

Autumn 2011 bulletin

The summer holiday period is often quiet since so many people are away. However there have been several developments since the last update.

Ariston site After all the digging of holes, infilling and building up unsightly mounds, the whole area has now been mown. While it looks much better, it is no longer viable as a sports field.

Orchard This area running down to Sheppards Close has become a haven for wildlife with an increasing diversity of flowers and grasses, not forgetting the abundant blackberries; it has also been a refuge for wildlife for the recent harsh winters. Unaccountably, the whole area, with the exception of some old apple trees was razed, so much so that one of our members likened it to the Somme! There seems no logical reason since the land is not about to be developed. When challenged, FoBH were told that it was to eradicate self-set trees and for safety reasons. The only self-set trees still remain! A meeting is to be held with a council representative which we hope will give us the answers to why the tax payers' money has been wasted, about £1000 so we have been told.

Beech Bottom Dyke It is proposed to include this scheduled ancient monument (and also Sandridge Wastes) within the remit of FoBH. This will entail a redrawing of our boundary map and the calling of an extraordinary meeting to ratify the changes to the constitution.

Modest improvements have been suggested to Beech Bottom Dyke to include better signs, clearer access from Beech Road, and a viewing area. We are limited in what we can do as the area comes under the protection of English Heritage – but this is a work in progress, so watch this space.

Leaflet We have been distributing our current leaflet, “Bernards Heath – a unique green space in St Albans” for some years and we are in the process of updating it.

Thank you to the many “womblers” who regularly clear the Heath of litter, particularly after the long summer evenings. It is unfortunate that litter is not the only problem; there has recently been a marked increase in dog fouling. We have put up some notices to raise awareness and hope that the situation will improve.

We are **still** hoping to find a website editor; in the meantime we will continue with these quarterly updates.

Next Action Day – Sunday 16th October from 9.30am. Meet outside Heath House to clear litter and trim overgrowth. Please bring gloves and secateurs.