



BRENTHAM NEWS

Chair's Notes

Welcome to the Spring edition of *Brentham News*. At this time of year we can see the estate at its best, with the lush greenery taking us by surprise with its speedy growth, and the blossom and spring flowers at their best. It reminds us after the drabness of the winter why we live here.

The hottest topic of debate locally is not however how nice the daffodils looked this year, but remains the issue of double glazing. Various leaflets have been distributed to residents over the past few weeks, including an extra edition of *Brentham News*, so I won't go over too much history. To try to resolve the debate, the Brentham Society held a public meeting in the Brentham Club on April 30th to allow residents to put their views.

The meeting was well attended and started with a presentation by secondary glazing specialists Selectaglaze (www.selectaglaze.co.uk), showing how improvements can be made without the need to change the windows externally. There then followed a lively debate, showing that there are strong feelings both for and against double glazing in Brentham houses.

The debate was constructive, and it was clear that all residents participating had conservation at heart, but with slightly differing views on how this should be achieved. To take the matter further the Brentham Society agreed to set up a working group comprising committee members from the Society, interested third parties, and an independent Chair. The working group will be able to use the skills of expert witnesses and will try to come to an agreement on a type of double glazing that would be acceptable to all parties. The Brentham Society will then discuss this with the Council's Conservation Officer with a view to getting current Council policy amended in a way which we all agree.

As you no doubt know, it is the Council that makes planning policy and decides on which applications to approve. At present it generally allows double glazing applications on new extensions, and elsewhere if this would make an improvement on existing windows which are in poor repair, or which had been altered to a non-Brentham style on a previous occasion.

At the time of writing, this working group has not yet started work, but hopefully will do so shortly. We will report back to residents through *Brentham News* and our website in due course.

Wheelie Bins

The previous issue of the *Brentham News* drew attention to the Council's decision to move to bi-weekly collections of refuse, alongside the compulsory use of **two wheelie bins per household** by April 2016.

Petitions across the borough have been increasing awareness of these plans, which as far as we know it is intended to implement without any further consultation. One of these petitions, on the Ealing Council website, has gained over 3,000 supporting signatures, which we hope should ensure that further discussions and debate can take place.



We are working with other groups such as the Bedford Park Residents Association to promote an open discussion with Ealing Council on alternative methods of refuse collection without the compulsory use of wheelie bins, but achieving similar cost savings.

This issue affects all of us, and is one that in reality we will not be able to retroactively fix if wheelie bins make their way into all our streets and drastically change our landscape. We continue to welcome all of your views and potential expertise in these matters, and specifically on waste management. Please make contact via our website www.brentham.com or by emailing one of our concerned residents who is assisting with information gathering: adel@brentham.com

Adel Golding

Strawberry Tea



The ever-popular Brentham Strawberry Tea will be held on **21st June, 3.30 - 5.30**. As ever this event will be kindly hosted by Barbara Murray in her garden at 2 Winscombe

Crescent. Come along and meet your neighbours and local dignitaries, sample some excellent home-made cakes, and buy jams and chutneys.

Welcome to Our New MP

Residents on the eastern side of the estate woke on May 8th to find they had a new MP. We welcome Dr. Rupa Huq, a former resident of Brunswick Road. Rupa has already made herself



known to many residents and we are sure that we will see much more of her now. The western side of the estate returned the sitting MP Steve Pound, also well

known to many residents. We are lucky to have two approachable MPs who are active in local affairs.

Tower Restoration Project

There is some good news to report on the fund-raising front. Firstly, many thanks to the Pitshanger Community Association for their generous donation of £1,500. The Pilgrim Trust has confirmed a grant of £10,000 following a successful visit by their Directors. We have also learnt from the John and Ruth Howard Trust that our application (for £4,500) has succeeded, although it is not yet clear if we have been awarded the full amount.



We have also approached the Fred Perry Company, Covent Garden. They have confirmed their interest in this project and a representative will visit us in the next week or so. We do not know what help they can offer, but hope they will take an active and ongoing interest.

We are on the point of applying to the Sylvia Waddilove Foundation for £12,500, and to Veolia for £45,000. I have also written recently to the footballer Peter Crouch at Stoke City - he played tennis at Brentham - hoping that he too might support our efforts. Our application to SITA, however, was rejected. They give no reasons, but point out that they receive far more applications than they can support.

The Tower team has been very busy writing these applications. Most are quite detailed and involve considerable research: my thanks to our team for their time and energy. So far, we have raised £21,250: some way left to go, but it is still possible that work might start this year as long as we are successful with one or two major applications. As if to emphasise that time is marching on, a pane of glass recently fell from the top floor to the ground below. Fortunately, no-one was hurt, but it is clear that restoration work cannot wait forever. Watch this space!

Clive Evans, tower.restoration@brentham.com

Nan Pluck, 1917-2015

We regret to announce that Brentham has recently lost one of its oldest residents, Nan Pluck, who reached the age of 98 in early April. With her husband Doug she moved to North View 35 years ago to be with her family in leafy Brentham. She leaves one daughter, two sons-in-law, five grandsons and several great-grandchildren.

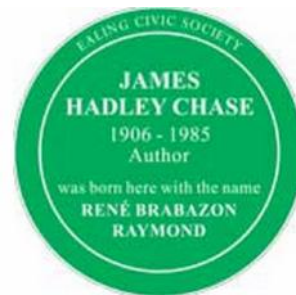


Nan loved being with her family and enjoyed what they did together, showing great interest in and giving her support to a variety of activities. Over many years she was very much a part of their lives.

Nan could not have been a nicer friend and neighbour. Many of us who still do or previously did live in Brentham are fortunate to have known her. Our condolences go to Pam, David and the other members of Nan's family.

Local Author Commemorated

Brentham has a new green plaque, by courtesy of the Ealing Civic Society. It commemorates the very successful crime fiction author James Hadley Chase (1906-1985), who was born at 4 Woodfield Avenue, and went on to write over 90 titles.



50 of these were also made into films. Probably his best-known crime thriller, published in 1939, is *No Orchids for Miss Blandish*. Its frank handling of sex and violence brought him some notoriety.

The plaque was unveiled by Ann Evans, the author of thrillers for children and teenagers, who was inspired by reading Chase when she was herself a teenager. She is pictured here shaking hands

with Harbhajan Kaur Dheer (the new Mayor of Ealing). With her are Simon Cole (rear left), in whose house Chase was born, and Rupa Huq MP.



The Pitshanger Community Association's annual Party in the Park will take place on **Sunday 28 June**. £2 per adult, children free.

News for Brentham Gardeners

As always, as the season advances Brentham's front gardens will come under expert scrutiny by our garden judges, who will be seeking out the most creditable examples. This year they thought that it would be helpful to give some advance notice of when they will be making their rounds, so that you can show off your gardens at their best. Summer visits will be made at the end of June, while mid-September will see the autumn judging.

In the meantime, because they contain planting that gives a real feeling of spring, with lots of colour and variety, the following gardens have been recommended for the spring award:

101 Fowlers Walk; 13 Winscombe Crescent; 14 Denison Road; 194 Pitshanger Lane; 46 and 67 Meadvale Road.

The final decision will be announced at the AGM in October.

Vicky Snodin

Our Website

This continues to grow and attract visitors, peaking at 3,000 page views and 630 visitors in March 2015. The features on wheelie bins and on conservation vs. insulation attracted many comments on both sides of the debate. You can see what others have to say by going online.

At present we only have 45 "followers," so the latest news isn't getting to as many of you as we'd hoped. It is very easy to sign up - go to www.brentham.com and add your email address in the bottom right-hand corner of the HOME page.

We have added a page headed *Brentham Garden Awards* and a new feature within the archive section, *Brentham Lives Remembered*. Let us know if you'd like other topics added.

Brentham in the 1911 Census

The Brentham Archive has acquired records for Brentham from the national census which was carried out in 1911. These offer some fascinating insights into the population of Brentham at that time. Note however that this census occurred before building had even started in some roads (Holyoake, Denison, Fowlers Walk and North View), when Brentham Way had only three houses, and Meadvale was only partially completed. Nevertheless 1,221 inhabitants at 329 addresses were recorded.



CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911					
NAME	AGE	SEX	MARITAL STATUS	OCCUPATION	BIRTHPLACE
...
...

There were around 300 children up to the age of nine living on the estate in 1911, making up a quarter of the population of Brentham, which must in that respect have resembled one of the new towns such as Stevenage and Basildon of the baby boom period following the Second World War. As for the adults, 43% of them were in the 25-34 age range. Thus the age profile of the estate in 1911 was noticeably youthful.

The average Brentham household contained just under four people in 1911, though a few numbered seven or even eight. One large family were Bramptons of 71 Woodfield Road. Herbert and Elizabeth Brampton had eight children (although two had left the family home by the time the census was taken). All the children are shown in the photograph below and a Brampton



grand-daughter (Jean George, née Webster) was May Queen in 1938.

The census also recorded the birthplaces of Brentham people. Most heads of households originated from London and the home counties, but more distant counties, including some as far away as Devon, Northumberland and Durham, were also represented, as were (with a total of 22 individuals) Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A further nine originated from overseas.

The jobs which Brentham people did were also registered by the census. By far the largest category (79 individuals) described themselves as clerks. The next largest categories were post office sorter (20), teacher and teacher's assistant (17), housewife (13), and commercial traveller (12). Six artists appear, just one motor vehicle driver, and only one pensioner, while only two residents are recorded as unemployed.

(With thanks to Alan Henderson and Geoff Baxendale for compiling the census data.)

Architectural Items

Residents are reminded that the Brentham Society maintains a store of architectural items which you can draw on when you have an opportunity to reinstate original features. Stocks are low at present, so new donations are welcome, especially of original window furniture and internal doors.

Enquiries to heather@brentham.com

Letter to the Editor

Having just received *Brentham News*, it occurs to me to write in suggesting that in this day and age the Council and the Brentham Society should get together and work on finding a solution to double glazing the windows in our houses. There are many old people on the estate, the houses are cold, but secondary glazing is unsightly. A large joinery company should be approached to create a double-glazed "Brentham" window that can match the prices offered by Everest in their wooden Georgian range.

We are in the 21st century now and what was acceptable in Edwardian times has now passed. The council is expecting all new-build to conform to environmentally friendly building standards and have good insulation. Brentham houses cannot have cavity wall filling because they are not constructed in such a fashion. The only way they can become heat-efficient is by installing double-glazed windows.

I do think the Brentham Society should be pushing the council to consider a satisfactory solution to this problem. When I moved here in 1984 there were some windows with secondary glazing - and it was an eyesore. Purpose-built windows like for like are exorbitantly expensive and I do think that the council should consider that these are not multi-million pound houses, but small family homes and the average wage-earner cannot even consider installing expensive purpose-built windows. A recent quote for a large window was no less than £2,800!

Please excuse my rant but whilst I adore living here it is time that architectural character and conservation went hand in hand with energy saving.

Teresa Stella-Sawicka

Brentham News welcomes letters from our readers, especially on topics of current debate. For more discussion of double glazing, see also the Chair's Notes in this edition and the Brentham website.

Brentham Open Garden Day

This year's event will be held on **Sunday 7 June** from 2-5 p.m. Bring your family and friends; rain or shine you're sure to have an enjoyable and informative afternoon. A variety of styles of gardens will be open on that day and you'll get some garden design and planting ideas from fellow gardeners. As usual a range of plants will be on sale at Ruskin Gardens.



Tickets are priced at £4.00 and a programme and map can be purchased on the day from 50 Denison Road or 13 Brentham Way. Teas and cakes will be available at 6 Brentham Way between 3 and 5 p.m.

Offers of help with serving teas or making cakes will be much appreciated. All proceeds will go to the Brentham Tower Restoration Fund. For further information contact Sheila Fowler 079 0513 4491 or sheila@brentham.com

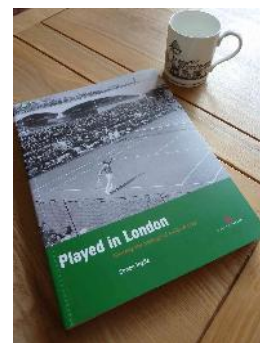
Brentham May Day



Our thanks to Tonia Gann for the photograph (bottom right) of Charlotte McCann, this year's May Queen.

Sport in Brentham

Besides providing a comprehensive survey of sport in London from Roman times down to our own, Simon Inglis's book *Played in London* makes at least five mentions of Brentham and the Brentham Club. Pictured in the volume (published by English Heritage) are the bowling green and the bowls pavilion, the Club Tower (with reference made to current plans to refurbish it) and the billiard room (*probably the best preserved in London*). Fred Perry has a page to himself, illustrated with



pictures of 223 Pitshanger Lane and of the blue and green plaques. The book is on sale at £25, though copies may be available more cheaply online.

A Cleared Conscience

We have received an unusual addition to the Brentham Archive in the shape of a bayonet, dated 1815 and made in France. This was passed to us by Mr Gerken (with a generous donation), who lived in Brentham as a child. Here is the story that links it to the Brentham Estate.

This bayonet was one of two that hung on the wall, cross-swords fashion, in one of the tower rooms of the Brentham Institute. During the Second World War the tower had fallen into disuse and we children (though old enough to know better!) used to play up there.



One day the bayonet was thrown out of the window and nobody knew what to do with it. As our house (33 Meadvale) was nearest to the Club it was put in our garden shed, quite unbeknown to our parents, and there it remained for about 40 years. When the house was cleared after Mother moved into a care home the shed and contents were removed to my house in Battle, where the bayonet has remained in a rusty condition ever since. With the current renovation of the tower I would like to return the bayonet and its scabbard, and am sorry it has taken so long.”

Our thanks to Mr Gerken for this fascinating piece of Brentham history. However, some unanswered questions remain. What happened to the other bayonet? How did the Brentham Club come to acquire the two? Who were the other children? If anyone has an answer or would like to try and find some, please contact our archivist who is now looking after the bayonet by emailing archive@brentham.com.

Open House Weekend

Discover more about the architecture and history of where you live during London Open House weekend. This year it takes place on **Saturday 19th** and **Sunday 20th September**. Guided walks round Brentham will be led by Clive Evans, starting at the Club at 10.30 a.m.

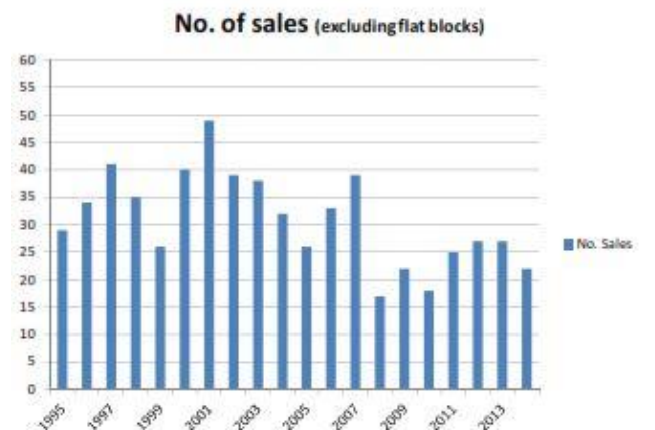
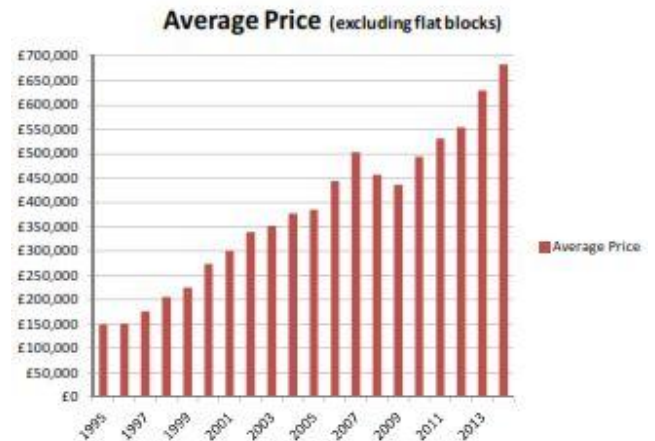
The Great Interior Design Challenge

The television programme team have expressed their gratitude for the numerous responses by Brentham residents to the posters and emails which publicised this series. It has not yet been finally decided if Brentham will be featured in these programmes, but we have been assured that we will be kept informed. *Brentham News* and the Brentham website will pass on the news as soon as possible.



House Prices in Brentham

As these two graphs show, house prices continued to rise steadily in the last full year for which figures are available (2014), while sales fell by about 18% compared to the previous year.



Note that flats are excluded from these statistics, which were compiled by Alan Henderson, to whom we express our thanks.

Films in June

Ealing Classic Cinema Club is launching a film noir series, including *The Killers* (June 5), *Stray Dog* (June 12), *Night and the City* (June 19) and *Rififi* (June 26). All programmes start at 7.30 p.m. and are screened at Ealing Town Hall. Tickets £7, (£6 concessions).

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Planning Some Improvements?

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

What's On at the Brentham Club

Quiz Nights will be held on 26 June and 24th July. Arrive in the Top Bar for an 8 p.m. start. Maximum of six per table, £1 per person. Cash prizes and rolling jackpot. Food will be available.

Pilates Classes are starting soon in the Sports Bar. Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact susan@kineticconsulting.co.uk

Special Membership Deal: Until 30 June the Club is offering a year's social membership for two persons for just £90, i.e. the normal price for just one person. Give it a try and see what the Club has to offer. Social membership includes snooker, darts and bridge, with the opportunity to upgrade to play bowls, cricket, tennis and football.

Every Friday evening food is available in the Top Bar between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. There is also a vegetarian option.

Bar Opening Times: Top Bar summer opening times are from 12 noon throughout the week and at weekends.

Ascot Trip. A few places are left for this annual event. £50 per person, leaving the Club at 10 a.m. on Wednesday 17 June by private double-decker bus. Arrive at 9 a.m. for coffee and a prosecco before departure.

The Club also offers a **book club, French classes, Weightwatchers and Yoga classes.**

The Brentham Club, 38A Meadvale Road, London W5 1NP Phone 020 8997 2624 Send emails to secretary@brenthamclub.co.uk

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or by writing to the Editor, 8 Gleneagles, Malvern Way, W13 8DZ
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