From: Bedford Historical Society
To: info@bedfordhistoricalsociety.org;
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BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
It's our history. Preserve it.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY *e-Newsletter*

March, 2010

In This Issue

Annual Meeting Invite

Sutton Clock Tower

Pruning at the Court House

Upcoming Events

Renting Historical Hall

Join Our Mailing List!

Quick Links

Annual Meeting

Garden Tour at Martha Stewart's Cantitoe Farm

Sutton Clock Tower
Video
Story
Answer to Trivia Question

Renting Historical Hall

Yesterday I gave an impromptu tour to a group of residents taking an art class at the Bedford Library. Walking around the Village Green we discussed how a building's architecture provides clues to a Town's history. When we finished our tour, people commented that although they'd lived in Bedford for years, they felt like they were seeing the Village for the very first time. Many remarked that they "had a whole new appreciation of the town's history."

Because we live here, it's easy to take for granted the things that make Bedford special. You see the graceful old buildings that surround the Green and take comfort knowing they are still here, largely unchanged after hundreds of years. Or you drive by the Bedford Oak, admire its majestic presence and wonder how Bedford has changed during the Oak's 500 year life span.

Whether you live in Bedford or just enjoy the area, consider taking some time this year to stop and savor its beauty and historic charm. You're welcome to come into our offices and ask questions, pick up a "self guided tour" brochure or purchase one of our many books detailing the history of Bedford.

In the meantime, the Historical Society will continue our mission of preservation so that Bedford will remain a unique oasis in the swirl of the 21st century.

It's our history, enjoy it!
Evelyne Ryan, Executive Director

You're Invited to Our Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 12th - 5:30 to 8:00 PM

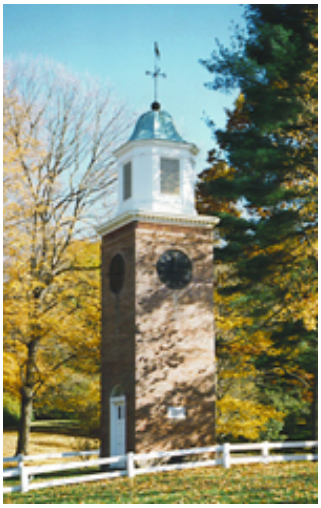
Kennedy's "Green House" Tour and Presentation

The talk and house tour by architectural designer Mary Richardson Kennedy will focus on the latest in green technologies, sustainable building practices and the healthy home initiatives incoroprated into the house.

The open house is from 5:30 to 7:00 followed by new board nominations and elections and other business. Mrs. Kennedy's presentation will begin after the business portion of the meeting. There will be time after the presentation to further tour the house and ask questions. Refreshments will be served and there is a suggested donation of $20/person as space is limited.

This unique opportunity is open to Bedford Historical Society members only. To RSVP, call the office at (914) 234-9751 or send an email to: info@bhsny.org. To ensure that you are a member, please be sure to fill out and return your membership renewal included in our recently mailed 2009 Annual Report.

Sutton Clock Tower - The Clock Winders



In the late 1880s, when the Sutton family moved to their country home in Bedford, Mrs. Sutton was homesick for New York City, particularly the sound of the city's church bells. To please his wife, Mr. Sutton installed in his barn's cupola a huge clock. The barn burned down but the clock and bell were rescued and in 1939 a group of neighbors raised $3000 to build a tower to house the clock. They then donated the tower to the Town of Bedford.

Since 1985, the Historical Society has leased the tower and maintains the clock. A small group of neighbors, known as the Clock Winders, takes turns winding the clock.

The Journal News recently did an article about the Clock Winders and there's even a video on their website of the innerworkings of the clock and one of the winders at work. To see the video, click here. To read the first in a series of stories about the Clock Winders, click here.

Our trivial question of the month: How much does the bell in the clock tower

weigh? (Answer is on our website.)

The Bedford Garden Club pruned the Crabapple Trees at the Court House on Wednesday. Rachel Ocken, BHS board member and garden club member, is courageously perched in the tree.

Mark Your Calendars for our 2010 Events

Friday, June 4th - Garden Tour & Cocktails
with Martha Stewart at her Cantitoe Farm for members only

Sunday, September 12th - Bedford Village Treasure Hunt

Saturday, October 2nd - Cocktail Party at Tanrackin Farm

Saturday & Sunday, October 16 & 17th - Antiques Show at Historical Hall

Early December - Historic House Tour

We're always looking for members to help with events - from stuffing invitations to organizing, planning, and decorating. If you'd like to get involved, we'd be more than happy to have any assistance. Looking forward to seeing you at some, or all, of our events!

Rent Historical Hall for Your Next Event

There's a beautiful, historic space in Bedford where you can hold your next event. Historical Hall is in the heart of the Village and the perfect spot for parties and celebrations big or small. As an added benefit, in 2010 Historical Society members now receive 10% off the rental of the Hall. For information, call us at (914) 234-9751 or visit our website. Click here to see photos of other events at the Hall.

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