



The Brentham Society
UK Registered Charity: No 1079724
Registered Address: 3rd Floor Brentham Club, 38a Meadvale Road, London W5 1NP

Final Blog

Preparation for the day

Having met on a couple of occasions and liaised my message about the type of plants we thought would be most appropriate (drought tolerant, mainly perennial with some annuals for colour if needed as well as compost) our core group agreed to meet at a local garden centre. We assembled a collection of excellent plants that all coordinated so we could offer each participant the chance to choose a selection that we knew would look and perform well.

We had help from Martin on The Brentham Society committee make a colourful poster to be used in our local notice boards and to be shared with The Brentham Society's street representatives to share on their WhatsApp street groups as well as Alan, another committee member, uploaded to their email notifications for subscribers.

We were pleased to have a total of 17 people (Roy, Susan, Elvie, Marie-Ange, Kapila, Ella, Bohdi, Kirin and partner, Margaret, Lorna and partner and Trish) of various ages and backgrounds, including the four core organisers (Sheila, Nita, Jane and Tamara), participate.

We reached out to participants by message, email and in person to confirm time slots for Saturday 1st August at their nearby chosen tree bed with our first round of planting kicking off at 10am and the last, on the day, being 3pm (with two others to be done in the near future). Other days planned.

On the Day

We knew the tree beds were in poor condition (heavy with dried out topsoil, clay and even some concrete) of which Roy got at with a pickaxe to carefully loosen around the roots of the trees, so we could remove poor soil and replenish with compost.

We had a handout and short briefing on health and safety and with participants and the core group all mucking in to get each tree bed prepared and planted up, the upgrade was instantly seen and appreciated. The before and after photographs show a stark improvement and each participant shared their joy in being part of the planting.

Lots of chatter about the local area, how to keep the tree beds looking good moving forward and to share with neighbours the fun had to potentially encourage another round next year, made a very upbeat and social day with beautiful improvements to tend to and refer to in the future. Hard work and a lot of digging, lifting and watering was worth it.



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We left the ID labels in the ground for the initial week so any neighbours or other people walking by could see the type of plants we have used (then tidied them away to not inadvertently become litter).

Follow Up

After the day of planting, we shared an aftercare summary on how to look after the beds with a promise from our core organisers to get back in touch to check on how they have done through the hot weather, in the autumn when bulbs may be added and spring when seeds may be added.

We have since had many compliments in person, and some messaged on The Brentham Society web site, on how lovely they look and how they bring the area a sense of being loved and well cared for. Just what we had hoped for! We also have had people ask if we may do more in the future and it is our intention to, subject to funding. Additionally, we have seen an increase in other local tree beds being planted up and feel sure some were encouraged by what they had seen our group do on that very hot Saturday, 1st August.

With the balance of the grant, we hope to provide more plants for the beds still to finish and are looking into having nice little signs made to reflect the project and remind them to be cared for and not to be sprayed with weed killer come the spring.