



## Autumn Newsletter 2008

Following our last newsletter, which raised the question of the possible development of Bernards Heath, all has gone silent! Perhaps our publicity has had some effect and caused second thoughts, especially in the light of the current financial situation. Many thanks to everyone who contacted committee members and those of you who became members of FoBH as a result. We shall continue to be vigilant on this vital issue.

Other news....

Website – This is still being worked on. We are hoping that by the time it is in the public domain it will be a user-friendly means of communication for the whole community.

Cycle Path – FoBH have been consulted on the proposed cycle path through the western side of the heath from Townsend Drive to the traffic lights at the Ancient Briton. Your committee felt that the surface would need to be raised above the natural ground level to avoid damage to tree roots and would need a hard surface and that the combined effect would be too urban in a woodland setting. It was also felt that the proposal neither meets leisure requirements, (ideally a circular route) nor is it suitable for commuters since it is too large a deviation from the direct road route from the city centre.

Joint event – On Tuesday 28 October Friends of St Saviours and FoBH hosted a fascinating talk by Peter Burley, Michael Elliott and Harvey Watson about the two battles of St Albans, the second one of which in 1461 was fought over Bernards Heath. The large audience was able to chat over refreshments afterwards before facing the blizzard on the way home! We hope that it will be the first of many future events bringing together two organisations with many joint interests in the local community.

Knotweed – The dreaded plant has spread despite being treated regularly. John O'Conner's are aware and are taking action.

Paths – We plan to improve some further sections of path which become boggy after heavy rain following the success of the first sections to be tackled.

Next Action Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 9.30am. Please meet at Heath House for a couple of hours of tree planting and/or litter picking. The recent snow has brought down several large boughs so we are continuing to plant native trees to replace those that have fallen and November is the best time of year. Look out for posters nearer the time.

And finally.....

A reminder that membership renewal is due in January, still a bargain at £10 per family.  
Please see renewal form overleaf.

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Family name.....tel.....

Address.....email.....

I enclose £10 for annual membership. (Cheques payable to Friends of Bernards Heath)

Signed.....

Please send to the treasurer: Sue Swain, 10 Seymour Road, St Albans, AL3 5HW