



BRENTHAM NEWS

Chair's Notes

A belated Happy New Year to all Brentham residents, and welcome to the first *Brentham News* of 2015. This year marks the centenary of the death of George Lister Sutcliffe, who was one of the key architects of the Brentham Garden Suburb, taking over as the Ealing Tenants' architect in 1908. His work included houses in Meadvale and Denison Roads, Holyoake Walk and North View, but his main legacy is the design of the Brentham Institute (now the Brentham Club) and Holyoake House. We will be writing more about him later in the year.

What Sutcliffe would have thought about "wheelie bins" we can only conjecture. In 2008, Ealing Council held a consultation on the use of wheelie bins for refuse collection. Most of the Borough voted to accept the new bins, but two



areas, one of which was Brentham and the surrounding area, voted heavily against them. We were allowed to retain black sacks for household refuse, and were given the choice individually of changing to wheelie bins for garden refuse. Fewer than 10 of the 600 houses in

Brentham opted for wheelie bins.

The issue has been raised again by the Council, who intend to move to bi-weekly collections of refuse and compulsory use of wheelie bins for these. There has been no consultation this time. I have contacted Bassam Mahfouz, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, who has told me that the only criterion for not using wheelie bins is the "simple lack of available space to store them". Few of the houses in Brentham will qualify for alternatives, despite the fact that many houses are terraced and will have to store the bins in their front gardens.

We are concerned that the sight of rows of brightly coloured plastic bins in the front gardens of Brentham houses will seriously

detract from the ambience of the estate, and so make the area less attractive and desirable in which to live. Other parts of Ealing already suffer from this, and so we can see the effect that this will have. As a conservation area protected by an Article 4 Directive, we hope to persuade Councillor Mahfouz to agree that we are a special case, and alternative methods of refuse collection can be used, as happens for example in the case of blocks of flats.

This is something that affects all of us, so we would welcome your views. You can make these known through the Brentham website, which is at www.brentham.com I hope that you will join in the campaign and help us to fight these bins. We were successful last time, so we feel that with your support we can succeed again.

It is worth noting that councillors from both Cleveland and Hanger Hill Wards have already expressed support for retaining existing methods of refuse collection in this area.

Richard Costella

Renewal of Subscriptions

The past twelve months have been busy ones for the Brentham Society. Planning activity remains high and we have again reviewed more than 60 planning applications during the year. As we have noted before, it is Ealing Council that approves or rejects applications, but it is worth taking advice from the Brentham Society before starting, as we can save you considerable time and effort. Please contact the Society through planning@brentham.com for free advice if you are considering any changes to your property.

We held several events for residents to get to know one another during the year and three issues of *Brentham News* were delivered to every house to keep us all informed. The main project for the year was the ongoing Tower restoration (see article below) and work continues on our extensive archive. Also our new website came on stream, the new format allowing residents to discuss items of interest.



Charity No. 1079724

As this is the first *Brentham News* of 2015, included with this newsletter is a request for you to return your annual subscription to your street collector. We urge you to pay this as soon as possible. The majority of the households on the estate are members, meaning that we have good standing with the Council when making representations on planning and other matters.

At the AGM in November it was agreed to increase the annual subscription to £5, still well below the level of similar organisations in the area. Even £5 per household will not cover all our running costs or costs of the additional work we wish to do. If you are able to add a small donation to the subscription, it will be very welcome. A substantial number of residents make additional donations which help to make up the shortfall.

Tower Restoration Project

The tireless Tower Taskforce continues to press ahead with fundraising – the LEGO Tower has now raised more than £500 from over 500 bricks, reaching this milestone at the Club's concert on December 6th. This was a delightful evening of music provided by Patricia Hammond, followed by an excellent carvery dinner with all profits, expected to be in the region of £500, going to the Tower fund.



We have also been learning a lot about funding bodies, and especially what a time-consuming process it is to write an application. I am very grateful to my team for all the work they have put in to search out possible targets, gather the required information, shape it

according to the interests of the funder, and get it into their system.

In the previous *Brentham News* we reported that we were planning to apply to the National Lottery fund, but in the end decided that this was unlikely to succeed, so we have applied instead to the SITA Trust for £58,000 towards the project. They have responded positively in a recent telephone interview, which was handled by John Kinder (Brentham Club Chairman) and myself. They said we had presented a strong case which met all their criteria. However, they were careful to emphasise that they would certainly receive more applications than they could satisfy, so while we can congratulate ourselves on a job well done, the outcome is in the lap of the gods.

We have identified a number of other sources who might be willing to help us, and we shall apply to them. However, they typically will not

provide more than £10,000 each, so it will take several successful applications to reach our target of £75,000.

If we are successful with SITA, we shall be able to start work on the building in April or May, and have it finished before September, which would be strangely appropriate since the original architect of the building - George Lister Sutcliffe died in September, 1915 - exactly 100 years previously.

As ever, if you think you can help us, want to make a financial contribution, or just to know more about this project, please contact me by email at tower.restoration@brentham.com or on 078 5572 5614.

Clive Evans

Hedges

We have been asked by the Council to remind



residents to keep their front hedges in check. Hedges are an important part of the look of the estate, but in a small number of places the hedges have grown out too far, and if there is a street tree nearby the pavement width can be restricted and create difficulties for people with buggies. Please make sure that the pavement remains clear for all users.

Neighbourhood Watch Needs Help

The co-ordinator for the Brentham and Willowmead areas has resigned after a number of years of filling this role for the local Neighbourhood Watch, and a replacement is being sought. The area covered comprises Winscombe Crescent, Brunner Road, Woodfield Crescent, Park Gate, Ludlow Road, Fairlea Place and Nicholls Green.



The co-ordinator's tasks consist of acting as a point of contact for the police, booking meetings as required, and receiving occasional emails about new scams and other policing issues as they may occur in the area. (Keeping *Brentham News* informed would also be appreciated!)

If anyone is interested in taking on this community role, PCSO Ikram Syed, who is attached to the Hanger Hill office of the Metropolitan Police, will be very glad to hear from you. His email address is ikram.syed3@met.police.uk

Julian Gould Remembered



The story of the life and death in the First World War of this young Brentham painter (1891-1917) was featured in the November 2014 edition of the Public Catalogue Foundation Newsletter, www.thepfc.org.uk/collections/117/filter_refere_nce/2014/33 Since then, his haunting self-portrait has started to appear on various pin-board sites and blogs, and the New Walk Museum in Leicester (where he studied art) is currently displaying the picture, a detail from which appears above.

He enlisted in 1915 immediately after news arrived that a German U-boat had torpedoed the Cunard liner *Lusitania*, which was sailing from New York to Liverpool when it was sunk off Ireland with the loss of 1,198 people, including children. It remains controversial whether the passenger ship, which was also carrying a cargo of over a million rifle cartridges along with shell casings, was a legitimate target. However, reports of the sinking and of the heavy loss of life undoubtedly had the effect of turning public opinion in many countries against Germany and gave extra impetus to army recruitment.

It was in many ways a surprise to his family when Julian joined up. He had spent time in a Paris studio, and was a rather dreamy young man who loved poetry. Politically he was by no means an enthusiast for King and Country. Influenced by his father's socialist and labour movement sympathies, he was involved with radical political groups, in support of which as a graphic designer he produced artwork.

Julian did not write any war diaries, but his letters home to his parents (who lived in the house named Armoral, at the junction of Woodfield Avenue and Woodfield Crescent) described the rigours of life in the trenches where he served in the 16th Middlesex Regiment.

His tone grew darker after the catastrophic losses in the Battle of the Somme, in which he also lost his close friend Henry. He became revolted by the stupidity and inhumanity of the war, and his letters refer to his growing weariness of spirit, along with his bouts of headache and fever.

Somehow he also managed to make drawings of the French countryside, and he planned a painting which should include "a great indistinct

form of a man, with a golden glow around his head; in the background would be the world of energy – quarries, cathedrals, engines, boats, books, woven patterns. The man's hands would be stretched out, knotted and veined, full of the effort of work. The man's name is LABOUR; he is reaching forward to the splendid sunshine of REWARD, IDEAL and FUTURE".

Gould wrote this in 1917, when news of the developing Russian revolution had reached the trenches, and eager conversations about economics and philosophy were taking place between Julian and his fellow soldiers. The painting he planned, but would not live to execute, channels these political sentiments. It also anticipates the subject-matter of socialist realist art, even though this genre was not to emerge until after his death. Julian was killed in action on 31st May 1917.

Some time afterwards his family discovered that at the time of his death he had been serving as a machine-gunner for his company. The dreamer with a painter's eye seems also to have marked out enemy Germans on the tragic canvas of war.



The exhibition in Leicester will remain open until 12 April 2015. A more detailed account of Julian Gould's war service and of his radical-minded Brentham family is available online: <http://brenthamgs.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/julian-gould-biography-v1.pdf>

Brentham May Day



This year's Brentham May Day will be held on **Saturday 9th May**. Enrolment of the children wishing to participate in the May Day festivities this year will be on **Thursday 12th March** from 4 p.m. until 5.30 p.m., in the main hall of the Brentham Club. The enrolment fee will remain at £10 per child.

The May Day committee welcome any offers of help with this event, either at weekly rehearsals or on May Day. For further information contact Pat Chapman on 077 4046 4137 or email patricia9@sky.com

Brentham Open Garden Day, 2015

This year's event will be held on Sunday 7 June. Please help us make it as successful as last year's. We're always delighted to get first-time openers, and members of the gardening group will be available to provide support and advice. You'll have ample time to plan and prepare your garden and we're not expecting perfection - just enthusiasm!



Alternatively you might want to team up with your neighbours to open your front or back gardens on a joint basis.

We're particularly looking for someone to host the sale of teas and cakes, with which you'll get plenty of help. All proceeds from this event go to charity. For further information contact Sheila Fowler via Sheila.fowler1@virginmedia.com or phone 020 8248 9119.

Brentham 100 Years Ago

The Brentham Archive includes the Report of the Brentham Club and Institute for 1914, the first year of the Great War. It is interesting to note the different ways in which Brentham was responding to the conflict.

Lectures related to the war were particularly well attended, and included one entitled "The Kaiser's War" which was presumably unequivocal about where the responsibility lay for its outbreak. Another lecture, on "Our Navy", was given under the auspices of the Navy League (which had been set up in 1894 to promote public support for the maintenance of a large naval fleet to defend Britain and its empire).



The theme of conflict at sea was also taken up by Brentham's choral society, which performed *The Revenge, a Ballad of the Fleet*. This was Charles Villiers Stanford's setting of a Tennyson poem celebrating a ship's crew who, heavily outnumbered, engaged a Spanish fleet in Elizabethan times.

Nearly a hundred men joined a newly-formed Brentham Rifle Club to practise shooting skills at a rifle range which was put at their disposal by a resident of Perivale. Others participated in military drills with these sharpshooters in the grounds of what is now the Brentham Club.

The Institute also hosted a French conversation circle which additionally studied French literature. The 1914 Report observes that its members "have been assisted...by the presence of a number of our Belgian friends - guests on the Estate". Presumably these were refugees from the German invasion of their country and from the fighting in Flanders.

The library which was maintained at the Institute also figures in the 1914 Report. Readers were allowed to borrow up to two books (of which only one could be fiction) at one time. F.J. Gould, father of Julian Gould whose story is told elsewhere in this edition, is mentioned as a particularly generous donor of books to the library's stock of 1,670 volumes, which were used by nearly 300 borrowers.

Brentham Resident Defies Muggers

One of our residents had an unnerving experience towards the end of last year. Coming off the bus from Ealing Broadway at two o'clock in the afternoon, she was followed by a young couple as far as her doorstep. The man held out a map of central London and asked for directions. Becoming aware of her handbag during this attempt to distract her attention, she looked down to find it unzipped, with the woman's hand hovering over it. She pluckily challenged them and they made off.

The police were informed and commented that this type of crime has happened locally in the past but not recently. We ask residents to be vigilant and remain aware of what may be happening around you.

Brentham Artist at the Royal Academy

Stanley Anderson R.A. (1884-1966) lived with his wife and son at what is now 2 Brunswick Road (then part of Fowlers Walk) around 1910. He is one of the many artists who appear in the 1911 Brentham census.

He is best known for his etchings of rural craftsmen at work. An exhibition of his prints will be held at the Royal Academy from 25th February to 24th May. Two lunchtime lectures about his work will also be given.

Yoga-tastic at the Brentham Club

All are welcome at local yoga classes. Beginners classes on Mondays at 6.15 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Intermediates on Mondays at 7 p.m. Improvers on Wednesday 8.15 p.m., and Mixed Ability on Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. For further details visit www.yoga-tastic.co.uk, email info@yoga-tastic.co.uk or call Victoria, 020 8810 7521.

Garden Awards for 2014



Spring Award: 99 Fowlers Walk

A lovely woodland garden full of spring flowers beneath a silver birch. The judges thought that this garden was the epitome of a Brentham cottage garden. A delight after the dark winter months.

Runners-Up: 48 Fowlers Walk and 47 Brentham Way

Summer Award: 10 Winscombe Crescent

This was a very elegant courtyard garden using a mainly white colour scheme, yet it remained true to the style of the house. The judges were very impressed by the balance in the planting scheme and the use of high-quality pots. However, the resident says that all the credit should go to her gardener, Robert Edwards, who has worked very hard to keep both the front and back gardens maintained, particularly during the extended periods of wet weather. Having a garden of this size in Central London is always a challenge, especially with wildlife constantly burrowing.

Runners-Up: 47 Meadvale Road and 15 Meadvale Road

Autumn Award: 39 Brentham Way

A very well-maintained and neat garden with many attractive plants, but the dominating feature was the use of stunning yellow begonias to line the pathway.

Runners-Up: 14 Denison Road and 67 Meadvale Road

ROSE BOWL: 57 Meadvale Road

The judges were delighted with this front garden during every season. The design is very attractive with its backbone of lots of evergreens and a curved path. The garden is informal in style with a variety of colourful seasonal plantings yet it is neat and well maintained. Always a pleasure to look at throughout the seasons.

With very many thanks to Vicky Snodin and her team for all the time and effort they devoted to judging the gardens through the year.

Double Glazing

We all know that Brentham houses could be warmer, but that "normal" double glazing is not permitted as it would ruin the look and feel of the estate. This was one area that was highlighted after we asked for views on conservation in the last edition of *Brentham News*.

There are ways in which secondary double glazing can make a difference, and the Brentham Society has invited double glazing manufacturers to talk to residents at our Spring Event. They will be able to make suggestions and give examples. At time of going to press we haven't finalised the details of this event, but keep an eye on our web site and notice boards for further information.

Would You Like to Help Us?

The Brentham Society Advice Group helps residents wanting to make alterations to their houses. Most weeks there are requests for pre-application advice for all sorts of applications, from extensions down to replanting hedges.

The group is very successful. In the first half of 2014, the Council received 32 applications for changes to Brentham houses, and approved 22 of them. Of these 22, 13 had sought prior advice from us. Of the nine that were rejected by the Council, only one had sought advice from us. One application was withdrawn. Taking prior advice can save lots of time and effort.

The Advice Group is looking for one or more people to work alongside them in the pre-application process. This involves emails, phone calls and site visits to meet residents and perhaps their architect to discuss what might be possible while preserving the character of the Conservation Area. The work is rewarding because you meet other residents and see positive outcomes both for them and for the estate as a whole. It's not too time-consuming and you quickly learn what is possible and what isn't.

If you think you would like to help us, please contact planning@brentham.com to arrange a quick chat and get more information.

The Brentham Society is always looking for help in other areas also. If you would like to get involved, please contact chair@brentham.com

Ealing Art Group

An exhibition and sale of work by members will be held in St. Barnabas Church on **Saturday 16th May**, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come and see work by local artists, and enjoy a cup of coffee and some home-made cake.

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Planning Some Improvements?

Are you contemplating making any house alterations which could require planning approval? Save yourself time, money and trouble by first seeking free advice from the Brentham Society. Just send an email to planning@brentham.com

What's On at the Brentham Club?

Friday 13 February: St. Valentine's meal. Steak and strawberries.

Saturday 14th February: live music in the Top Bar.

Friday 27th March: Quiz Night in the Top Bar.

Friday 27th February: Race Night in the Main Hall. Organised by the Rotary Club.

Friday 27th February: Quiz Night in the Top Bar, 8 p.m. start. Fee, £1 per person. Maximum of five people per table.

Annual General Meeting of the Brentham Club

The Club's AGM will take place in the Main Hall on Thursday 26 March, starting at 8 p.m.

The Club welcomes new members and has four rooms, including the main hall, which can be rented for your event. To book, contact John on 074 0271 1982 or send an email to events@brenthamclub.co.uk

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You can contribute to *Brentham News* by emailing michaelmccar75@hotmail.com
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