

# Havering-atte-Bower

Nicky Gates –  
Chairman  
Jenny Gwinn –  
Treasurer  
Heather Sherry – Secretary  
Terry Chilvers  
Richard Dann

Maggy Farley  
Michael Heap  
Mark Smoothy  
Rev Dave Marshall (co-opted)

## HABCOS

Havering-atte-Bower Conservation Society

March/April 2012



## HABCOS EASTER EVENT

### Easter Bonnet Parade & Easter Egg Hunt

12.00 Easter Sunday 8th April 2012

on the Village Green, Havering-atte-Bower

Cost £2.00 per child

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult who will take full responsibility for their safety on the day. **ALL PLACES MUST BE PRE-BOOKED**

Call Nicky Gates – 07919 933866 or Heather Sherry – 07973 287299

## VILLAGE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

**Tuesday 10 April, Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

We will be having another meeting to discuss and organise the events planned for the Jubilee Weekend. Please come along and offer your support and help. No matter how great or small, all help will be appreciated.

## FIRST AID COURSE

As mentioned in the last newsletter, a First Aid Course has now been arranged for the evenings of **Wednesday April 25th and Wednesday May 2nd from 7.30 – 9.30pm** in the Church Hall on the village green. The cost is £15. **Places must be booked and paid for in advance** (cheques made payable to HABCOS).

Contact Jenny Gwinn 01708 746660 or [jennygwinn@btinternet.com](mailto:jennygwinn@btinternet.com)

# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

**Friday 1st June 2012 7.30 – 11.30p.m.**

**Village Party/Dance on the Green (admission by ticket only)**

**40s/50s theme (period dress appreciated)**

Pay Bar (wine and beer) and BBQ (no own food or drink)

Strictly no tickets on the night

£5.00 adults £1.00 5-12 yrs Under 5s free

All children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

For tickets, contact Nicky Gates 07919 933866 or Heather Sherry 07973 287299

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**Saturday 2nd June 2012 12.00 – 5.00p.m.**

Jubilee Fun Day and Fayre on the Green

Stalls including: tombola, coconut shy, penny roll, apple dunking, catch a duck and many more. Jazz band and other attractions. Village competitions (details below)

**6 teams required for Mini Olympics - for fun games**

**teams will need to include 2 men, 2 women and 2 children (12-15 years).**

**4 teams required for Tug-of-war - 6 men and 2 women in each team.**

Team entries to [nickygates@talktalk.net](mailto:nickygates@talktalk.net)

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## TOMBOLA STALL

We are looking for prizes for our Tombola stall. If you have any unwanted gifts, toiletries, toys, drink, non-perishable foods or other items that would be suitable for our Tombola stall, all donations much appreciated. Items can be left with Gill Copley, 14 Kilnwood (Off Orange Tree Hill) Havering-atte-Bower 01708 755624.

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## SPONSORS for our JUBILEE FAYRE

If you would like to sponsor a stall at the village fayre and advertise your business in the programme on the day, please contact [nickygates@talktalk.net](mailto:nickygates@talktalk.net) 07919 933866

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## CHANGES TO YOUR COMMITTEE

As some of you will have noticed from the heading, there have been changes to your committee. Monique Sterry and Steve Smith, both instrumental in the origins of HABCOS are leaving the village. Without their influence and drive, Habcos would not exist. We have much to thank them for and wish them both a very happy future in their new homes. Steve has already moved but Monique has yet to finalise the sale of her home. Jenny Gwinn has taken on Steve's role as treasurer while John Killilea of Broxhill Road is now managing the Habcos web site.

**And here is a fascinating bit of historical research from Sue Smith who was until recently our Conservation Officer in Havering Council.**

## **It may all be in the name... .**

The name of 'Havering-atte-Bower' is Saxon in origin and the settlement, it seems, is likely to have been important as the local administrative centre controlling the area during the Saxon period. The clue appears to be in the name.

The 'Dark Ages' are so-called because few written records survive to tell us what happened after the Romans left, so we have to look elsewhere for clues. Better funding of archaeological investigation over recent decades has enabled much new physical evidence to be revealed which is studied and cross-referenced by experts in the period, so there is now a clearer picture of Saxon England than ever before. More is still to be discovered and much remains open to interpretation, but one useful additional clue is the meaning hidden in place names. Old names are made up of a series of words which essentially describe the settlement and its evolution, with the name of the local chieftain/prince, prominent natural features, flora or fauna and later adding words or amending names and spellings to accommodate newly introduced languages as subsequent invaders or migrants arrived and settled.

Generally the various meanings of 'Havering-atte-Bower' have been well discussed. Essentially this name contains four components as well as variants over time. 'Haefer' is a personal name and also refers to goats. Originally Haefer would have been the Saxon chieftain ruling at the time and commonly, as here, local settlements were named after the local chieftain. The second component is 'ing' which is a Saxon word indicating what the place is associated with, here originally 'Haefering' refers to the settlement of Haefer's people. The third and fourth words 'atte-Bower' were added much later, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, to reference the Queen's house here after Henry III had granted Havering Manor to his wife, Eleanor.

In addition, other meanings were also assigned at different times and these can indicate changes in importance of the settlement through its history. Eventually the rule of Haefer, the first Saxon chieftain here, would have become long forgotten and then the less impressive 'goats pasture' interpretation of 'Havering' could have become a recognisable means of identifying the locality. But by the time of the last Saxon King, Edward the Confessor, the old Saxon hunting lodge had become the Saxon Palace of Havering giving far greater prominence to the area by being popular with the King as a fine hill-top site at the edge of the royal forest and overlooking the Saxon capital of Ludenweg and the river Thames. Not surprisingly it gave rise to the story of St. John the Baptist and 'have-a-ring', one of the many romantic legends associated with the saintly Confessor King.

But one more important but less well recognised meaning existed during Saxon times when as 'Haueringas' it contained the plural form 'ingas'. The theory is that 'ingas' indicates a larger or more important settlement or local administrative centre, perhaps controlling the point of entry to an area and, when paired with another 'ingas' close by may indicate the border between local areas. The Saxons were great administrators and introduced the concept of 'Hundreds' to England, each land area large enough to support a 100 families. The Ingrebourne Valley forms the boundary between the Saxon's Becontree Hundred to the west, of which Havering manor formed the eastern portion and Chafford Hundred to the east. Ongar Hundred lies just to the north. Havering's prominent, wooded, gravel hill-top location with its several springs would always have been a favoured place to live. It physically dominates the local area and increased in importance as the Royal Hunting Lodge remained in favour with successive Saxon Princes and later the King, and led to the 40 square mile manor of Havering which grew up to support the rapidly developing Palace and is ideally located to control the area from Havering Ridge. To the north-east Fristling, outside Ingatestone, is another solitary 'ingas'. Barking was the next 'ingas' to the west and with Seven Kings may have formed the closest border-controlling pair, with Nazing and Epping as 'ingas' paired to the north. If this is true then it seems to me that if the settlement at Havering dominated the high land in the north so Rainham seems to have dominated the southern end of the Valley on the Chafford Hundred side of the boundary where it controlled the lowlands and the marshes.

As 'Ricingham' or 'Roedingas' at the time, Rainham was the 'home of the ruling people', like Havering it only later, in 1086, is recorded as the less impressive 'Raineham', a settlement but no longer implying a particular importance. So between them the Saxon settlements of Havering and Rainham would have controlled the Ingrebourne Valley and surrounding area. This Saxon border retained its importance throughout the existence of the Royal Liberty and Manor of Havering until 1892 – finally being unified by the formation of the London Borough of Havering in 1965.

Local History books and various internet references including: John Dodgson (1966); Margaret Gelling (1992); Susan Laflin 'Journal of the English Place Names Society'

Sue Smith, Dip TP MRTPI Dip AA Bld Cons IHBC  
Conservation Planner

25 March 2012

## HAVERING MUSEUM

From April 14th, a new exhibition about royalty in Havering will be mounted at the Havering Museum in Romford. With all the village's royal connections, there should be much to interest us.

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

# **JUBILEE EVENT**

## **SATURDAY 2nd JUNE 2012**

### **VILLAGE COMPETITIONS**

(to be held on the Green - main marquee)

Please complete the entry form overleaf - **NO ENTRIES ON THE DAY**. Items to be at the main marquee by 10.00am latest. They will be judged at 10.30am, then left on display for the remainder of the day. £5 cash prize to the winner of each class and certificates for 1st to 3rd places. Judges decision is final.

If you have never entered a competition before, this is your chance to have a go.

#### **Class 1 Decorate a cup cake**

Cake can be homemade or shop bought – this will be judged on decoration only, not the cake itself.

#### **Class 2 Best red, white and blue floral arrangement**

Your own flower arrangement with this colour theme

#### **Class 3 Best village photo**

A photo taken by the entrant of either an object or view in Havering-atte-Bower.

#### **Class 4 Home made sweets**

Any sweets made by the entrant

#### **Class 5 Design a logo for HABCOS**

Design a suitable logo that could be used by HABCOS

#### **Class 6 Animal from a vegetable**

Make an animal using one or several vegetables. Vegetables may be shop bought

Entry fee - £1.00 per class

Classes will be split between adults and children (age 12 and under) if sufficient entries.

## **AIRSHIP VISIT**

On Saturday 24th March, I was surprised to see the Goodyear airship overhead. Indeed it flew precisely over the water tower reminding me of the wartime stories that the Germans used the water tower to guide them on their bombing missions into and out of London. The modern day airship was doing just the same, the guiding, not the bombing fortunately.

