



## **NEWSLETTER December 2003**

This is the second newsletter of the "Friends of Bernards Heath" – we plan to concentrate our efforts over the whole of the heath and woodland and the Bernards Heath area generally.

### **What has been happening?**

#### **Our five year plan**

We have been working with Countryside Management Service and the Leisure Department of St Albans District Council to develop a Management Plan for the Heath. This has now been completed and work will start in earnest early next year. We plan to remove unwanted and unhealthy trees, clear undergrowth and re-establish the meadow areas within the woods, and improve paths. We have already made a start by putting bark chippings on the paths (many thanks to those that helped) and clearing rubbish. We will be applying for grants to help us.

#### **Keeping the Heath tidy**

***Dog-waste bins*** – Several extra bins have been installed and we encourage all dog walkers to use them.

***Litterbins*** – More are on order and will be installed soon – in the meantime please use the existing bins or take your litter home.

***Garden rubbish*** – Please don't dump your garden waste on the grass and wooded areas of the Heath because it looks unsightly, encourages fly tipping and encourages weeds rather than indigenous plants.

#### **The play area**

Part of the hedge around the children's play area was removed for the safety of the children but we persuaded the council to leave two sides for aesthetic reasons and as a windbreak. It seems to have been a good compromise.

**Future events**

**Spring clean** - We will be holding another “spring clean” with the help of Earthworks on 14 March next year – all help welcome so put it in the diary. More details nearer the time.

**Wine-tasting** - We are holding another wine tasting on Saturday 28th February – tickets will be available in the new year but please phone (01727) 831668 if you would like to reserve tickets. This is a very popular and fun evening so we look forward to seeing you – watch out for the posters in the new year.

**Annual General Meeting** - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30 is the date for our next AGM to be held at Heath House, Heath Farm Lane – all welcome. We welcome more committee members from Waverley Road/Carlisle Avenue – can you spare a few hours a year to help represent the views from that side of the Heath?

**Website**

We are trying to keep the website ([www.bernardsheath.org](http://www.bernardsheath.org)) up to date but it hasn't been easy – please bear with us!

Contact us: Peter Cook (Chairman) Tel: 01727 811414, Fax 01727 811203 or e-mail [chairman@bernardsheath.org](mailto:chairman@bernardsheath.org)

**Membership**

**Membership is due for renewal in January and will be £10 per year per household. Please complete the form below and return to the treasurer.**

**Detach here** - - - - -

Name .....

Address.....

Tel Number.....

E-mail address.....

Please make cheques payable to “Friends of Bernards Heath”

**Please return to Mrs S Swain, 10 Seymour Road, St Albans, AL3 5HW**