



Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing

NEWS

Ex - PLAN - ation

Some residents may wonder why they need to make a planning application for any alterations which affect the external appearance of their house or its means of enclosure. The answer is that The Brentham Garden Estate was built according to the social and aesthetic principles of the Garden City Movement.[1] The aim was to create an harmonious relationship between the architecture and its setting. It was designated a Conservation Area in 1969 to protect its unique character.

The purpose of this legislation is not to prevent people changing their houses, but to ensure any changes which are made preserve the integrity of the whole. The Estate is not a museum, but a living community and changes often need to be made to accommodate the demands of modern living.

Alterations are possible provided approval is obtained from the Town Planning Department of the Council, who are also ready to advise. Applications made in accordance with the *Policy and Design Guide* (1985) [2] are likely to be approved.

There is an Advisory Panel for this area which comprises a representative of the Brentham

Society, a member of the Civic Society and a public member. Its function is to advise the T.P.D. on local applications. The T.P. Officer concerned notes the Panel's views. Applications (if minor) may be dealt with under delegated legislation; others (including those where objections are raised) are considered by the Town Planning Committee.

The Brentham Society is kept informed of applications by its representative, who regularly attends Committee meetings. The Committee's views are "noted", but it has no authority to approve or reject applications.

While the conservation policy relating to Brentham is rigorous I am sure that many are pleased that the very special character of the Estate, which attracted so many of us to come here and which makes it such a delightful place to live, is being conserved.

Heather Moore - Chairperson

1) The Pioneer Co-partnership Suburb - A Progress Report (1912) - facsimile copies on sale, (see advertisement on back page.)

2) L.B.Ealing, Technical Services Group, Town Planning Division: Brentham Garden Estate Conservation Area Policy & Design Guide (1985), shortly to be revised.

Pictures at an Exhibition

Did you go to the exhibition of plans and drawings held at the Brentham Club on March 25th?

If you did you will know that it was a highly successful evening with approximately 60 residents visiting the exhibition over the course of the evening. Strolling around the exhibition chatting and sipping a glass of wine (or two) it was a chance for residents to learn more about the Estate and also to meet and mix on a social level.

On display were a selection of the interesting and detailed drawings and plans dating from 1910 onwards. These plans are part of a much larger collection held by the Society and lists of the complete set were available on the evening for residents to check if a plan of their particular property existed. If you were one of the people who signed up asking for more information and details about a plan of your house, a member of the committee will contact you shortly. If you did not manage to get to the exhibition you may be interested to know that the committee plans to hold other such evenings when different plans will be on display.



Brentham May Day Saturday May 7th

**The procession leaves the
Brentham Club at 2pm**

The annual Brentham May Day has been held since 1908 and except during the two wars has continued virtually unchanged ever since.

A procession of children led by Jack in the Green, walks though the Estate to the Club grounds for the crowning of the May Queen and for the maypole dances.

Maytime celebration of this type can be traced back to ancient times but Brentham May Day is particularly interesting as a survival of the social intentions of the founders of the Estate. Like the cottage architecture of the Estate the May Day is an expression of the idealisation of rural England that formed so much of the philosophy of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The organisers of the event try to keep to the particular Brentham traditions. The May Queen is always chosen by the children and must promise to return for four years after her crowning. Last year's queen, Edwina, is returning from Scotland so please give her an extra cheer.

May Day is organised by volunteers and more are needed from the estate if the event is to remain closely connected to Brentham. Although parents are willing to help on the day there is a real need for help with organisation and rehearsals. People with secretarial skills and/or an interest in teaching or dancing would be really welcome. A new Green Man will be needed next year, his anonymity is traditional.

**If you would like to help with
this or next year's event,
please contact ,
Pat Chapman - 998 0520
Pat Baxendale - 998 1855**

May Day Family Disco
Brentham Club, May 7th, 7.30

Adults-£3.00
Children - £2.00
£10.00 family tickets from Pat
Baxendale, 18, Ludlow Road.

The May Queen and her father start the dance with the traditional waltz - then we all bop till we drop! Do come. Everyone from Brentham is welcome.

Honey Fungus

The Committee has received a number of enquiries about this troublesome perennial disease, which is particularly partial to privet. We have been gathering information about how to identify and combat this threat.

Honey fungus, or *Armillaria* to its friends is a killer which can attack many ornamental trees and shrubs. It is spread by airborne spores, but its infective agents are underground *rhizomorphs* which are often indistinguishable from actual roots.

Improved soil or growing conditions will not halt its spread, nor may infected plants be "cured" chemically. There is only one thing to do - uproot all affected shrubs and stumps and burn them.

The advice is that no replanting of shrubs be made in the affected area for at least two years

(preferably longer). Annuals may be safely planted in the meantime.

Other symptoms include: - occasional death of plants in one particular area; death of one or two woody plants at any time of the year, especially after yellowing of foliage and/or dieback (n.b. death of many plants in a short time is almost certainly not attributable to honey fungus); toadstools of the fungus at or near the base of dying or recently killed plants in Autumn.

The following species have proved resistant to honey fungus: the bamboos, box, clematis, cotinus (smoke bush), rock roses, hawthorn, blackthorn, common ivy, common holly, juniper, robinia, sumach, tamarisk and yew.

The full text of The Forestry Commission report on Honey Fungus is available on request in photocopied form to those who may be particularly interested.



Traffic calming measures



One of the questions raised during the open forum at the AGM in October was the issue of the traffic calming measures on the Estate. Readers of the newsletter will remember that some time ago we

asked for comments regarding the sort of action that should be taken.

Unfortunately we received a very low response and were unable to proceed any further. The committee can act as a pressure group in these circumstances and can put residents views forward but it has no authority other than that invested in it by you the residents. This is the reason why you have heard nothing more on the issue.



Stationery on the move!



Brentham stationery is now on sale in Pitshanger Lane. The full range is available at MASTERS (formerly Crescent Arts) and we hope their display facilities will enable more residents to enjoy our stationery.

Also on sale is the Brentham facsimile book (£3.50). For those of you who are not familiar with this book, it is a reproduction of "The Pioneer Co-Partnership Suburb - A Record of Progress" (1912), and we are sure that you will find it interesting.

We are grateful to Masters for their co-operation and support.

NB Sue Elliott (998 9978) is happy to supply residents directly with stationery if preferred, and of course books and stationery will be on sale at our events throughout the year.

Strawberry Teas Forever

The time for strawberries and cream draws closer and we would like to give you an early reminder of the annual Strawberry Tea Event held at Barbara Murray's house, 2 Winscombe Crescent. This year the tea will take place on Sunday, June 26th, 3.30-5.30. Full details will be displayed on tree posters nearer the time. Keep an eye out for them and **do come**.

The Last Word is from our membership secretary.

Thank you to those of you who have paid your subscription for 1994. If you have overlooked payment we would appreciate your subscription in the envelope provided. If you have mislaid your envelope please let any committee member have your subscription, do remember your name and address. Thank you.

Committee Members :

Derek Buckley, 53 Ludlow Road, 997 2378
(Treasurer)

Gunda Cannon, 65 Brentham Way, 997 8657
(Secretary)

Julie Gibson, 40 Woodfield Crescent, 997 8637
(Membership Secretary)

Heather Moore, 127 Fowlers Walk, 998 0234
(Chairperson)

Delphine Nunn & Robert Staines, 24 Woodfield Crescent, 997 1208 (Newsletter)

Tony Oliver, 48 Denison Road, 997 7523

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