

Havering-atte-Bower

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HABCOS

Havering-atte-Bower Conservation Society

February 2014

QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 1st MARCH 2014 Bower Hall Village Hall 7.30pm start

Max 8 people per team - £5.00 per person
To book a team, please provide information as below

Team Name:Contact number.....

Amount Paid.....

Please post to Nicky Gates, Hope Cottage, North Rd, Havering-atte-Bower, RM4 1PR
(opposite Samantha Mews) 01708 760902

Date for the diary – Horseman Sunday

Horseman Sunday 2014 - Please note that we may have to put the date back to October 12th, having previously advised September 28th. We will let you know as soon as we can.

Litter pick



With prompting from Richard Loveard and support from a team of members of the church, a most successful litter pick took place on Broxhill Road opposite the Hospice. In a little over an hour the job was done. We need the council to clean up the other side which cannot be done without traffic management. Streetcare have been asked. If you wish to do another part of the village, the council will be very willing to provide the tools and collect afterwards.

Pemberton Roses – Hospice Open Day

As many of you will know, the Hospice has been taking a very positive approach to the preservation of the Pemberton legacy and has recently received a substantial grant recognising their efforts to date and providing much needed financial help for the future. The date for the Pemberton Roses Open Day has now been fixed as 22nd June.

On 28th January, I was privileged to hear Dave Collins speak at the Hospice when he gave a remarkable account of Joseph Pemberton, his family and his roses. The research he has done surprised me greatly, all sorts of interesting facts and now there are many things I am looking forward to knowing more about. As an example, he told us that there was a house on the site of The Hall before the present one, dating from the Jacobean period and that a description of its interior exists. The Barnes family were landowners in what is now Tower Hamlets, the Pembertons were developers/builders and they combined profitably to build a great many houses in the early 1800s, selling them on 99 year leases. John Barnes purchased The Round House in 1834 and his daughters Ann and Amelia married William and Joseph Pemberton respectively. William and Ann took the joint name of Pemberton-Barnes and had 10 children, but none married. Joseph and Amelia had four children, two of whom Rev Joseph Herbert Pemberton and Amelia Florence lived in The Round House till their deaths in 1926 and 1929 respectively. One child died very young and, again, none married.

John Barnes invested in other property including The Bower House in 1841 where William Pemberton lived while building The Hall. We know it now as part of the Hospice.

John Barnes' wife Ann was an avid collector of roses which is where the story starts. Young Joseph Pemberton, her grandson, proved to be fascinated by her collection which included one very special rose saved originally from Napoleon Bonaparte's residence at Malmaison. Napoleon's wife, Josephine, had had a magnificent rose collection, to which Dave said that Napoleon had to contribute by bringing back examples from anywhere he went on his travels. After he was defeated, the roses were left to their own devices until many years later when a Russian grand duke sent a party to France to see what remained. There was just one rose. Maybe through natural selection it was one that flowered again and again, not just once as other roses. At the start of each term at boarding school, Joseph took with him, in a tin box, flowers of this very special rose.

When young Joseph (and he was only 12 at the time) showed both interest and aptitude, his father provided him with a small plot of land at The Round House and at the top annual show bought him four standard roses at an exorbitant price, letting Joseph choose the breeder and the varieties. It was, however, not until 1909 that he devoted his full energies to developing new varieties. These were inspired by Souvenir de la Malmaison and Joseph selected and bought as the mother plant the best available - Trier – to allow him to develop roses combining a long-flowering season and general toughness with the most beautiful and scented varieties collected by Ann Barnes. These roses became known as Hybrid Musks and, to this day, Joseph Pemberton is the only person to have developed a completely new category of roses.

Joseph was an avid breeder and exhibitor and very competitive indeed, winning gold medals far more times than anyone else of his day. He was meticulous in his planning – prior to an exhibition, he would visit the location of the competition, measure the temperature in different

parts of the hall and find any draughts. Armed with this knowledge, he knew where to place his roses so they would not be adversely affected by the conditions and could be presented perfectly.

None of the grandchildren of John Barnes had any children and when the last, Emily, died the very significant assets of this remarkable family came into the hands of the Pemberton-Barnes Trust and were used to benefit the poorer inhabitants of Tower Hamlets and continue to this day to do that.

So, do come to the Open Day and see how well the Hospice is doing to complete its collection of all the Pemberton roses. You may even have one in your garden as John and Jack Bentall, who lived at Brokenbacks in Broxhill Road, continued with their development after Joseph's and Amelia Florence's deaths in 1926 and 1929 respectively.

Habcos calendar

The first Habcos calendar has been a success, with all copies sold. It feels as though it was worth the effort and we may do another next year. Very many thanks to all the contributors. We might do a calendar based on old photos if we can find enough that are not covered by copyright. Please tell us of anything you may have, even if post war. But also, keep taking the photos and do send them to me, please.

History of the Royal Manor of Havering

Autonomy and Community – The Royal Manor of Havering, 1200-1500

A Community Transformed – The Royal Manor of Havering, 1500-1620

My partner Di is very clever at finding me just the right present. This Christmas she found two wonderful books, both written by Marjorie Keniston McIntosh, now Distinguished Professor of History Emerita, University of Colorado at Boulder. They were published in 1986 and 1991 by Cambridge University Press. If the books sound scholarly and erudite, they certainly are but they are remarkably readable too, especially for someone who knows the area. She has taken original data from all the available sources and drawn a rich picture of life in the royal manor. I particularly approve of the way she uses statistics, never drawing false conclusions, never overstating the statistical relevance.

Because it was a royal manor, the records that have survived from medieval times are better and more numerous than is usual. This has made it possible to research far more than would have been the case normally, we are very fortunate. Today, it is remarkable to think back to earlier times. In the Domesday Book of 1086, just 87 households were recorded in the manor covering 25 square miles from Havering-atte-Bower to the Thames. (Today there are 300 households in our small village alone.) By 1251 there were some 2000 inhabitants, four times as many.

The king was lord of the manor and he had tenants who paid rent but the tenants were very fortunate for it was hard work to collect the rents from people scattered, mostly in woodland and the kings were not assiduous. Furthermore, it suited the king, with his hunting palace in the village and often with his family here, not to be overbearing with the tenants who gained many special privileges and who continued to protect those privileges. The community was so different to today, most households had land of 30-100 acres and lived off that land, there were no rich people. Law and order was maintained by the tenants, who made sure that what was

necessary to enable them to live a reasonable life was done. It was not a matter of right and wrong whether action was taken, but through the need to keep order. Only later, after the Reformation, did religious attitudes begin to impact. The tenants gained their own court and freedom from the interference from outside courts, they also gained a market in Romford and freedom from taxes there. The tenants could marry who they wished, they could travel out of the manor, they bought and sold their tenancies as though they were freehold. The king was unable to increase rents for 200 years or even collect them all. Havering was a good place to live.

The ability of the tenants and, later, the traders and craft-workers to work together was remarkable and the manor exhibited traits that were often not followed by other parts of the country for up to 100 years. When, in 1348, the plague came it affected lives terribly, there being more deaths than births for a long time but outsiders came to fill the void so Havering did not suffer great depopulation as elsewhere. Only later did changes occur, wealthy incomers and efficiencies that could be achieved in production through larger enterprises leading eventually to five major families controlling much of the activity in the manor. When they failed to co-operate and present a unified front, as happened especially after 1600, the manor could not defend its special rights as before. A lesson that is still valid today.

I have had my eyes opened by these two books, both concerning Havering's history and history in general. Being able to see what took place on a local level made it real in a way history had never before been for me.

Simply Asia

Local village restaurant

We have now been here for ten years serving very tasty, fresh and healthy meals created by head chef Saleh and tandoori chef Ripon. To celebrate this, for a short while only from Mondays to Thursdays we are offering a full course meal including starter, main course, side dish and any rice or nan bread for just £10.95. Our specialities include Sizzling cocktail tandoori, Fish (salmon) tikka bhuna, Bengal fish curry, Cheeky chicken (hot and lovely) and Tandoori chilli chicken sag as well as many vegetarian options. Because it is home cooked, we can adjust each dish to your taste, hot or not and we are always happy to help you discover the joys of our cuisine. Amad will be there to welcome you.

Located at rear of the Royal Oak in North Road, Havering-atte-Bower, RM4 1PR.
Open 5pm to 10.30pm every day. Bookings and takeaways 01708 737891/736898

Email circulation lists for HABCOS and NHW

If you are not on either list and would like to be informed of any news about the village or be advised of any issues concerning crime or its prevention, please let me know and I will add you to the HABCOS list and pass on your details to Phillip Patton the NHW co-ordinator or you can contact him directly at

hab.neighbourhoodwatch@gmail.com.

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