



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010

Do you value our local green space?

The Friends exist to protect Bernards Heath, a green area that is particularly special as it is so near the city centre.

Since we were formed some nine years ago, we have achieved the following:-

- fought off a plan to build on the lower field, (for the time being!)
- put up interpretation boards to explain local history and wildlife
- provided more benches in the woods and on the lower heath
- worked with the local council in the provision of litter and dog bins
- improved the surface of some paths
- sent out a twice yearly newsletter to every house in our area
- set up a user friendly website (www.bernardsheath.org) as a focus for local comment and questions, and as a forum to coordinate action if the Heath is ever under threat of development again.

Lower Field Latest news is that it is unlikely that any work will be done to fill in the holes until at least March and the work may be done in phases. In the meantime the fencing remains but the field continues to be used. If you hear anything, please alert the community via the forum on the website.

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
Receipt required yes/no

Keeping the Heath clean and green!

The twice yearly Action clean-up days continue when litter clearance and general maintenance is carried out by volunteers (see below). Through the updating of the Green Space Action Plan we can call on some professional input from Countryside Management Services and the local council to replace some old trees with suitable native stock. We plan also to plant a part of the BMX cycle area with suitably tough shrubs which will be protected after planting. Some bird boxes, damaged by squirrels, were replaced in January.

Bernards Heath leaflet

The leaflet is included with this newsletter as a reminder of what is available on your doorstep. If you already have one, please pass it on to a friend.

Website

Please visit our new website – it contains a lot of information, a forum for discussion and links to other sites. We endeavour to keep it up to date – if you have any information/suggestions for topics or new items please let us know.

www.bernardsheath.org

Development proposals

Please look out too for consultations from the District Council on plans for St Albans which may affect the Bernards Heath area. What future for the old fire station site?

Dates for your diary:-

Annual General Meeting. This will be held on **Saturday 24 April** at 09.30 at Heath House. It is usually fairly brief and is timed to leave most of Saturday free. Do come and meet other Friends!

Action Day 21 March from 09.30. Meet outside Heath House. There is plenty of litter to be cleared before the plants start growing too vigorously. We plan also, weather permitting, to sand and re-stain the interpretation boards.

And finally.....

If you have forgotten to renew your FoBH membership, it is still £10 per family. (It has not increased since we were founded!). Please see renewal form overleaf or download details from the website (www.bernardsheath.org).