

# BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

## 'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 43 – December 2008

### **Kathy resigns as Chairman**

At the end of the last General Committee Meeting Kathy announced that she was resigning as Chairman. She felt that after over 20 years as Chairman, it was time for her to step down, enjoy just being a member and making way for someone else to take the chair.

Kathy was a founder member of the Group and is a Trustee. Over the time she has with great energy promoted our Group to the outside world so that more and more people appreciate the work that we do as volunteers. She has supported the idea of recycling long before it has become the order of the day in Brent.

The thing that has impressed me most is how she has been able to command the stage. Whether it is giving an informal talk ( and she has given many to schools, societies and residents) or representing the Group at official functions, she has never failed to impress. She is an expert speaker and very keen to support environmental issues especially in Fryent Country Park; also she has detailed knowledge of the history of the area.

On a more practical level she was one of the early 'agitators' pressuring the local authority to get the travellers evicted from Fryent Country Park (already 20 years ago), she instigated the tree nursery at the Walled Garden and is still running it. For four years she was responsible for organizing the tools for the Sunday mornings project.

Our Group has developed greatly and thrived under her leadership. She has steered the Group from small beginnings to what it is now. We are an important partner with Brent Parks in maintaining Fryent Country Park. Our garden at Roe Green has been proudly presented in the London in Bloom competition, we have received the Green Pennant four years running, and we have participated in London Garden Squares weekend. We have come along way under her leadership.

We wish Kathy a happy retirement from the Chairmanship and many a long day contributing as a member of our Group.

Bernard

### **Ian Stokes**

Sadly Ian Stokes passed away on 21 August. When I first met Ian, I immediately noticed his ponytail and thought, now there is someone with a bit of sparkle. No zip up slippers and beige jacket for him and I wasn't disappointed.

Ian's day job had been a professional photographer and (in his spare time) as a result he took many splendid photographs of Fryent Country Park and Roe Green Walled Garden. I remember him showing me the photograph of an oak tree and his love and enthusiasm of the tree's form jumped out at you.

Geology was another passion and we were often shown rocks & pebbles with accompanying explanations of how they were shaped and formed. Gleeefully, he would tell us that when Joan was not at home, he would load the dishwasher with rocks and give them a spruce up before she came home. Ian created a small rock and pebble feature at Roe Green. In remembrance, the group have placed in the area a pink granite ball and millstone with "Ian's stone" written on a piece of slate.

Rose

### **Fryent Country Park**

In September the Countryside Day was held at the Park. This was a fun day for all the family, with wonderful weather and lots to do. As usual we had a marquee which was busy all day with visitors.

The good news is that Fryent Country Park has received a 'Highly Commended' in the Natural England Future Farming Award. This celebrates environmental excellence and innovation in Farming, to help conserve farming and wildlife. Perhaps Fryent Country Park is not thought of as a farm, but we have a large organic hay crop, and an excellent organic orchard. Our orchard includes many old varieties of fruit trees, including the Pinner Seedling discovered in Harrow in 1810. We have some 50 of these, commissioned from an organic nursery and grown from graft wood. Kim

### **The Bat and Newt Survey**

This was organised one evening at Fryent Country Park at short notice because of the weather and everyone's schedules. The newts were difficult to find as they were hiding deep in the mud due to the lack of rain, but we did have bat monitors and heard some 'clicks', which confirmed that the bats were there. They are too fast to see or detect them. But the following week was a Saturday Children's activity day. Keith the 'Bat man' came with two injured bats, a Pipistrelle and a brown long-eared bat which in particular bared a uncanny resemblance to the creatures from that movie the 'Gremlins'. Everyone was delighted with them. The last part of the talk was a demonstration of how to build a bat box. Keith helped us to build the boxes which we put up the next day in the Park.

Janet

### **Trees on Fryent Way**

At beginning of December we were alerted to a number of trees being felled along the footpath on Fryent Way. With the help of a local resident we got Brent Streetcare to stop the tree felling until we could review with them what was going on. We were told that certain trees were diseased and there was a risk of them falling on to the road. We were sceptical about that, but after our meeting with Streetcare they agreed to have another look at the additional trees that had been identified for felling, and quite a few of them have been reprieved.

Please note that Brent Streetcare are responsible for these trees and have the final say on any trees to be felled.

If it is any compensation we planted a further 61 trees within the Park the following Sunday.

### **Vote for Brent River Parks**

The London Mayor has a fund available for the planting of trees in London Parks. The Parks which are to be selected for the fund depend on a democratic vote by the public in each borough. Brent is on the 'short list' and has nominated **Brent River Park** for the trees. Please support **Brent River Park** in Brent (note there is also a Brent River Park in Ealing) by voting for this park. You can vote on the internet at [www.london.gov.uk/parksvote/region/northwest](http://www.london.gov.uk/parksvote/region/northwest)

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We are open at the garden Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2pm. Sundays we are out in Fryent Country Park carrying out conservation project work. Please see the web site below for the programme of projects at Fryent Country Park or telephone the garden. Feel free to join us in our conservation projects at Fryent Country Park.

We are now collecting old pottery garden pots and would appreciate any you no longer want.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Next General meeting – Saturday 24 January at 10.30 am at Roe Green Walled Garden

Contact numbers: Garden 020-8206-0492 (answerphone if nobody there)  
Kathy 0208-206-0589

Also at our website: [www.bhcg.ik.com](http://www.bhcg.ik.com)  
and at [www.brent.gov.uk/parks](http://www.brent.gov.uk/parks) (for the Biodiversity Action Plan)