

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 47 – April 2010

Roe Green Walled Garden

During this bleak winter we have carried out many improvements to the overall appeal of the site. We have tidied the barn, making more space for visitors to walk through and browse. We have used the covered area at the side of the workshop to create a feature, which we have called 'Arthur's corner'. In Arthur's corner we have a 1930s bicycle kindly donated by Peter Gallup. Sitting astride the bicycle is Arthur, a mannequin created by Rose, dressed in an old fashioned costume. We have included the old cart refurbished by Geoff, and decorated by Mireille, and an old cast iron fireplace in the corner. A photograph is shown below.

We have also moved the 'sentry box', which was full of old tiles, to an area behind the barn. The sentry box was a bit of an eyesore behind the workshop, and the area is now a more open and pleasing space.

Denis was the driving force behind all these changes. I asked him how he moved the sentry box as it was so heavy. Apparently this was done using old tree trunks as rollers, as in Roman times.

Thanks to Janet for giving us all a Christmas present of organic fertiliser liquid produced from her wormery. As it looked like ginger beer, one of our members mistakenly had a sip! However, she very gallantly said that she was past the age of being fertilised and would leave it for the plants.

Bernard



Arthur's corner

Ernest Trobridge – Architect and Gardener

Within a mile of the Walled Garden are many interesting homes built by the architect, Ernest Trobridge. He moved to Kingsbury in 1915, growing food on a smallholding near Hay Lane while devising a house-building system using green elm wood. From 1920 he built timber cottages with thatched straw roofs in Stag Lane and Slough Lane, including "Hayland" where he lived from 1922. By the 1930's he was designing flats with marvellous brickwork. The most unusual are his "castle" blocks at the top of Buck Lane. With the outbreak of World War 2, he unsuccessfully sought 25 acres of the Regional Open Space for a co-operative allotments scheme, and cultivated the spare land at his home as a market garden.

A free exhibition about Ernest Trobridge is on display at Brent Museum until 19 September.

Philip Grant

