Berengrave reopens

Berengrave Local Nature Reserve was formally opened by The Worshipful the Mayor of Medway, councillor Ken Webber, on Monday 24th April. The ceremony was attended by members of the council, the press and the public. The mayor first officially opened the SusTrans path by unveiling a plaque and cutting a ribbon. The party then proceeded down the path to the main entrance to the reserve. Chris Valdus, Country Parks Development Officer, and Steve Brooks, Riverside C.P. Ranger, gave short presentations on the massive amount of work that had preceded the opening of the reserve and the hopes for its future. Guests were then taken on a tour of the reserve to show them the new boardwalks and steps. The mayor opened the boardwalks by again unveiling a plaque and cutting a ribbon.

Country Fair
FoB provided a stand at the Riverside C. P. Country Fair on Sunday 25 June. The event went much better than was expected, with plenty of interest being shown in the reserve and in the information that we provided on the stand. Twelve new members were recruited.

3-Valleys Barriers
The barriers which were a temporary replacement for the old wooden stiles at the entrances in Berengrave Lane and the Lower Rainham Road, have now been replaced with proper 3-Valley barriers, as are installed at each end of the SusTrans path. These are a vast improvement on the temporary barriers and will permit free access for wheelchairs and prams. (Please note however, they will not permit access to children’s double-buggies of the ‘side-by-side’ type)

Safety Barrier
At the members meeting which followed the AGM, it was agreed that the £3,000 donation from Cllr. Guichard from his Ward Improvement Fund would be used to provide a wrought-iron safety fence around the wash mills. I have already contacted two manufacturers of wrought-iron ware and am awaiting them to undertake site surveys before submitting their tenders.

Notice Boards
These have now been received from the manufacturers and await installation by the council. I am informed that this is expected to take place early in July.

Annual Subscriptions
At our AGM on 7th June, it was agreed that we should levy an annual subscription of £1.00 per member per year. (This will not be levied on Associate Members, i.e. those under the age of 18). Subscriptions will become due on the date of the AGM each year. Your Rep will be collecting the 2006 subs during the next few weeks. Those members who normally receive their FoB letters via the post do not have ‘Reps’. Please could these members pay the treasurer at the next meeting, send a £1.00 cheque or, deliver the money to him at:

The Treasurer
Friends of Berengrave
45 Chalky Bank Road
Gillingham
ME8 7NP

Brian Baker
Chairman
Friends of Berengrave