



BRENTHAM NEWS UPDATE AUGUST 2008

(Distributed to Brentham Residents)

*This version of Brentham News has been adapted for the Brentham website.
Private telephone numbers and addresses and commercial ads have been deleted.*

New Lamps for Old?

The saga of the renewal of Brentham street lights moved on a stage in July.

Residents of Fowlers Walk and Brunner Road may be wondering why nothing has been heard since they received letters from Southern Electric, the lighting contractors who took over from EdF a short while ago, telling them that work was to start on replacing the lights in their streets. What in fact happened was that we immediately contacted the Borough Lighting Engineer to ask why we still had no confirmation about what type of lights were to be installed, in particular what height they were to be, as we had objected strongly to the plan to put in taller, 6 metre columns (on most of the present ones the lanterns are at 5 metres).

We and the Brentham Conservation Panel also learnt that the Council has finally accepted the case that refurbishment of the original cast iron columns was after all possible, but that they were to be removed from our roads and put up instead in the so-called "heritage quarter" in Northfields. We therefore sought to re-open the question of doing the same for Brentham. We specifically asked for one complete street to be lit with the refurbished columns, to preserve at least part of the historic aspect of our estate.

On 22 July the Council Cabinet agreed to one of our principal requests, which was that any new style steel replacement columns across the whole estate should be 5m high (see illustration, right) except in two streets (Brentham Way and Meadvale Road), where we had already agreed that the road widths and layout made it particularly difficult, and where 6m posts will be installed. What has not been settled is whether we can get at least some of the cast iron columns back after refurbishment.

What we have learnt is that the refurbished units will be subject to some form of extension to raise the light source to 5m (meaning an extra 1m - 1.5m on the present height of the basic 3.5m columns), and that no decision has yet been taken on the lanterns. We are concerned that extending the cast iron posts will destroy their proportions and not achieve what we have been seeking to do. We will be having another meeting with the Council about this soon, and understand that there will be a street trial in Northfields in September or October, when we can make a judgment on what should happen to our latest request. In the meantime, the other replacement work remains "on hold". We hope to shed more light on this soon!



Tony Miller

Good Taste at the Brentham Club



The Brentham Society is holding a wine tasting next month at the Brentham Club. Besides learning something about wine, sampling some vintages, and enjoying a convivial evening with friends and neighbours, you will be helping to raise funds to replace the main door of the Club with one more in keeping with the building.

The event will start at 7.30 pm on Friday 26 September, and the ticket price includes a two-course buffet supper. Keith

Thompson of Pitshanger Lane Co-op has kindly donated six Fairtrade wines to be sampled, and further bottles will be available for sale on the evening.

The event will be compèred by John Ducker (a.k.a. John Leeson, the voice of K9 from *Dr. Who*).

Tickets, costing £20, can be obtained from Tony Miller or any other Committee member of the Brentham Society.

Your Help is Needed

"They really ought to do something about it!" How often have you heard that - or even said it - about things on our estate? But who are "they"? In the case of Brentham, it has to include YOU!

The Brentham Society is run on behalf of all of us by a small number of volunteers who comprise the committee and who undertake the necessary tasks to help preserve the nature of our area. As the time of the next annual meeting approaches, we need new people to come forward to help.

The work need not be particularly onerous or time-consuming. The committee meets about 10 times a year for a couple of evening hours in the Brentham Club. Specific tasks are shared between us, though this year in particular we are looking for a new Treasurer to keep our (very simple) accounts, as well as for ordinary committee members.

Can you assist in any way? Please don't wait to be asked, but contact our acting Chair Tony Miller by e-mail to tony@brentham.com. And the perks include a Brentham e-mail address!

Guided Walks around Brentham

Brentham again opens its doors as part of the London Open House weekend on 20th and 21st September. This is open to locals as well as Londoners from further afield so everyone is welcome to join one of Clive Hicks' guided tours round the estate. Brentham Way resident and conservation architect Clive is extremely knowledgeable about the estate and will tell you things you never knew about your neighbourhood. Just come to Vivian Green, opposite the Brentham Club, for 10.30 a.m. on either the Saturday or Sunday and join the throng. Allow a couple of hours.



Sue Elliott

Dates for your Diary

The AGMs of the Brentham Society and the BHS will be held on **Thursday 16 October** at the Brentham Club, starting at 7.30 pm. For **Tuesday 7 October**, Brentham Garden Group have invited a speaker from Capel Manor College to talk about The History of Garden Design from Ancient to Modern. This event will begin at 7.30 in the Coffee Lounge at the Brentham Club and is open to all members of the Brentham Society. Tickets at £2.50 from any member of the Group.

Art Exhibition at Osterley House



Work by Ruskin Gardens artist Sally Kelly is currently on view at the Garden Gallery at Osterley Park. Sally's lifelong interest in plants and flowers, both wild and cultivated, and her passion for colour and for working with fabrics and threads are reflected in the works on display. Textiles and ceramics by other local artists can also be seen in the exhibition, which is open from 1 to 4.30 pm, Wednesdays to Sundays, until 17 August.

Apology

The Editor regrets that, owing to an oversight, the usual reminders about the impending Strawberry Tea and the Family Cycle to Osterley failed to appear in the June edition of *Brentham News*. Apologies to anyone who missed either event as a consequence, and to the organisers.

The next full edition of *Brentham News*, distributed to residents and friends of Brentham, will be published in September 2008. Articles, small ads and news of any forthcoming local events for inclusion can be sent by email to news@brentham.com or posted to the Editor at 8 Gleneagles, Malvern Way, W13 8DZ

