



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

BRENTHAM NEWS ISSUE 153 FEBRUARY 2005

(Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham)

Brentham Society Chair's Notes

This is my first set of notes for Brentham News, and I am very conscious that in following Sue Elliott in the Chair I have a difficult task to live up to her example. I should like to take this opportunity to express publicly the thanks of the Committee for the inspiration and hard work that Sue has put in over the past three years. I am delighted that she will still be running the Brentham Heritage Society (the charitable wing of the Brentham Society devoted to educational aspects) and that we shall still be working closely together.

It seems appropriate I should set out briefly my own interests and the main issues facing the Society in the next year. Although new to the Brentham Committee, I have lived on the estate for 32 years and have also served a term on the Ealing Planning Committee. My concerns are therefore very much in the preservation and conservation of the area in terms of its architecture and appearance, as well as issues of the general environment such as street lighting, parking and traffic.

The principles which affect a conservation area such as ours, to which an "Article 4 direction" applies, are still not always appreciated by planners and members of the Council's Planning Committee. Many residents are also not sure what this means in terms of what may or may not be done to make changes to properties within the estate. We and the Conservation Panel (which is independent of the Society) are working closely with the Council's Conservation Officers to bring the Brentham Design Guide up to date, and to advise residents how it affects them. I hope it will be possible to issue a revised guide this year.



The other major issue in 2005 will be the plan to renovate and extend the Brentham Club. Your Committee has made it clear to the Club Regeneration Board, which is controlling this project, that whilst we are sympathetic to their broad objectives, we will be looking very closely at the detail to ensure that the interests of residents, particularly in the conservation and preservation of the character of the area, are properly safeguarded. There is a report elsewhere in this edition of the stage that has been reached.

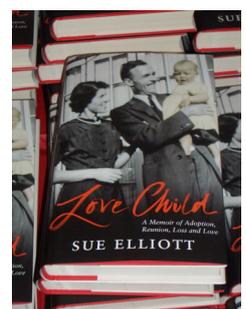
The Society is not only about planning and conservation. I hope its other activities, as outlined in the Calendar of Events accompanying this *News*, will continue to be supported by residents. We are nothing without you, the members - so let's be hearing from you!

Tony Miller

Congratulations all round



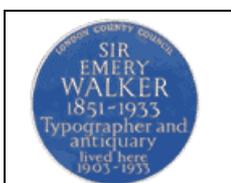
To long-standing Brentham resident Ramsay Hughes (left) who turned 95 on 17th January. Until recently Ramsay used to host regular drop-in coffee mornings at her home in Winscombe Crescent. The milky coffee and lively conversation were legendary. Ramsay now lives in a nursing home in central Ealing, but the tradition lives on, thanks to Dial-A-Ride and Brentham friends who arrange for Ramsay to visit one of their homes.



To Sue Elliott, Chair of the Brentham Heritage Society, whose book *Love Child* (right), "a memoir of adoption and reunion, loss and love", has just been published alongside an ITV series on adoption. Copies available from the Pitshanger Bookshop.

To carol singers who turned out in force on two nights last Christmas, and were perhaps the best group of singers to tour Brentham in recent years. A total of £247.50 was collected for the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust (formerly The Retinoblastoma Society). Thanks to everyone involved, whether singing, contributing money or providing refreshments.

And finally, to all winners of 2004 garden awards, as announced at the Brentham AGM 2004, and especially to the residents of 115 Fowlers Walk, who won the rose bowl.



Aileen Reid, author of the Brentham book, is the curator of Emery Walker's house at 7 Hammersmith Terrace, which opens this year to coincide with a V&A exhibition. The house offers a fine example of an Arts and Crafts interior. Walker, a typographer, printer and close friend of William Morris, was closely associated with many of the key bodies that propagated the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Visits to the house must be booked in advance by phoning 020 7251 9125. Further information is available on the web at www.emerywalker.org.uk

Planning and conservation: more questions and answers, by popular demand

Is my builder right to say I don't need planning permission to install replacement Brentham-style windows?

No, you *do* need planning permission, even if you are intending to install copies of your original windows. There is good reason for this. There are tradespeople who claim to make the windows correctly, but when installed they prove to be different from the originals in such respects such as using beading instead of putty, incorrectly-formed mouldings, and incorrect dimensions. The result is an inexact copy of the original and the unity of the terrace is compromised. The Planning Department will ask you to apply for retrospective planning permission and may require you to reinstate the original features. It is much easier and cheaper to get it right before work starts by obtaining approval for the work. Incidentally there are several different types of windows on Brentham houses. Even the cottage-style properties that look the same at first glance have small differences in design from terrace to terrace.

My windows let in draughts. Should I replace them or get them restored?

The advice from English Heritage and other conservation bodies is to consider replacement only as a last resort. One reason is that the original timber is of a quality not available now. Whenever possible windows should be restored and draught-proofed, and secondary double-glazing fitted if required. We are interested to hear from residents who have undertaken such work and to add the names of reliable companies to our list. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) both have useful websites: www.spab.org.uk and www.ihbc.org.uk. SPAB produces a range of inexpensive leaflets on aspects of building repair.



The drive in front of my garage needs to be resurfaced. Do I need planning permission?

Yes, you do. The application will need to detail the area to be covered and the materials to be used.

I have planning permission for an extension and my builder says it does not matter if what he builds differs a little from the plans. Is he correct?

No, he is not. The building should be in accordance with the plans as approved. If for some reason during the course of construction a problem is found that makes it difficult for the plan to be followed exactly, then you should consult with the Planning Department at Ealing Council to discuss a way forward. If you allow your builder to build differently from the plan as approved, the Council may take action and require you to put the work right, which is costly and a nuisance.

If you feel uncertain about these or any other planning issues, contact Pat Baxendale (8998 1855), Heather Moore (8998 0234), or the Planning Department at Ealing Council, 22-24 Uxbridge Road, W5 2HL (8825 6600). The Planning reception is open weekdays 8.30am-5pm, and you should mention that you live in a conservation area with Article 4 direction.

Heather Moore

From Knowledge Comes Care

The guest speaker at this year's Brentham Society AGM was John Scott of the Bedford Park Society. After outlining the history of Bedford Park, "the first garden suburb", he described its logbooks scheme. A folder has been produced for each house on the estate, to guide owners, architects and planners and record changes.

Each logbook contains general guidance on the application of planning regulations to listed buildings, technical notes on specific aspects of conservation, and historical notes on Bedford Park and its architects. Owners update their logbooks by adding information about maintenance work they undertake on their property, thus compiling a useful record both for themselves and for their successors. Bedford Park logbooks have become such prized items that owners yearn to keep them as souvenirs when they move away. A logbooks scheme like this is clearly an excellent idea. Would anyone like to work up a similar project for Brentham?



It was sad to hear that former Brentham resident **Jean George, nee Webster**, has recently died. She was born at 28 Fowlers Walk in 1923, and Hubert Brampton, one of the Brentham Pioneers, was her grandfather. She was May Queen in 1938, and she kept her close connections with Brentham even after moving to the south coast. When the Brentham Book was being compiled Jean contributed many fascinating memories. She always enjoyed receiving her regular copy of the Newsletters, and often wrote to me commenting on an article and recalling things like seeing Fred Perry give tennis demonstrations at the Club, feeling her way along hedges in the wartime blackout, and watching a bomb fall on Meadvale Road. I will miss her regular letters and reminiscences, which showed how Brentham stays in people's hearts even when they have moved away.

Rosanna Henderson

Brentham Club Regeneration News

The Regeneration Board has been busy developing the business plan and talking to banks about financing a development scheme. However, even informal consultation with residents cannot begin in earnest until funding is approved, a special general meeting of Club members has amended the Club's constitution, and the next stage of architectural plans have been worked up. These tasks should be completed in the coming weeks, after which draft plans will be presented at a series of Open Days. Meanwhile a specialist transport consultant has looked at traffic and access issues, producing a report that has also gone to Ealing Council, and other preparatory work and discussions with Council staff have continued.

You will have received a questionnaire on Club services before Christmas. *If you haven't yet returned this, it isn't too late. Your views are important, so please post it back a.s.a.p.* Meanwhile, if you have queries or concerns, please contact Sue Elliott, the Brentham contact on the Regeneration Board, ☎ 8998 9978.

Brentham Society & Brentham Heritage Society committee (Chair Tony Miller on page 1)

			
Sue Elliott, BHS Chair	Richard Costella, Treasurer	Eleanor Cowie, Secretary	Sean Cadogan, Membership
			
Adrian McAllister	Heather Moore	Martin Mortimore	Barry Murphy

News from the Brentham Heritage Society

Top of the Heritage Society's priorities for the coming year is Wendy Sender's Photo Survey of the whole estate, which she has almost completed and expects to be ready for the Brentham Archive and the website within weeks. Ealing's Conservation Officers have expressed great interest in the Survey and want a copy for their own Intranet for reference purposes. As promised, photos of individual houses should also be available to purchase in due course.

The time is fast approaching to consider a reprint of 'the Brentham book' - and what form this should take: straight reprint, new revised edition, or a paperback version? If you have views, let us know.

We're also considering commissioning a professionally produced DVD of Brentham life. Nothing too salacious, but a record of community life on the estate now for posterity, and for individuals to buy.

We'd love to extend the range of Brentham heritage merchandise to include postcards of archive photos and plans, but *we need someone to take this on as a project. If you have experience or contacts in the print or graphics business, let's hear from you.*

The Victoria & Albert Museum is mounting a major Arts & Crafts exhibition this year and we hope to arrange a special visit. *Watch this space for details.*

Sue Elliott



Charles Rigg, who sadly died recently at the age of 87, was prominent in Brentham life for many years, and was Deputy Chairman and Treasurer of the Brentham Society in its early days. He and his wife Anne moved to Ealing in 1974 after his 14 years as Principal of Newbattle Abbey, an adult education college for those who had missed out on tertiary education. Charles had a life-long concern for the less fortunate members the community, and until his retirement he edited a magazine for a charity for the homeless.

Tony Miller

Long-standing residents will remember "the General" (as **Noel Earl** was known from his similarity to de Gaulle) and his motorbike. It is sad to report his death at the age of 87. Noel was a career policeman who served in Ealing until his retirement in 1968. He had moved with his wife Betty into his mother's house in Winscombe Crescent and continued to live there after her death. His colleagues remember his fascination with the repair of watches and clocks, which reflected his love of order and process, and he continued this interest into retirement.

Tony Miller

For Ludlow Road residents, the death last year of **Yorrie Clements** removed a character who seemed as much part of the Brentham scene as the hedges and windows. He and Brenda moved in with their young family over forty years ago. They had both loved the estate, but houses rarely came up for sale then, so when they heard about no. 33 they bought it on sight. They moved in on August Bank holiday, and Brenda still remembers their fish and chips supper. They were among first few "outsiders" to buy a Brentham house at a time when most owners of the smaller properties were ex-tenants. As well as the lovely environment, they really liked the settled community they found here. Their pretty cottage and garden is a much admired feature in Ludlow Road, and the neighbours will miss Yorrie's distinguished bearded figure in the front garden. His family and a large congregation of friends and neighbours made his funeral at St. Barnabas a memorable occasion.

Pat Baxendale

Mrs Olga Durant died peacefully on 18 October 2004 at the impressive age of 97. She was a familiar sight in the area, always impeccably turned out and wearing a brilliant red hat. During World War Two Olga made her contribution as an auxiliary nurse at Acton Hospital. Later she and her husband Norman jointly ran a succession of businesses locally, eventually moving to a quiet retirement in Brentham Way in 1972. They loved their new home and derived much pleasure tending their small garden together. Olga often remarked (almost as often as she recounted memories of Red Cross days!) how much she loved Brentham.

Mary Fear-Hill

	<p style="text-align: center;">Sponsor's Advertisement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BRENTHAM GARDEN ESTATE</p> <p>Grimshaw & Co. recently handled the sale of this 3-bedroom Edwardian character property in Winscombe Crescent, which preserved the ambience of the period and was on the market at quoting price of £485,000 Freehold.</p> <p>If you are considering a sale, why not reap the benefit of our extensive local experience and vigorous marketing? The agents for your area, we always have a large register of waiting applicants willing to pay full market price for a suitable property.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For a free market appraisal please contact: Derek Grimshaw FRICS or John Pridham RD, FRICS ☎ 8992 5661</p>
	

<p style="text-align: center;">Brentham Society Membership, 2005</p> <p>An envelope for your subscription is enclosed. Please return this to your membership collector a.s.a.p. Please complete the section that asks for details of your name and address so the collector can get a membership card to you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The annual subscription is still only £2.</p> <p>Donations are greatly appreciated and always put to good use. Either include it in your subscription envelope, or pay a donation direct into the Society's account. Thank you for your continued support.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Local History Lectures</p> <p>Ealing Central Library has been hosting a series of talks on local history on Mondays at 7 pm. Forthcoming ones will be on Perivale (14 February), Victorian and Edwardian Ealing (21 February), and using the new Dictionary of National Biography (28 February). Entry is £4 per talk, including refreshments. For further details, ☎ 8825 5600.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Good home needed</p> <p>A small original Brentham mantelpiece and fire surround is available from PatBaxendale, ☎ 8998 1855</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">"Brain of Brentham" Quiz Night, Saturday 19 March, Brentham Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Create your own table of 8 contestants, or leave the organizers to put you into a team. Tickets (£8 including supper) from Barry Murphy, ☎ 8998 8512</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Brentham Gardeners Meet Again</p> <p>Evening group starts up again on Tuesday 5th April, meeting 7.30 pm at 18 North View. Afternoon group at 2 pm on Wednesday 20 April, 28 Holyoake Walk.</p> <p>New members always very welcome, no gardening skills needed. Further details: ☎ Maureen McCarthy, 8997 6269</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sally Kelly's Annual Charity Plant Sale</p> <p>This year for the Motor Neurone Disease Association Sunday March 20th, 1-4 pm, 2 Ruskin Gardens</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Victoria Ayling's New Yoga Class</p> <p>Male and female, all ages and levels welcome. St. Barnabas, Thursdays 7.30 - 9 pm ☎ 8810 7521</p>

