



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2013

Ariston Site latest news

We understand that Herts County Council are having a meeting with St Albans District Council based on the 2001 planning brief. The conclusion of this meeting will be presented at a public exhibition probably towards the end of the year, before a formal planning application is made. The 2001 planning brief excludes development on the Lower Heath. It is therefore unlikely that the sale will take place before the second half of 2014.

The Lower Heath – an Asset of Community Value

We have asked St Albans District Council to add the Lower Heath to the list of publicly and privately owned land that provide an important service in the local community. They are putting together this list as required by the Localism Act 2012. If an asset on the list comes up for sale, a community group has six months to raise the capital and bid to buy it before it can be sold on the open market. The owner doesn't have to sell it to them though! We will let you know the council's decision in due course and if you'd like to know more about the Localism Act, look at the council's website - www.stalbans.gov.uk

Guided Walk

Join us for our next walk round Bernards Heath at 2.30pm on Sunday 22 September 2013. Meet on the Heath opposite the end of Boundary Road (opposite the Londis Heath Bakery).

The walk takes in the history, land use, biodiversity and current planning issues on our local open spaces. This year in particular we will be wanting to look at our open spaces through the lenses of the District and County Councils' proposals for development on the "Ariston Site" and for an extension of cycle paths across the heath. Hopefully, the development proposals will have been published by then and we can focus on looking at how they would play out on the ground affected.

The big new biodiversity development since the last walk is that the parakeets have arrived, and we can keep a look out for the local flock. Also since last time, sightings of red kites are becoming ever more frequent.

Our AGM is on Saturday 12 October so we can treat the walk as a "site visit" to inform the reports and discussions there. Keep an eye out for the weather conditions and choose your footwear accordingly, but we will be avoiding muddy scrambles whatever the weather. The walk will last up to two hours. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bricks

Residents of streets around the Heath which were developed not later than the early years of the 20th century have a chance to identify a bit of local history whenever alterations are being made to their houses. Bricks were made on the Heath for several hundred years, ending in the early 1900's with the rise of industrial scale manufacture elsewhere.

Some, but by no means all, bricks made on the Heath had the name or initials of the maker in the 'frog' - the depression in the top surface. Chris Reynolds' potted history of the Heath lists known brickmakers, including Jacob Reynolds, his great-grandfather. These are marked, surprise, surprise, J R.

PTO



Local brick clay usually fires to a strong red colour so look out for marked examples of these (and not pale red or pinkish ones marked FLETTON or LBC). I would be interested to hear of any good, ideally whole, marked bricks, with where they came from and if known, the date of house construction.

Roger Miles, FoBH Committee 865735 rogmiles@compuserve.com

FoBH Photo Gallery

If anyone has some snaps of the Heath that they have taken during our lovely summer, we'd be delighted to add them to our website. Please email them to the address below.

Dates for your diary

Next Heath Walk Sunday 22nd September at 2:30 meet on the heath opposite Londis Heath Bakery.

Please do join us at our *AGM* on Saturday 12th October 10.30 at The Jolly Sailor

Help us clean up the Heath at our *Next Action Day* on Sunday 20th October from 9.30am, meet at Heath House at the top of Heath Farm Lane. Accompanied children are very welcome.

Follow us on Twitter: [#@Bernards_Heath](#)
Facebook and at our website: www.bernardsheath.org.
e-mail: chairman@bernardsheath.org

If you missed joining the Friends for 2013, it is not too late! Annual membership is £10. Please complete the form below and send a cheque (payable to Friends of Bernards Heath) to the treasurer, Sue Swain at 10 Seymour Road, AL3 5HW

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone..... Email.....

Signed.....