

Site Profile

Brentham Allotments

Brentham is a large site tucked between the A40 and Brunswick Road; it borders the lovely Brentham Estate and the Brent water meadows, a popular spot for dog walkers. It has 190 plots occupied by allotmenters old and new. It is a friendly, mixed community with plot holders of many nationalities, some of whom live outside Ealing. My friend and I share a plot and I would highly recommend this if you have lots of outside commitments. I also find it much more motivating to be working alongside someone, rather than toiling alone.

The site has a large car park, which is handy, a trading hut open on Sunday mornings and supplies of free wood chippings and stable manure. Water is supplied via dip tanks which are well distributed across the site.

There are social events throughout the year on the grassy area at the front of the site – to welcome new tenants, to sell plants and a summer get-together which last year attracted 100 people contributing food and drink for all in the glorious sunshine.



Summer Social (left) and Plant Sale Day (above)

We also have regular working parties which help improve the area. In 2014/5, we installed a hard-core footpath along the centre of the site - and now have easy access throughout the year. Hard work – as shown opposite – but well worth it when the winter rains came!

There are flower borders near the site entrance and trading hut tended lovingly by a former plot holder. Some willing volunteers have also planted garden plants along the fence bordering the footpath for the benefit of passers-by.



This year we have transferred to Local Management. Brentham Allotments and Gardens Association (BAGS) – which all plot-holders are automatically members of - have taken on responsibilities for tasks such as rent collection and minor maintenance, which used to be undertaken by a council-appointed site manager. In return, we get to keep a proportion of the rent which the BAGS committee hope to use to develop and improve some of the site facilities. We'd like to install a composting toilet, for example, as the current Portakbin has seen better days!

Brentham allotmenters are a friendly bunch – happy to buddy up with new plot holders and share their knowledge. Their wisdom ranges from bee and chicken keeping to viticulture and, of course, growing a wide range of fruit and vegetables.

As new plot holders, my friend and I have been made to feel welcome and have taken advantage of the activities offered by the wider Ealing Allotment Partnership.



- Last year we took the children to the Frog and Wildlife day at Framfield allotments and this spring were inspired to create our own wildlife pond (opposite) on a spare piece of land adjoining our plot. Now all we need is for the frogs and dragon flies to find us!
- This year we have joined the Council's food and garden waste composting trial, and hope to have lots of lovely compost soon - courtesy of a fellow plot holder who has devised the method described in the Winter 2014 edition of the EAP newsletter.

I am always amazed and inspired by the diversity of how people use their plots. It's a pleasure to wander round the site. Whether you like serried rows of fruit and vegetables, food cooked in a clay oven or a Copacabana tucked away in the trees, there's something for everyone!

Jane Fernley

**No vacancies at present but Brentham is a large site with a short waiting list.
Contact is Sulagna Roy Tel: 07728 290611**