



## NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2013

### **Ariston Site Latest News**

HCC is organising a planning application for residential development, open space and the relocation of existing community uses on the site. We understand that this is based on the 2002 Planning Brief which excludes development of the Lower Field. Two public exhibitions of these proposals will be held at the Pioneer Youth Club:

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm to 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January from 10am to 12 noon.**

Please come along and give your comments to HCC and also to FoBH.

In the meantime the former St Albans Adolescent Resource Centre building, the "hut", behind the Judo Club has been demolished. We were informed that three weeks would be allowed for its demolition, but it was knocked down in one day. However, a stripy barrier remains around the site with warning notices, whether due to the dangers of the concrete base, or to the Japanese knotweed we are unsure. The knotweed is to be treated in the spring along with the large clump in the orchard.

### **Green Ring**

A consultation on the St Albans Green Ring cycling and walking route which passes through Bernards Heath has opened and will close on 12th December 2013 at 5pm. It is available to view at <http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/greenring>

FoBH strongly supports the concept of the Green Ring but has reservations about the impact of a hard surfaced 2.5 metre wide "urban style" cycle path passing through our treasured green spaces. Please look at the consultation and let us know your views at [chairman@bernardsheath.org](mailto:chairman@bernardsheath.org) or via Twitter

### **FoBH AGM**

Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual General Meeting and special thanks to Paul at The Jolly Sailor for hosting the event. There was particular interest in listening to John Newton-Davies from Sandridge 900+ who outlined planned events that will run from March to November to celebrate the 900 year anniversary of St Leonard's Church in Sandridge Parish, which until 1904 included Bernards Heath. It was a small isolated church to serve the monks and labourers working one of the farms belonging to the great Benedictine Abbey of St Albans. The church is still there, and so is the farm, but from this nucleus has grown over the centuries a busy thriving district which is an integral part of the city of St Albans, whilst retaining and developing characteristics of its own. Of particular note in their anniversary year celebrations is a plan to invite the Medieval Siege society to hold a re-enactment of the 2nd battle of St Albans across Bernards Heath on 17th and 18th May, which if it happens, Friends of Bernards Heath will be pleased to support. You may want to note that weekend in your 2014 calendar. For further information visit their website at <http://www.sandridge900.com>

### **Social Networking**

Are you part of our growing online community? Post pictures and keep in touch with what's happening locally as well as news from the Friends of Bernards Heath fight to keep the Heath! Simply click on the Facebook and twitter icons on our website.

Topics recently appearing on the pages have included: autumn fungi finds on the Heath, beautiful sunsets, storm damage, dog walkers as well as the usual news from the group on action days.

**Bernards Heath Infant School**

It's lovely to see the Heath being used by community groups and one day in October the Lower and Upper Fields were heavily populated by groups of school children. Teacher Nick Yeldham writes....

At the end of last half term Year 1 of Bernards Heath Infant School had the pleasure of spending the day on Bernards Heath as part of their topic on exploring the area around them. Six different activities were organised and the groups spread themselves across a large section of the wooded areas and the field. In some of the wooded areas to the east of the Heath the children used magnifying glasses and various keys and had the opportunity to investigate and classify different plants and insects. On the lower field the children worked in pairs and took it in turns to be guided around by their partner whilst blindfolded. They also had a chance to follow a small path within the wooded area and finish by carefully using a rope to descend into a small ditch. Mr Wilson, one of the Year 1 teachers, created a calm and welcoming area underneath one of the larger trees. There the children enjoyed playing drums and learning about sounds and vibrations before spreading out onto the field to use 'cup and string' telephones. Locally collected pine cones were used to make bird feeders and the children expanded on their work on artist Andy Goldsworthy by creating some impressive outdoor art. A real highlight for all the children was the professional storyteller (an apprentice to the Laureate no less!) who walked the children around the field, incorporating all that they saw around them into his tales and riddles.

All of the adults and staff involved had a fantastic day and agreed it was a valuable and memorable learning experience for all. Bernards Heath Infant School would like to extend its thanks to the Friends of the Heath for their support in preparing the area for this day.

**Street Reps**

If you have a concern or comment about the Heath, Beech Bottom or Sandridge Wastes, you could contact your own street rep living near you – if there is one for your road!

Could you be that person?

It is a small job involving introducing yourself via a leaflet, to the houses you represent, making yourself known to new neighbours and giving them an FoBH leaflet, and putting up a poster, if appropriate of FoBH events.

It does not involve planning issues.

Are you interested?

If so, please contact Jenny Faldon, membership secretary, tel 853328

Follow us on Twitter: [#@Bernards\\_Heath](#)  
Facebook and at our website: [www.bernardsheath.org](http://www.bernardsheath.org).  
E-mail: [chairman@bernardsheath.org](mailto:chairman@bernardsheath.org)

**2014 membership**

We look forward to receiving annual membership for 2014, which remains at £10 per household, but any additional donations are gratefully received. Please complete the form below and send a cheque (payable to Friends of Bernards Heath) to our treasurer Mary North at 21 Warwick Road, St Albans AL1 4DJ. Alternatively you may want to pay by standing order, instructing your bank to pay on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year the sum of £10 in favour of:

Account Name: Friends of Bernards Heath at NatWest Bank, 10 St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3LY

Account No. 17009944 Sort code: 60-18-11

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Name.....

Address.....

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

Signed.....