

Havering-atte-Bower

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www.habcos.co.uk
Affiliated to CPRE
September 2011

HABCOS

Havering-atte-Bower Conservation Society

Dates for your diary:

Horsemen Sunday – Sunday 9th October
Race Night – Saturday 12th November
London Open House – 17/18th September
See full information on these events later

AGM – Wednesday 23rd November 8pm St
Francis Hospice

Restoration of Bedfords Walled garden
22nd-28th September, but you need to register now.

As most of you will know, there is an old walled kitchen garden in Bedfords Park associated with the exceptional Georgian mansion which, before it was sadly demolished in 1959, was located where the visitor centre is today. In its heyday it was a kitchen garden at the peak of gardening technology. The size of a football pitch, with walls 4 metres high. Growing inside those walls, amongst other things, were pineapples in greenhouses.

Unfortunately this unique piece of our village heritage has fallen into critical disrepair over the years but now is the opportunity to get together to give it a new life.

With the support of the Friends of Bedfords Park, the London Borough of Havering and Essex Wildlife Trust, the design charity Clear-Village will stage a week long volunteer camp to kick-start the restoration during 22nd to 28th of September.

Local resident musician, Imogen Heap, is lending a hand by pulling in her fan base and writing a

song connected to the initiative during the same period. Imogen's inspiration for the song will be a local character, George 'Tich' Dolman and thanks to Tich's Tale, the book written by Derek Rowland (also a local to the village) and the recordings Tich made, there is much material to go on! Imogen would love to hear from you if you had met Tich or have any stories of your own regarding him. If you like, you can also follow on her website the progress of the song, which will be written and recorded over the last two weeks of September.

In a nutshell, Clear-Village and Imogen would like you to help clear, build and grow food crops within the walls. This is just the first step in a bigger vision related to a possible Big Lottery Fund Grant to make it a member supported food growing place and educational open-air museum that we can all



enjoy.

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!

Please make sure you email garden@clear-village.org to confirm or express your

interest as places are limited, with a brief description of your skills and what you'd like to do when you get here. It can be anything from bricklaying to carpentry, clearing to digging, creating artwork from the debris to imagining future plans. (If you prefer, telephone Jennie 07525 538299). Imogen and Thomas Ermacora would be very happy if anyone has skill or knowledge of gardening, architecture, community project management, drawing/live sketching etc, etc. - the list is long. Food and drink will be supplied during working hours (10am-5pm) and there'll be a party, on the 8th October, for the 'Garden Angels' and others who've contributed to the project. If possible, they are looking for people who can work for a stretch of these days rather than individual days as this will help the effectiveness of the operation but don't let this put you off if time is limited!

Deadline for 'Garden Angel' applicants is Wednesday 14th September at 9am.

There will also be an opportunity for anyone and everyone to come to an open day midway, on Sunday 25th Sept and, if you're up for it, you may be thrown a spade or something to get stuck in! For more information, please go to: www.clear-village.org or www.imogenheap.com

The walled garden at Bedfords was built sometime between 1777 and 1792 by John Heaton who purchased Bedfords in 1771. Heaton built the last house at Bedfords during the same period, landscaped the grounds and significantly enlarged the estate through enclosure in order to pursue his enthusiasm for modern farming methods exemplified by the model farm, Heaton Grange. The walled garden is highlighted in the description of Bedfords in Neale's Seats of 1818 which remarks on "a well-stocked garden with green houses, hot houses and a pinery of considerable extent". The pineapple house and fernery were erected by 1862 and were probably added by a Mr Hawksley who purchased Bedfords in 1853, they remain as a reminder of Victorian fashionability. (Historical research by Simon Donoghue, Local Studies and Family History Centre, Central Library, Romford).

It will be exciting for the community to work together and bring back to life an incredible historical garden and a great asset to the village!

Ragwort - The awful weed has now mostly gone to seed but if you see any please dig it up, wearing gloves so you do not get poisoned, put it in a bag and burn it.



The Big Lunch - Sunday 5th June

Clearly Rev Dave did not pray hard enough. After weeks of beautiful weather, this was the first day of rain. Not very heavy, but more than enough to make one disinclined to sit around chatting. However, some 35 or so villagers joined together for our first Big Lunch. The idea is really good and we all hope we can do it again. With a little more luck we can bring out the games next time.

Memories of the Royal visit to Havering Park

David Smyth remembers a very special day 25 years ago in October:

HRH PRINCESS ANNE came to Havering-ate-Bower on Tuesday 14th October 1986 in her capacity as President of The Rides to the Disabled Association. The visit was arranged by Mrs Irene Brearley who ran the Havering group of the RDA.

Havering Park Riding School was the chosen venue for the visit, since the local group did most of its training and riding at the school throughout the year.



The programme of events included a musical activity ride, a group lesson and show jumping. Miss Rose Crawford and Mrs Jean Kirkley were responsible for the training of the riders; many of them whom had severe

learning disabilities. The horses used for the afternoon activities were owned by the school. Princess Anne was particularly impressed by the show jumping which was a first for her at this level of disability. After each event she presented souvenir rosettes to each of the riders involved. Following the display Princess Anne went to Bower hall for refreshments and to meet invited guests and members of the Havering RDA Group.

On leaving, the Royal car refused to start and had to be jump-started by the Mayor's car. Princess Anne was heard to say that "this will make the headlines", rather than the purpose of her visit.



● The Royal Daimler gets a jump-start from the Mayor's car.

Footnote

The musical ride and the show jumping would, under today's Health and Safety Legislation, not be allowed. They call this progress! Princess Anne at least experienced at first hand a level of riding that would not be possible today.

Ed – David's footnote is a very valid aside. We remove risk from the environment but we remove opportunity and learning possibilities at the same time.

The images are courtesy of The Romford Recorder which actually did the day proud. There was an article in advance and then a double spread after the event on Friday 17th October. And, yes, there was a picture of the Royal Daimler in distress but it was not sensationalised at all.

If any of you have photos or memories of the day, please let me know.

London Open House 17/18th September

For those who have not acted already, there may still be a chance to book a tour of The Round House, do check if you are interested on the website www.open-city.org.uk you may be lucky and keep checking if it says full. Some

cancellations are expected. There are several other places in the borough that are open that day and, of course, throughout London, too. Indeed there is a fantastic and wonderfully varied range and variety of buildings open over this weekend.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Over recent weeks, there have been six or eight burglaries or attempted break-ins to houses and sheds but you may know nothing of this.

Throughout Havering-atte-Bower, Neighbourhood Watch is only active in some places. Over the next few weeks Phillip Patton, who lives in North Road, has volunteered to try to bring all parties together and complete the information loop for every road in the village. This compliments what your editor has been trying to do which is to collect email addresses from as many as possible so that he can distribute news of any kind, in a hurry if necessary. Currently I have over 30 email addresses and was, for example, able to circulate them all with warnings about three suspicious boys seen recently. However, we could do more as a village to help each other so, in respect to Neighbourhood Watch, Phillip is going to see what can be done to assist the existing official local contacts, find new ones and use his IT skills to speed up the information spreading process. Please contact him directly if you would like to make sure your details are up to date and known to persons currently actively involved in Neighbourhood Watch.

Email

(preferred): hab.neighbourhoodwatch@gmail.com

Phone (if you haven't access to email):
07942 823282

Other useful numbers are:

Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods
Team for Havering Park – 0208 7212510
London Borough of Havering Parks
Protection Service – 07904 805872

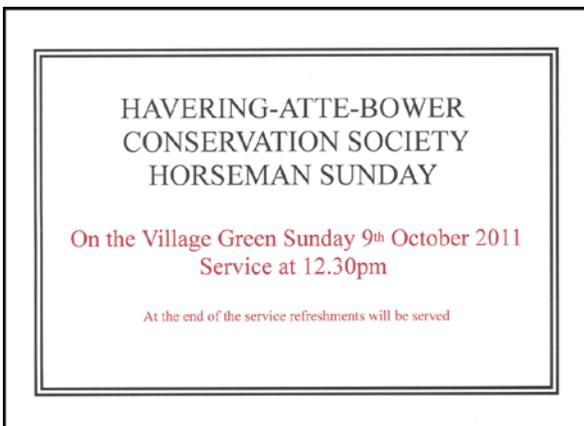


Ed - Hopefully you will see improvements long before

the next newsletter, but please do register with NHW. I will be emailing all those on my list to ask if they are willing and interested in being on the NHW list. But also, do remember that the more of you whose email addresses I have the more efficient I can be in disseminating any information in a hurry and it is not always crime to tell you about. I have really had to rush this newsletter because of the Bedfords Park garden restoration timing, it would be so much better if I could email most of you. So, please let me have your email address. Mine is michael@roundhouse38.fsnet.co.uk

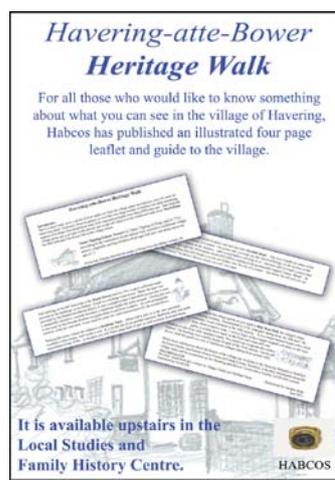
Horsemen's Sunday – Sunday 9th October

A great day and photogenic occasion for our local riders.



Heritage Walk leaflet

Habcos has now published the leaflet and it is available in the following places: St John's Church, The Orange Tree and Royal Oak pubs, Collier Row and Central Libraries and



Havering Museum. There is no formal charge, but it will help Habcos significantly to defray the costs if you can donate something, say £1.

Race Night – Saturday 12th November

More royal than Ascot, more grand than The National, more glorious than Goodwood – Race night is back by popular demand!



Join us at Bower Hall on Saturday 12th November at 7.30pm. Entry is only £2 (on the door), bring your own Picnic and Champagne. Racing starts promptly at 8 o'clock. Those arriving early will be offered, for a small sum, the unique opportunity of riding one of the many quality Racehorses with the chance of winning one of our many prizes. Tote betting will be running on the night so break into your piggy banks and try to beat the bookie. Numbers are limited so please ring 01708 760902 to book your place.

Dogs and Owners Responsibilities

I am prompted to write because of several recent incidents concerning dogs. Essentially it is the owners responsibility to keep their dogs under control and you can incur very serious penalties if you do not do so. It is not just injuries of the obvious sort as happened to two dogs on the road when others escaped their garden, but many of you will not realise that just allowing a dog to worry livestock on agricultural land is a criminal offence. If your dog simply wanders into a field with horses, those horses will be upset and you can be held to account by the police apart from being responsible for any civil damages. I mention horses as there are so many in the village, indeed many of us depend on them for our living or our enjoyment, but sheep and cattle are just as important to the farmers that own them.



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