

# GIBBONS

## — SOLICITORS —

### Howard in the Barbican gardens



Hello one and all: with the opening of the Morrison supermarket on the Buy Right site, I thought that I should pay a visit so that I can empathise with my readers who have to

experience these places. My groceries are trundled through the countryside from an emporium in Piccadilly called Fortnum and Mason! Morrisons seem to have squashed a lot of shelves in the space available and all the shoppers were bumping into one another. Not a shop of any particular distinction and prices are all much of a muchness. Do continue to support the Co-op not least for the benefit of the Town.

How quickly things change. Since I arrived in Hadleigh some ten years ago, housing estates have sprung-up and now the usual supermarket format. I am saddened to read of tried and tested shops collapsing. As a result of shopping "on line" no one is going to the shops. Commercial property in towns will lose its value if it can't be let. I read recently that no-one wants pianos and they are being scrapped in their thousands. It seems that we are to become a nation of uninteresting people who do not go out, have no hobbies, cannot converse and only know how to click from one web-site to the next. While you are clicking though, take a look at my new website at [www.gibbons.tv](http://www.gibbons.tv). You'll find more pictures of me and there is a section for my columns in case you have missed one.

COMPETITION: from the website you can work out the number of complete years that I have been qualified as a solicitor. E-mail the figure and the correct answer will win a bottle of champagne (if more than one I will draw from a hat). You'll need to let me have your name and address. Although my column is read on a world wide basis, I am afraid that I will only deliver the prize within the catchment area of the magazine itself which of course does include all the villages.

In the Summer, I was wafted by my long distance chauffeur Christof, to London where I visited my good friend Stephen Chapman, a commercial property lawyer who lives in one of the Barbican towers. Parking is atrocious so how one manages without a driver, I do not know. Stephen is another petrol head and has a large collection of Cadillacs. The Barbican was constructed during the 1960s and 1970s and includes the world famous Arts Centre. There are 13 terrace blocks and three towers. The view from my friend's flat on the 22nd floor is fantastic. The complex has at its heart gardens surrounding a lake only open to residents and where the picture shows me in an oasis in the middle of the City. I had a lovely lunch in one of the Barbican restaurants. All quite a different life-style to the Suffolk countryside.

*Howard Gibbons*

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