



CHRISTMAS 2020

SPECIAL MEMBERS' EDITION

We wanted to let you know that we are still here, still working to protect our local green space. The Heath has felt very special this year; friends and families have enjoyed socially spaced picnics, informal football games have been played, and the number of new dogs being walked by proud owners has increased dramatically. When so much has been closed, the Heath has been here for us all to enjoy.

Traveller Incursion

As yet the Council has made no decision about installing barriers along Sandridge Road following the traveller incursion of July 2019. Suggestions are for wooden or concrete bollards, or a ditch and mound: the committee feels that a ditch and mound could be breached with boards too easily and that too much of the Heath itself would be lost. We understand that the Council wants to consider its green spaces in the round to ensure some uniformity of approach and to ensure that no one vulnerable site is left unprotected. Our local councillors are supportive of groups such as the Friends and residents being engaged in selecting the best solution for the Heath so that it is not subject to any more such incursions in future.

If you have any comments, please email
chairman@bernardsheath.org

Playground Project Update

"Let's Play at Bernards Heath" (www.letsplayatbernardsheath.org)

The registered charity held a very successful public consultation back in January this year which showcased a number of prospective designs for the revamped playground. These design concepts were generally very well received by the community and led to a further recommendation towards the final design brief.

Fundraising for the project continues, albeit at a slower pace, focusing on grant applications and on-line funding initiatives.

Tree and bulb planting

Roger Miles, a committee member, has been busy planting native trees and native daffodils around the Heath. While some trees have not survived, we hope to see young saplings and colourful blooms next spring.

Committee Membership

We currently have vacancies for two new committee members, one as secretary. We are a very friendly bunch, and commitments are not onerous so come and join us!

Second Battle of St Albans 1461

The Battlefields Trust will be reporting in 2021 on further research about this battle which took place over Bernards Heath. As organisational members of the Trust we shall be first to know about this major battle of the Wars of the Roses.

Looking to next year

We intend holding our usual litter pick in the spring. In the meantime, please help to keep the Heath clear of rubbish – and of course, be very particular in clearing up after your dog.

Our AGM, held this year in February will be held again, courtesy of Paul at The Jolly Sailor when covid allows; dates for both events are yet to be decided.

And finally....

A very safe and happy Christmas to you all, and let's hope for a more cheerful 2021!

Our contact details:

Twitter @Bernards_Heath

Facebook Friends of Bernards Heath

Email chairman@bernardsheath.org

Subs are due for Jan-Dec 2021 at £10 per household. Please either pay online via the website or send this form with a cheque to the treasurer, 21 Road Warwick Road, AL1 4DJ.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

I enclose a cheque for £10 (payable to Friends of Bernards Heath)

Signed.....