



*Brentham Garden Estate, Ealing*

## NEWS

### Notes from the Chair

As I write, Brentham May Day is fresh in my mind. This year the procession was once again led by the band who set a goodly pace around the estate. Maypole dancing took place on the Club's football pitch, with such an open rural aspect that it's hard to believe that the A40 is so near!

I find myself wondering what is so precious about May Day - Jack in the Green, Britannia, the band, the fresh flowers, its long tradition? Responses will vary, but it is a tradition of which Brentham can be rightly proud and one which will hopefully pass on to succeeding generations of residents. One of the older residents of the estate watching the parade, Madge Mitcham, took part in the May Day in 1922 and hopes it will continue for at least another 77 years. I am sure the residents would like me to thank the May Day Committee (not the Brentham Society) for organising the event and all involved in working hard to make the day a success, and the Brentham Club for the use of their facilities.

We are so fortunate to live in a Garden Suburb surrounded by much that is rural in character and protected by conservation legislation, but pressures for development continue to threaten much that we take for granted. An example is the proposed development on land behind Meadvale Road belonging to the Brentham Club. Residents adjoining the land are aware and have made their own responses. As a Committee we have written to urge rejection of the application as it is contrary to the Society's purpose of conserving and enhancing the Brentham Garden Suburb. I wonder how many other residents have made their views

known. The proposed development is large, probably the largest since the estate was built. At the moment revised plans are being drawn up and once they are available another period of consultation will begin.

Another large development was St Barnabas Church Hall, which was so carefully designed and built with great attention to detail in terms of materials form and surrounding features such as the gates and the hornbeam hedge. Already its in full use, a great asset to the church and the wider community.

The Society is to be represented on the Pitshanger Community Association, recently formed to act as a forum for all groups and societies in the area. The Pitshanger Traders who organise the Christmas lights have been instrumental in its formation and plans for the millennium are much to the fore, but the group will be a very useful platform for wider issues such as traffic, bus services etc.

There will be a change in the Garden Awards this year. For a few years awards have been made in each of three seasons but this year we are reverting to the previous arrangement of one visit to award 1st, 2nd & 3rd prizes with the Rose Bowl going to the first prize winner. Gardens will be viewed in July.

The Committee Surgery held in March was not so well attended this year - however over the next few months we have a busy calendar from which we hope you will find something to appeal to you. For more details on these and some appeals for help - see the back page of the newsletter.

Heather Moore



## Centenary Book Scheme Well and Truly Launched!

There has been an enthusiastic response to the Brentham Centenary Book Share Scheme, launched in the last Newsletter. 121 shares have been sold to date, raising over £4600. While most sales have come from Brentham, we've had quite a bit of interest from elsewhere in the country too, as a result of our flyer going out with a number of national specialist publications.

If you've already bought a Share, thank you for your interest and support. If you haven't but intend to, dig out that form and your chequebook now while you think about it! If you've lost the form, I can drop one round.

The amount we've raised so far (including some 'start-up' funds from sales of the facsimile booklet) means that we are close to covering the cost of the research and the writing already. But we have a long way to go to cover production costs to produce the attractive publication we want. So Share sales will continue as we start to approach local small and big businesses and charitable trusts. We've had an encouraging letter from a local trust and hope they will make us a grant in the summer.

In the meantime, our author Aileen Reid, has been unearthing some intriguing new information during her research. Did you know for example that eminent Victorian George Bernard Shaw was the second-largest shareholder in the original Co-partnership Tenants scheme that built Brentham? We're sure the book will contain lots of fascinating detail like this that hasn't come to light before.

On 16th May we held the first of a number of fund-raising events and attractions that will continue through the summer months. This was a refreshments stall at the Ealing Council's Festival of Sport held in Pitshanger Park. Despite mediocre weather there was a good turnout and we raised nearly £100 from thirsty competitors and their families. A big thank you to Elizabeth Atkinson for her tremendous efforts in organising the event, and to all the other people who helped too.




A week later, if you attended Brentham May Day, you may have seen Sam Greenwood (age 6) handing out leaflets about the book to the assembled crowds (thank you, Sam and Mark!). We are now planning suitable attractions for the coming months, including a stall at Ealing Council's **Countryside Weekend at Horsenden Hill on 3rd/4th July**. The following **Sunday, 11th July**, there will be a **Brentham Garden Day** in which some particularly attractive Brentham gardens will be open, there will be a competition with a garden design by Pam Turner (no Alan Titchmarsh and Charlie Dimmock I'm afraid!) as the prize, children's trails for the under and over 5s, and garden teas (see the enclosed leaflet for more detail). If you would like to offer your garden as part of the Day, or know of particularly attractive gardens you think should be included, please contact Wendy Sender on 997 4123.

On **11th/12th September** we will be holding an **Art Weekend** in a Brentham home – we'll be selling paintings, sketches, collages, prints – in fact, any sort of artform that will hang on a wall. Original contributions will be very welcome – or perhaps you have pictures or prints that you would like to donate. (All items should be framed please.) Watch out for further details.

Please support these events – and bring your friends. Every little helps towards our target of documenting our centenary history for publication in 2000.

Contact Sue Elliott 998-9978

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### Help needed

Could you, or do you know of anyone who could, help out with some audio typing.

Contact Wendy Sender 997-4123



### Brentham goes on-line

For those of you who go surfing - we now have our own web site on the internet. It's not active yet but you can have a preview at

[www.brentham.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.brentham.freeserve.co.uk)

Contact Sue van Raat 991-5467

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### A message from Queen Elizabeth

Hello, I'm Elizabeth Weller and I'm the Brentham May Queen 1999. I was chosen because all the children who were going to be doing the procession and dancing round the Maypole had to choose one of four 13 and 14 year old girls who they wanted to be their May Queen. When I found out, I was very surprised and delighted.

To prepare for the day (22nd May) when I was crowned, I had to find a white dress and a pair of white shoes. Then in the morning I went down to the Brentham Club to watch the practice and collect my white posy.

The part I enjoyed most was the procession. We had lovely weather. Just before the dancing I had to make a speech, which people said I read very well. When I was crowned I was given a locket with my initials on. In the evening I went to the disco with my friends and family. It was great fun! For the first dance I had to wear my dress and dance with my dad to 911 Private Number, it was very embarrassing! I had a lovely day and it was an experience I will never forget, everyone was so kind to me.

Elizabeth Weller (age 13½)

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### Royal News From The Archives

Queen Elizabeth isn't the first royal to have been involved in a procession through the estate. On May 27th 1911 a royal party arrived to open the Brentham Institute (as the club was then known). The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their daughter Princess Patricia were met "at the entrance to the suburb" by a number of local dignitaries. They proceeded through a triumphal arch erected over the road at the southern most point of Brentham Way, along Winscombe Crescent, Brunner Road and

Neville Road before arriving at the Institute in Meadvale Road to perform the official opening ceremony. Having watched the Maypole dancing they went on a tour of the estate and expressed appreciation of the gardens. They paid a visit to "Cornwood", a cottage in Neville Road, and were shown around by the tenants. Perhaps we could persuade the Duke's great great nephew, himself with an interest in architecture and gardens, to visit us for our centenary. Anybody have any contacts?

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### Your ideas, news or views ?

The Editor would welcome any news, views, memories or comment about life on the estate for possible inclusion in future newsletters. Copy date for the autumn edition is 4th September 1999. Send your correspondence to:

The Editor, 47 Meadvale Road

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We regret to hear the news of the death of Rosina Walsh of 59 Meadvale Road on 21st February 1999 at Ealing hospital following a stroke. She was 89 and had spent many happy years on the Brentham Estate with her husband Den having moved here in 1957. Den Walsh wishes to thank everyone for the sympathy and support he's received at his time of sad loss.

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### RECENT EVENTS - feedback

#### Spring Craft Fair

Thanks to Sue Chandler who masterminded the Brentham stall. Although it was hard work, the event was very successful and made a profit of £67-50. Thankyou to all those who contributed and to Mandy Greenwood for her expert guidance. Another stall has been booked for November.

#### Family Cycle

Despite the gloomy weather forecast a group of 13 intrepid cyclists set off from Pitshanger Park in search of cream tea at Osterley Park on Sunday 6th June. Luckily the rain held off and the sun shone. Seasoned cyclists, new comers and children all completed the 14 mile round trip feeling well and truly proud of their effort.



**Street Stewards - are you willing to help ?**  
 As part of fostering the community on the Brentham Estate, the Brentham Committee is attempting to provide each road on the estate with a steward. The duties should not be too taxing and would essentially consist of welcoming newcomers with a pack of information and generally keeping an eye on street maintenance and reporting deficiencies to the relevant authorities.

A number of residents have already generously agreed to act as stewards and the committee is very grateful to them. As yet, however, there are no representatives for : **Fowlers Walk, Holyoake Walk, Pitshanger Lane, Neville Road, Woodfield Avenue and Woodfield Road.** If you are willing to offer your services or would like more information about the scheme :  
**Contact Krys Mackersie 998-7618**



**Garden Gate - on its last hinges ?**

Does your front garden gate need replacing? If enough people are interested in an original style wooden Brentham gate we know of someone who will make them. For it to be cost effective we need an order for between 10 and 15. **Contact Alan Henderson 998-6550**



**Planning Representative -could it be you!**  
 Are you a supporter of the planning guidelines who is willing to look at planning applications to ensure they meet the policy & design criteria? Would suit someone with an interest in architecture and the history of the estate with a couple of hours spare each month. Would involve attending short meetings with other panel members once or twice a month and some correspondence.  
**Contact Heather Moore 998-0234**



**Membership update**

This year has seen a rise in the number of paid up members of the society. Almost 50% of the 700 households are now members (the highest for ten years) and a number of members have generously given donations to help boost the society's funds. Thankyou all for helping us to continue with our work - we couldn't do it without you. It's not too late to join - come along to any event or :  
**Contact Rosanna Henderson 998-6550**

**1999 EVENTS - CALENDAR**

<b>Strawberry Tea</b>	Sunday 20th June
<b>Countryside Weekend *</b>	Saturday/Sunday 3rd/4th July
<b>Brentham Garden Day *</b>	Sunday 11th July
<b>Fun Day</b>	Sunday 18th July
<b>Art Weekend *</b>	Saturday/Sunday 11th/12th September
<b>Open House Weekend</b>	Saturday/Sunday 18th/19th September
<b>Hampstead walk</b>	Sunday 26th Sept.
<b>AGM</b>	week beginning 18th October
<b>Craft Fair</b>	13th November
<b>Carol Singing</b>	December

\* a fund raising event for the Centenary Book

**Strawberry Tea**  
*Sunday 20th June 1999*  
**2 Winscombe Crescent (3:30pm-5:30pm)**

Barbara Murray has again kindly offered to host this popular event for residents and friends at 2 Winscombe Crescent. As usual there'll be a Bring and Buy Plant Stall in aid of "Downhurst" for which donations of plants will be very welcome. Admission is £2 (non-members £4, children £1).

**Fun Day**  
*Sunday July 18th 1999*  
 Time/venue to be announced  
 (contact Jackie Moss 997-1014)

Fun for all the family. Last year's event was a great success with highlights including the toddler dash, the parent and child wheelbarrow race and the notorious baby buggy race. (This year, a buggy without a valid MOT may be at a disadvantage !)

**Hampstead Walk**  
*Sunday 26th September 1999*  
 Time/venue to be announced  
 (contact Wendy Sender 997-4123)

Christopher Kellerman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust will lead a walk around the suburb, especially for Brentham Society members. The walk will be followed by tea arranged by the residents association. Do come along for what is bound to be an enjoyable and informative afternoon.