

# BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

## 'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 46 – December 2009

### **Roe Green Walled Garden**

This autumn we have taken advantage of the good weather (at least up until mid November) to carry out all those maintenance activities which have been put on the back burner for so long. Thanks to Dennis for painting the whole of the barn exterior with wood preservative; and following this up by replenishing and painting the green doors on the potting shed, workshop, barn and toolshed - some of which were worse for wear and beginning to show signs of rot; and finally, the painting of the white exterior bay windows of the workshop.

John has also re tarmaced some of the pathways which were beginning to break up, and Graham has fixed the roof of the barn which was leaking.

Finally we must compliment Geoff on the beautiful restoration work of the woodwork on an old barrow which we have managed to reclaim from landfill. All done with reclaimed wood! As his next job Geoff is planning to restore an old wrought iron bench which has been kindly donated to us.

Bernard

### **Brent Climate Change Strategy Conference**

At the beginning of December we participated in the Launch of the Brent Climate Change Strategy. We set up a stand to demonstrate how our Group has contributed to the fight against Climate Change through the planting of over 20,000 trees over the years. The trees exchange CO2 to oxygen, thereby mopping up carbon pollutants. We also had on display a number of saplings we have grown from seed from the trees in Fryent Country Park – hawthorn, ash, oak, holly and silver birch. We also took a number of Alder Buckthorn trees, which we offered visitors free for planting in their gardens. The Alder Buckthorns should encourage Brimstone butterflies in the summer.

Kim

Below is a photograph of the barrow restored by Geoff, displaying the saplings which we took to the Conference.



## **Fryent Country Park**

We had another successful Countryside Day back in September. Our marquee was buzzing with visitors who were fascinated to see the bats brought in by the local 'batman'. The bats had not been taken from their normal environment, but were rescued bats which were being nursed back to good health, but they were in relatively good shape.

Work continues apace at the Park. We have cleared the scrubland on one of the last remaining areas of acid grasslands on the Park. This will encourage grasses and flowers that live on this habitat to thrive. ie those grasses such as red fescue, the bent grasses, cocksfoot and false oats – and flowers such as devils bit scabious and knapweed.

The Park has also gained the Soil Association Certificate for organic hay, and for the first time included our wood and fruit trees. How wonderful to have something without pesticides.

Debbie Pledge represented our Group at the Ninth National Biodiversity Network Conference, held in London in November. The theme was 'Non-native species: alien invaders or benign newcomers?' Further information on this subject can be obtained from Debbie.

Kim

## **Did you see Autumn Watch?**

If so, did you see the clip of the two woodpeckers moving in unison ? – for which the experts could give no reason. This unusual behaviour happened in a garden in Kingsbury, and was caught on camera by Sylvia Gold, wife of Maurice, one of our Sunday project team.

So well done to Sylvia for showing Kingsbury woodpeckers on National Television.

Kim

## **Applications for Housing Development**

Some of you may know that an application has been submitted to Brent Council for housing development on the site of the Garden Centre at the bottom of Birchen Grove. Also, an application has been submitted to Barnet Council for housing development on the site of the nurseries in Cool Oak Lane. Our Group has written letters of appeal to both councils in relation to these applications.

Bernard

## **David Gould**

It is with sadness that we record the death of David Gould. David was a great supporter of everything to do with Fryent Country Park and helped on the very first Countryside Day. Also we remember David mowing the grass at the top of Gotfords Hill for many years. He will be sadly missed by those who knew him. To Carol and Kate our sympathy.

Kim

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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**

Committee Meeting     23rd January 10.30 am at Roe Green Walled Garden  
Contact numbers:     Garden 0208 206 0492 (answerphone if nobody there)  
                                   John (Chairman) 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)