



# Bexley Heritage Trust

**Hall Place & Gardens, Bexley, Kent DA5 1PQ**

**28 March 2017**

The Board of Bexley Heritage Trust, which has managed Hall Place and Gardens for the past 17 years, met for the last time on 27 March.

The Trust has been left with no choice but to cease its operations given the intended total withdrawal of financial support from Bexley Council which is needed to provide public access to the well-loved gardens and to manage the historic house.

The Trust Chairman, Bill Roots, said:

“We have managed Hall Place and, until last year, Danson House, with significant reductions in the financial assistance provided by Bexley Council over recent years. However, some financial assistance would still have been needed by the Trust for the immediate future if we were to continue to run the house and gardens as well as exhibitions, family activities and events which attract over 225,000 visitors a year.

Bexley Council will assume direct responsibility for the operation of Hall Place and has indicated that this will be on “a business as usual basis.” How the Council will achieve this given the financial remit set for the Trust, i.e. no financial support, has yet to be clarified. But we wish the Council every success in continuing to operate this very important historic house and gardens for the benefit of Bexley residents and visitors to the borough.

The Trustees would like to put on record the importance of implementing a long-term solution in so far as the financial arrangements are concerned.

We also wish to thank the staff of Bexley Heritage Trust for their commitment and achievements over the past 17 years. In particular,

operating the site effectively and in a solvent fashion with a reduced resource in recent years while providing the community of Bexley and thousands of visitors from beyond the Borough a dynamic public programme of exhibitions, events and educational activities.”

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

### **Comment from visitor book:**

*“I personally love history and since becoming a full time mum (was previously a lawyer) I really need an outlet for my interests and something intellectually stimulating which is close to home and can ALSO accommodate my kids. Hall Place is unique in my vicinity for these purposes. As far as my kids are concerned it would probalby be 50/50 the exhibitions and exploring the house / playing outdoors. In such an urban area, it is difficult to find opportunities to show kids our history heritage. They love it and it fires their imagination.”*

### **Opening 1 April 2017:**

#### **Adrian Berg: A Time & A Place**



Family activities include the Easter Garden Trail (April 1-23) and The Sleep Sheep holiday activity (April 3-6).

### **Hall Place & Gardens**

Hall Place is a stunning Tudor house with magnificent gardens.  
[www.hallplace.org.uk](http://www.hallplace.org.uk)

### **Visitor Information**

**Opening hours:** Daily 10am-5pm, last entry 4.30pm

**Location:** Hall Place & Gardens, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent, DA5 1PQ

**Admission:** Adults **£10** Under 16s/Concessions **£8** Family **£30**

*National Trust members and National Art Pass holders receive half price admission*

### **PR and Media Enquiries**

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