow Road. Later on she too began teaching, at Grange Junior School, Ealing, and after becoming widowed in 1977 she started, at the age of 60, to teach at home children who were struggling with the 3R's or preparing for school entrance examinations. She continued with this work with great success right into her 90s.

Mrs Lewis continued to live in Ludlow road until her death this year. She was proud of being the oldest and longest-living resident on the Brentham Garden Estate.

## St. Gregory's School Expansion Plans

As many of you are aware, St. Gregory's School on Woodfield Road on the borders of Brentham, is proposing to expand by 50% with a large building scheme that will impact especially on residents living nearby, but also affect the Brentham Conservation Area as a whole.

The Brentham Society has stayed in close touch with the local residents' campaign against the expansion, and has objected to the planning application on the grounds that it will adversely affect our Conservation Area. Specifically:

- The proposed design is out of keeping with the character of Brentham.
- Green space, trees and wildlife habitats will be lost.
- Flood risk (especially to houses in Woodfield Crescent) will increase.
- Traffic congestion will be exacerbated, causing safety problems.



In a follow-up letter, we also put on record our objections if the plans were to include, as has been suggested, an all-weather sports pitch and changes - including removing a barrier - to the access path behind houses on the south side of Woodfield Crescent.

To find out more, see:

<https://sites.google.com/site/saynotostgregs>

## Architectural Salvage

Do you have any unwanted original Brentham house fittings such as doors, fireplaces, window furniture? We hope to establish a repository of all things Brentham which others may find helpful in restoring their homes. **Contact Heather by emailing [heather@brentham.com](mailto:heather@brentham.com)**

## CPZ Threat Creeps into Brentham

Ealing Council is currently consulting residents in **Woodfield Avenue, Woodfield Crescent, Winscombe Crescent** and **upper Brentham Way** about whether they want their street to be part of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) including Mount Avenue. This may, in part, be our councillors' idea of a solution to traffic problems around local schools.

The Brentham Society has been consulted and these are our views:

- We don't think a CPZ is the answer to current parking and potential traffic issues - it won't improve congestion outside St Gregory's or Montpelier at peak school times (CPZ restrictions don't match afternoon school-run times, and if parents are prepared to park on double yellow lines now, they'll take even less notice of a CPZ). It will just add to the problem by pushing commuter and school parking further into adjacent non-CPZ streets.
- The ugly street signage and road marking that come as part of the CPZ package are not appropriate in a Conservation Area.
- We don't believe that residents should have to pay £45 or £75 for the privilege of parking in their own street.
- The consultation document refers to "residents' requests" but does not give any evidence of the scale of these, or of any compelling reason for imposing a CPZ.



The Council needs a minimum 20% response rate to this consultation; and if more than 20% respond and ***"the majority do not want a CPZ, one will not be proposed"***.

The matter will be decided on the basis of the proposed area, not street-by-street, so please consider your response carefully, and take into account not just the impact it will have on you and your street, but on adjacent streets and on Brentham as a whole.

## Trees



Local Ealing councillor Nigel Sumner has been instrumental in arranging for some new street trees to be planted on the estate. The Brentham Society is currently in discussion with him over locations and species (including *Acer campestre* and *Betula pendulato*) to ensure they are visually appropriate in the context of our architecture and landscaping.

## Feed your hedge!

Hedges are such an essential part of the character of Brentham, and now is the time to ensure that they remain so. As you tend your garden this spring and scatter compost around your plants remember that the hedges would appreciate some feeding too! A healthy, well-fed hedge is less likely to fall prey to honey fungus and better able to form an impenetrable barrier to keep out unwanted intruders.



## Books



The Brentham Garden Estate features in English Heritage's new illustrated volume *English Garden Cities, an Introduction*, by Mervyn Miller. Copies, priced at £9.99, are available from the **Pitshanger Bookshop**.

## May Day 2011



Brentham May Day this year will be held on Saturday 14th May. The organisers are very appreciative of the teams of people who erect the maypole early in the morning, dress Jack in the Green's frame, and sell programmes.

They would also be grateful for any help you can give with teaching the maypole and country dances, helping at rehearsals, stewarding on the field on the day, and walking with the procession. With offers or for more information please contact

[patricia9@sky.com](mailto:patricia9@sky.com)

## Cinema Paradiso Opens in Brentham

Pitshanger Pictures are launching, in addition to their well-established Sunday showings (see page 6) a new series of Monday evening film screenings under the name **Pitshanger Pictures Take 2**. The first film, to be shown in the St. Barnabas Millennium Hall at 7.45 on Monday 28 February, will be *Cinema Paradiso*, admission £5. It is planned to show films on at least 15 other Mondays during 2011.

Giuseppe Tornatore's beautiful 1988 film, about a little boy's love affair with the movies, won an Oscar for Best Foreign Film and a Special Jury Prize at Cannes.



Philippe Noiret plays a grizzled old projectionist who takes pride in his presentation of screen dreams for an Italian town still recovering from World War II.

When a child (Jacques Perrin) demonstrates fascination not only for movies but also for the process of showing them to an audience, a lifelong friendship is struck up.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND BRENTHAM



19 March      Community Day -Tree Pruning  
 14 May        Brentham May Day  
 12 June       Open Gardens Day  
 26 June       Strawberry Tea

For further details, see estate notice boards or Brentham website, [www.brentham.com](http://www.brentham.com)



**The Brentham Club**

11 March      Club Auction (fund raising)  
 12 March      Film Day: War and Peace  
 26 March      Hungarian Evening  
 Summer       Centenary Celebrations (TBC)

More details at [www.brenthamclub.co.uk](http://www.brenthamclub.co.uk)



19 March  
 3.00    Chronicles of Narnia, Prince Caspian  
 7.30    Eat Pray Love  
 16 April  
 3.00    Up  
 6.30    Africa United  
 9.15    127 Hours

For further details, see [www.barnabites.org](http://www.barnabites.org)



The provisional date for the annual  
 Party in the Park is 26 June

Further details see [www.pitshanger.org.uk](http://www.pitshanger.org.uk)

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You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing [news@brentham.com](mailto:news@brentham.com)



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