



Winter Newsletter 2012

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Lower Field Update

With nearly another year gone, the future of the lower field is still uncertain. You will have seen that the judo club is going to be relocated to Batchwood but nothing has yet been decided for the Pioneer and the skate park. We are told that the Herts County Council is currently assessing the needs of the youth club and we will hear in due course.

Water Tank Discovery

On our last litter pick day, we uncovered the ivy from a large round brick and concrete tank: this is a water tank built in 1941, to provide water for the fire brigade where local supplies were not adequate. It was one of a series of tanks protecting vital industries around St Albans. This one was located outside the Wiles & Lewis Tallow Works, a supplier of dripping, lard and other food stuffs. The need for a water supply had been learned in 1911, when the tallow works caught fire and 100 tons of animal fat burned in one night. It is still the largest ever fire in St. Albans.

Footpath

If you have walked from the water tower towards the Ancient Briton, you will have noticed that a pathway has been dug out in order to improve the surface, which was very muddy. The next stage is to lay and roll road chippings to complete the work. We have requested a contribution towards the cost from the local council and are waiting to hear from them.

Football

Further to our last report on the anticipated five a side football pitch, Herts County Council are employing delaying tactics. Football has been played on the lower field for at least the last fifty years quite safely. However, HCC are citing Health & Safety issues as reasons for refusing permission to allow FoBH to provide portable goal posts complying with British Standards.

Beech Bottom Dyke

Talks with English Heritage about improving access and signage which began 2 years ago have apparently had to be scaled back. FoBH are in contact with the local council, who like us, would like to see this historic site restored.

It's That Time of Year Again!

FoBH welcome your yearly subscription now due for the forthcoming year. This remains at the very modest rate of £10 per family (same as 11 years ago).

Name:.....
Address:.....
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I enclose £10 (Cheque payable to Friends of Bernards Heath)

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Please send to: FoBH Treasurer, 10 Seymour Rd., St Albans, AL3 5HW