



Newsletter Spring 2003

Dear Member (and former members)

This is our first newsletter since we have become the "Friends of Bernard's Heath". We have also now been joined by the Carlisle Avenue and Waverley Road Residents Association (CWARA) in order to concentrate our efforts over the whole of the heath and woodland and the Bernards Heath area generally.

Next steps

Currently our focus is to establish an action plan to improve the environment of the heath and woods. We have had two very constructive meetings with representatives of Countryside Management Service and St Albans District Council. We are now preparing an ongoing action plan to tackle such things as clearing the knotweed, coppicing, path improvements and similar projects. More news later. No doubt we will be inviting residents in the area to join us in specific tasks later in the year!

What else has been happening?

The Woodland Trust carried out a litter pick with the aid of volunteers, and the Battlefields Trust included the heath in a walk following the routes of the two battles of St Albans – this included people attired in battle dress of the period. Hopefully we will soon have some photos on our website.

You will also see notices erected by CMS, with our agreement, requesting residents not to dump garden rubbish in the woods and giving the reasoning behind this request.

The District Council plan to reduce the height of the hedge around the children's play area this spring and to remove it in the autumn for the safety of children using the play area and in line with Council policy.

The Friends also enjoyed an excellent evening's wine tasting on March 1st. No doubt there will be more social events to come. Do join us.

Website

Have you visited our new improved web site recently? www.bernardsheath.org. We hope to keep this up to date so that you can find out more easily what we are doing.

Membership

If you were a member last year and haven't yet renewed your membership please complete the form which you can download from the website, or contact Sue Swain, Treasurer, on 01727 831668 who will be happy to relieve you of a tenner!