

BRENTHAM LIVES

Fred Perry 1909-1995



Left: Photo signed for Brentham resident Ramsay Hughes. Above: English Heritage Blue Plaque on 223 Pitshanger Lane

Sam and Hannah PERRY (nee BIRCH) and their children Edith and Fred lived at **223 PITSHANGER LANE from 1918**

Fred Perry was Britain's most famous tennis player, who won the Wimbledon Men's Singles title in 1934, 1935 and 1936 and a host of other titles – including World Table Tennis Champion (1929). He also gave his name to a famous sportswear company.

From the age of nine until he married in 1935 and moved to live in the USA, Fred lived in Brentham with his sister and parents, playing all kinds of sports at the Brentham Club and Institute (as it then was) and attending Ealing Grammar School. Until relatively recently, a number of very elderly residents remembered Fred well from their childhood.

Fred was born in Stockport in 1909. His parents, Sam and Hannah, were both originally cotton mill workers though Sam rose quickly through the nascent Trade Union movement and by 1918 had been appointed Secretary of the Co-operative Party at their London HQ, hence the family's move to the innovative new Co-Partnership suburb of Brentham. This was, in Fred's words 'paradise' after the North-West and he revelled in its sports and social facilities: *'Everybody knew everybody else... there was always someone to play with, and older people to help you.'* He also described practising at 223 Pitshanger Lane: *'I used the kitchen wall for my table tennis and the garage door for my tennis'.*

English Heritage installed a Blue Plaque for Fred on 223 Pitshanger Lane in 2012, a year later Andy Murray finally broke his 77-year Wimbledon record.