

# BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

## 'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 45 – September 2009

On June 6 we had our 25th Anniversary Celebration, attended by around 70 people. It was a very successful and happy occasion in fine weather. We purchased a new 'heavy duty' gazebo; but what a struggle it was to put it up. Still, we managed it and left it in the garden for the following week's 'London Green Corners' Open Day. Two of the organisers came, and they seemed very impressed with what we had to offer.

This year we achieved the Green Pennant award for the fifth year running. The judge made some very favourable comments. We also featured as Brent's Community Garden in the Britain in Bloom competition.

We are very proud of the garden. Thanks to all the efforts of our volunteers. It is looking better than ever.

Finally, we received from Sustrans their proposal for cycle paths in NW London and we are very pleased to say that they have removed all reference to cycle paths in Fryent Country Park

Bernard

### **Moth trapping in Fryent Country Park**

I've been interested in butterflies for a while, and last year this developed into a curiosity about moths. I bought myself a light trap and started using it at home last March. I am lucky that our back garden backs onto Fryent Country Park. As our house is in the middle of a terrace and the trap is only three metres from the garden fence I can say with some confidence that the moths I trap have come from the Park.

There are over 860 species of 'macro' moths in the UK, plus another 2000+ 'micro' moths. The 1989 'Collage Map' of Fryent Country Park lists only 17 moth species. But compared to birds and butterflies, moths are under-recorded, partly due to their nocturnal nature. I wanted to see how many new records I could add. I try to run the trap several times a month, avoiding the full moon and rainy evenings. By the 4th August, I had added 36 new records to the list, with the likelihood of many more to come. Some of the moths I have recorded are: Lime Hawkmoth, Angle Shades, Flame Shoulder, Red Underwing, Scarce Footman, Clouded Border, Riband Wave, Willow Beauty, Blotched Emerald, Mottled Pug, Streamer and Small Quaker. I photograph as many as I can, and upload them to Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/erithacusuk/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/erithacusuk/) I really enjoy this hobby as every night brings something different and the moths themselves are often very beautiful.

Debbie Pledge

### **The 'Newt Club'**

We have been running a childrens' activities group once a month for two years now. We have called the group the Newt Club.

Earlier in the year we had a session with a 'potato' theme. Each member planted some seed potatoes in our nursery, and the children have now returned and harvested their crop, which they have taken home to cook.

On another occasion we had a session on insects and made insect houses for the children to take home. Our resident hedgehog - Horace - arrived early for the event and our young members were able to feed him much to his and their delight. We followed this up with a meeting on hedgehogs at which we learned many interesting facts including that they can walk 1-2 miles each night.

Last week we set up a small team of parents and children to make lavender sprigs. We cut the tops of the lavender bushes and the children busied themselves making lavender sprigs tied with ribbon. They then designed the labels for display in our garden. 10p a sprig if you are interested.

This is a photograph of the children with their sprigs. (Photograph printed with the permission of their parents.)



Kim

### **Hay making in Frynt Country Park**

Hay harvesting commenced at Frynt Country Park on 10 August 2009. This is much later than the usual early-mid July start; due to the weather during much of the past month.

To encourage invertebrate conservation, most of the meadows have an area left uncut, covering approximately one-tenth of each field; and differs from the areas that were left uncut last year.

Five of the meadows (Lower Hydes East, Lyon Field, honey Slough West and East, and Half Yards Meade) have all of their area harvested. These fields have a more valuable botanical flora and the Brent management aims to restore this further.

The hay (grass and other meadow flowers) is cut during dry weather and is left for around two days to dry. Drying is facilitated by using a rotating fork to spread the material, allowing air circulation and exposure to the sun before baling. Fortunately the weather has been good in August. If it had rained before collection, the material would have had to be spread and dried again. Bernard

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

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

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Countryside Day                    20th September at Frynt Country Park 11am-5pm  
(help is needed on the day and on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Kim if you can help)  
Committee Meeting                11th September 10.30 am at Roe Green Walled Garden

Contact numbers:            Garden 0208 206 0492 (answerphone if nobody there)  
   John 0208 205 2040

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)