

Havering-atte-Bower



HABCOS

Havering-atte-Bower Conservation Society

*Nicky Gates – Chairman
Jenny Gwinn – Treasurer
Heather Marshall – Secretary
Terry Chilvers
Anastasia Carter
Gill Howell*

*Maggy Farley
Michael Heap
Rhian Viney
Terry Negus (co-opted)
Vicky Makepeace
Ross King
Joe Gannon (co-opted)*

February 2016

Clean for the Queen – 4th to 6th March

Havering Council has circulated this event which is looking for volunteers to clean up the environment prior to the Queen's 90th Birthday. It had been Habcos intention to put forward Broxhill Road as our focus for this exercise, asking the council to provide the necessary protection to allow volunteers to work at the side of the road. For a country road, the amount of litter along the verge is dreadful. However, the council has indicated that they regard the safety issues of supporting volunteers as insurmountable and have said that they will instead be organising a full clean-up with a professional team.

Nevertheless, you may still wish to be involved and the web page to register is <https://www.havering.gov.uk/Pages/OnlineForms/Clean-for-the-Queen.aspx>

Alternatively, we could simply do a clean-up ourselves in the village on an informal basis. If anyone would like to lead this, please let me know and I will circulate by email. We could arrange for the council to collect the full black bags and we could also be provided with litter pickers to make the job easier.

Habcos email list

There are now 100 households on the Habcos email list and they receive news of an urgent nature, especially between newsletters. It is an effective way of communicating quickly and economically. Putting people together for a clean-up is an example of when emails can be really useful. The items last year included publicising events at the Hospice, St Johns Church and Dame Tipping School, lost pets, council notices about closed roads and the bus stop accessibility programme. In 2015 I counted 15 email circulars so you will not be inundated. Those of you who are not on the list and have email, please simply email me (with your name, address and, if you wish a telephone number for emergencies) if you would like to be added. You can say at the same time if you would like to be on the Neighbourhood Watch email list which Phillip Patton organises and I will forward your details to him.

Carols on the Green and Christmas tree

Our annual occasion was blessed with good weather and all went to plan. We have been fortunate to be able to have a large tree each year and this year we must thank Steve McKilray for his efforts in finding us a perfect tree, transporting it to the green and also helping to set it

up. Many thanks Steve. It was a little saddening to discover on the morning of the service that some fool thought it would be fun to rip the lights off and drape them over the green, our thanks to Terry Chilvers and others for restoring it in time for the service. We have decided to plant a tree which will be our permanent focus for the Christmas festivities which is now in place. We much appreciate the help from the parks department.

Theatre trip

As those who came will remember, we organised a most enjoyable coach trip to the Houses of Parliament. If there is sufficient support, we will organise a theatre trip either to London or perhaps the Queens Theatre in Hornchurch. I have volunteered to collate the responses, so please email me if you can, whether positive or negative and with any specific ideas you may have. If not, a brief note to Round House Farm (RM4 1QH) will find me.

Programme for 2016 and possible events

Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt Sunday - 27th March

Summer Party – Saturday 16th July (please note change of date since the last newsletter)

Quiz night – booked for 9th April in the village hall. Our MC will be Colin Gates. As before, there will be tables with teams of eight so please put this in your diary. More information will come nearer the time.

Casino Night (under consideration)

Horseman Sunday (end Sept/early October, date tba)

Beetle Drive (end September planned)

Carols on the Green

Habcos Secretary

Heather Sherry has been our secretary since the society's inception, now more than eight years ago. Unfortunately, for personal reasons, she finds that she cannot continue in the role and has had to resign. Our thanks to Heather for her work over many years and fortunately she will remain on the committee. Rhian Viney and Anastasia Carter are going to share the secretary's duties, Rhian for the first three months and Anastasia thereafter.

The Littlewoods Christmas Light Display

Sylvia wrote to me as follows under the heading **End of an Era**

“As you may have noticed our lights have come down and we have managed to sell the lot. With the great response of family, friends and all who visited our display we raised £3,800.00 the same as the year before, so our chosen charities St Francis Hospice and Great Ormond Streets Children's Hospice Eagle Ward Renal Unit will receive £1,900.00 each. Our grand total hit £30,781.00 which is more than we expected.”

The Habcos committee has since agreed to donate £100, recognising the quite exceptional effort that Terry and Sylvia have put in over so many years.

Habcos Chairman Nicky Gates nickygates@talktalk.net 01708 760902

Newsletter editor Michael Heap michael@roundhouse38.fsnet.co.uk 07836 243401

Habcos website www.habcos.org.uk