

*Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing*

# BRENTHAM NEWS ISSUE 162 FEBRUARY 2008

(Distributed to residents and friends of Brentham)

## Brentham Society Chair's Notes

Conservation activity is a continuous process, and there have been several recent developments which affect Brentham and the wider area. Guarding the unique character of the architecture and layout of the estate for the benefit of all is both a personal and a collective activity. Last year our individual obligations were restated in the revised "Article 4 Direction". These emphasise that planning permission is required for any change to "means of enclosure" (fences, hedges, gates and so on), both front and rear, and for any hard surfacing on front gardens (paths and paving as well as hard standing). This is in addition to the national rules prohibiting things like satellite dishes on roofs, chimneys or in other prominent positions.

More general aspects are also on the agenda. The Council is required to carry out appraisals of all conservation areas, to analyse their particular characteristics and set out management plans to "preserve and enhance" their special nature. In the case of Brentham, a new appraisal has just been completed and is subject to public consultation, with comments due to be received by 21 February. The draft can be seen on the Council web site and at the local library, in papers for the Planning Committee meeting on 30 January.

Plans are also well advanced for the "Streets for People" programme for changes to traffic and parking on Pitshanger Lane, following the recent public consultation. In one of its last acts before its probable abolition, the Ealing Area Committee on 22 January approved the revised plans subject to some final details being agreed with the Pitshanger Community Association. The work is scheduled to begin in the spring. However, further traffic management plans, involving a 20 mph zone for the whole of Pitshanger, seem to have disappeared, at least for the moment.

Still awaited is the decision on what lighting columns are to be installed throughout the estate, as part of a borough-wide renewal contract. We have been told that details will be contained in a budget proposal for Ealing's Council Cabinet on 14 February, and are seeking more information.

Finally, the major development of the Arcadia centre is due to be considered at a special Planning Committee meeting on 14 February. As well as deciding the nature of the centre of Ealing for the next century, this will affect two major conservation areas, and have significant implications for the way in which they are protected in the borough as a whole.

*Tony Miller ☎ 8997 6042*

## Conservation, why Bother?

Mention the Brentham Estate and the usual reply is, "Oh, it's so lovely down there". And indeed it is. Twenty-five years ago I used to live in an equally beautiful area of Liverpool, Wavertree Garden Suburb, an identical estate founded by Ealing's very own Henry Vivian between 1910 and 1915. Any mention of the estate provided the same response, "Oh it's so lovely down there", and indeed it was, with the same strict conservation rules applying and the same regulations strictly adhered to.

Last summer I revisited my old stamping ground only to discover that the magic had gone. Upvc double-glazed windows were commonplace. Satellite dishes adorned the fronts of cottages. Front gardens had been converted into parking spaces and several rear extensions were crude and featureless. The conservation rules seem to have lapsed and cheap characterless changes seem to be spreading like a cancer.

Strict conservation rules are needed to safeguard the standards that we all take for granted. We all have our grumbles about them from time to time but believe me, we'd grumble a lot more if we lost what we have now. On the Brentham Estate we still have that magic, and people still say, "Oh, it's lovely down there." I wouldn't want it any other way.

*Dave Hobbs*

## Brentham Carols

The Brentham carol singers turned out on two evenings, a Saturday and a Thursday in the run-up to Christmas, and everyone had a great time. Saturday was a beautifully still and clear night, but bitterly cold. Numbers were somewhat reduced - possibly due to weekend attractions like *Strictly Come Dancing* and *The X Factor*, although these also guaranteed that there were plenty of people at home to collect money from. After almost an hour and a half of singing around Denison Road, Meadvale Road, Ludlow Road and Woodfield Avenue we were welcomed into the warmth of Rosanna and Alan Henderson's home for mulled wine and mince pies as a reward for our efforts.



Thursday night saw a fantastic turnout, with many newcomers joining in. Luckily the weather was slightly milder as we sang our way around Winscombe Crescent, Brentham Way and Fowlers Walk. Afterwards we enjoyed Heather Moore's home-made mince pies and mulled wine at Richard Costella's on Brentham Way.

Many thanks to all the residents who showed their appreciation by contributing to the collection, to all the singers who took part, to the hosts who warmed us all up afterwards, and to Nat Spurling for taking photos. Also a special thanks to the collectors - Jackie Moss and her team (a great mix of parents and children) - who always do a wonderful job of knocking on as many doors as possible. The total collected amounted to an impressive £258.14 and this was donated to the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust.

*Tim Llewellyn*

## Garden Awards, 2007

The **spring award** went to **57 Meadvale Road**, a large corner plot full of spring colour which has been carefully developed for many years. An abundance of grape hyacinth frame the main path, backed by euonymus, primula and narcissus. A wide range of colour in several beds surround a well-kept lawn, giving the garden great appeal.

Runners-up: 16 Woodfield Crescent, 206 Pitshanger Lane, 47 Meadvale Road.

The **summer award** went to **33 Ludlow Road**. A previous winner, this typical cottage garden is extremely pretty, with beds full of beautiful upright flowers such as hollyhocks, blue thistles, roses, acanthus and crocosmia surrounding a small oval lawn. Herbaceous perennials such as geraniums and campanula provide interest nearer the ground. A rose arch completes the picture.

Runners-up: 21 Ludlow Road, 23 Brentham Way, 26 Holyoake Walk.

The **autumn award** went to **119 Fowlers Walk**, a small compact garden, full of colour. A phormium provides a strong vertical axis to the corner of this plot, with a background of hydrangea and Japanese anemones. A bowl of cyclamen makes a strong and colourful centrepiece to this well-maintained corner of the estate. Attention to detail has been given to a very full and varied planting, giving the viewer much to admire.

Runners-up: 194 Pitshanger Lane, 38 Holyoake Walk, 14 Denison Road.

The **rose bowl award** for 2007 went to **111 Fowlers Walk**, which always catches the eye at any time of year. A good selection of shrubs, the predominant colours being cream, lime and purple, give an exciting vibrancy without being fussy or complicated. Several baskets of flowers provide the eye with focal points and add interest without detracting from the essential colour theme of the garden.

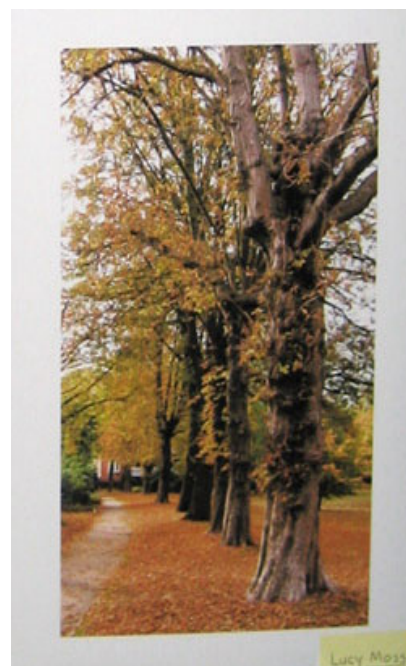
*Thanks to Maureen, Pam and Mike for helping to identify outstanding gardens.*

*Brian Vaughan*



## Tree Competition Winners

To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Storm of 1987, Brentham residents (especially children) were invited to submit artworks on the theme of trees. The joint winners were Ciara Trill (aged 5), Freya Gann (7) and Lucy Moss (11). Congratulations to all three, and our thanks for all contributions submitted.



## Horace Brearley

*Older residents in particular will remember the Brearley family who lived in Brentham Way for many years. Like his father Horace, Mike Brearley played cricket at the Brentham Club. He went on to captain England in 31 Test matches and is currently President of the MCC. We are grateful to Mike and his sisters Jill Oliver and Margy Knutson for contributing this appreciation of their father, who died recently.*

Horace Brearley, who lived at 62 Brentham Way between 1943 and 1995, died in Birmingham on 14 August 2007 aged 94. He had Alzheimer's for many years, which is why he was no longer able to live on his own, and moved to his daughter Jill's house in Birmingham in 1995, where he died. Horace played cricket and football for Brentham (and hockey for GWR). His wife Midge died in 1981. Their three children Mike, Jill and Margy all went to North Ealing Primary School.

Horace came from Yorkshire. After war service in the Navy, he went back to being a maths teacher, first at Sloane Grammar School and later at City of London School, from which he retired in 1980. He loved the tree-lined roads on the Brentham estate, cricket and football at the Brentham Club, and the 'uphill' (Montpelier) and 'downhill' (Pitshanger) parks. Until garages were built on the allotments between Brentham Way and Fowlers Walk we had the allotment directly behind our house, and subsequently Horace took an allotment at the back of Brunswick Road.

During his retirement he did pottery and made violins at Ealing adult education classes, played golf and bridge, acted as an usher at Ascot races and at the Royal Festival Hall, and became an excellent cook, with desserts a speciality. He loved sport, music, walking, and family life. He will be greatly missed.

## Visit the Brentham website

The website [www.brentham.org.uk](http://www.brentham.org.uk) is often the first way news is passed on to Brentham residents. Recently, the News page has covered Arcadia's proposed 'Leaf' development in central Ealing. While this is, strictly speaking, outside Brentham Garden Suburb, the Brentham Society has joined forces with more than 20 residents' groups in the borough to oppose the plan.

For anyone curious about the recent past, a recent addition to the website is an archive of all copies of *Brentham News* since September 2000. Dipping into these can make entertaining reading.

## Brentham Gardeners

If you'd like to learn more about gardening, and perhaps meet your neighbours into the bargain, joining a group of the Brentham gardeners may be just the thing for you. We are a relaxed, friendly group which meets once a month in one another's gardens and homes from April to October to share gardening knowledge and experience. We also organise a plant exchange and go off on occasional garden visits. No prior gardening knowledge is assumed, and there is no need to volunteer to host a meeting unless you choose to do so.

The first meeting of 2008 will be held at 2pm on Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> April at 39 Brentham Way. If you might be interested, ring Eleanor on 8998 1792 or just turn up.

### Sponsor's advertisement

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### Brentham Society Membership Renewals

Please renew or consider taking out membership of the Brentham Society, using the envelope enclosed with this issue of *Brentham News*. Membership now includes 50% of Brentham households, while the subscription remains at a modest £2 per household.

If you are thinking of making alterations to your home or need guidance on any aspect of planning and conservation, contact Heather Moore for an informal discussion, ☎ 8998 0234, or contact Ealing Planning Department, ☎ 8825 6600

If you intend to carry out work to **party walls**, bear in mind that there is a legal requirement for you to inform your neighbours.

The Brentham Club is pleased to announce the appointment of its new manager, Simon Cutler, who joins the club on February 1st. One of his priorities will be preparing for the **Open Day on March 16th** to show off the **new coffee lounge and facilities**. Everyone welcome.

### New to Brentham? Stuck for a present? Want to know more about your house/street/estate?

You need *Brentham: the Pioneer Garden Suburb*, our superbly illustrated, comprehensively informative book about Brentham by Aileen Reid. Available from Pitshanger Bookshop or direct from Sue Elliott ([sue@brentham.com](mailto:sue@brentham.com)), £30.

*Are there other local events or activities you know of which might interest other Brentham residents? If so, you are very welcome to submit them for inclusion, if space permits and at the Editor's discretion, in a future Brentham News, the next full-colour edition of which will appear in June 2008.*

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You can send contributions to *Brentham News* by emailing [news@brentham.com](mailto:news@brentham.com) or writing to The Editor, 27 Thorpe Hall, Eaton Rise, W5 2HB or ☎ 079 5855 1584

