

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 56 – April 2013

Betty Whent

Betty died in March after working with BHCG for many years, both at Fryent Country Park and the Walled Garden. She was very much a hands on person. Betty loved gardening, but in more recent years she spent much of her time sawing logs – not bad when you are over 90. We have planted an Adams Permain apple tree in memory of Betty on the mound in FCP facing Betty's house. We will miss her.

Roe Green Walled Garden

We have tidied the workshop and barn. The roof in the barn started leaking following the gales and the rain. This was repaired by John E and Dennis. The long border has been thinned and remodelled by David. We look forward to a splash of colour this summer. The tall conifers at the entrance to the garden have been cut down as they were damaging the foundation of the entrance gates, and the area tidied up.

Bernard

Fryent Country Park

Work during this very cold and wet winter has continued without a break every Sunday morning. After 10 minutes working you soon warm up. Masons Field is coming along really well – with new gates and new trees – but still lots of litter around. Four young people have joined some of our projects to start their Duke of Edinburgh award. Anyone is invited to join us – it is a good healthy way to spend a Sunday morning.

Kim



Fryent Country Park this winter

John Muir Awards

Our Group is organising two groups for the John Muir award. We have an adult group and a youth group for 10-16 yr olds, called the Wildlife Champions. The John Muir award is an environmental award that encourages people to connect, enjoy and care for wild places through a structured scheme. The award is supported by the John Muir Trust, one of the leading wildlife charities in the country, which owns, protects and conserves some of the wildest and most beautiful places in the British Isles

To achieve an Award each participant must discover a wild place, explore its wildness, take personal responsibility in conserving it, and share the experience with others.

The activities for the award are now being carried out at Roe Green Walled Garden and Fryent Country Park and take place on designated days in the coming months, details of which are at the end of the Newsletter. Newcomers who wish to start work towards the award can come along on any of these days.

Bernard

The Orchards of Fryent Country Park

The Bush Farm orchard was one of the original farm orchards from when Bush Farm was a working farm with farm house. In 1980s BHCG restored this orchard. They found a hop, and planted fruit trees, all associated in some way with Middlesex and Hertfordshire – Blenheim Orange, Rosemary Russett, Merryweather Damson, Bird Cherry, St Edmund Russett, Dabinette Cider Apple and Cob Nut. The hedgerows were restored. The mulberry with its beautiful fruit is about 80 years old and still going strong. This orchard has provided a wonderful habitat for much wildlife.

During the last four years we have planted 763 fruit trees in the Linear Orchard on the mound along Fryent Way. Again these trees have been chosen for their association with Middlesex - Adams Permain, Shropshire Drop, Ashmead Kernal and Bullace (an old variety) together with hundreds of Alder Buckthorn – for the brimstone butterfly. Watch those mounds during the year for a natural display of blossom, together with the thousands of wild daffodils, bluebells, and snowdrops. Kim

HAY MEADOWS

Surveys of the hay meadows in Fryent Country Park take place each year. The results for 2012 show that Yorkshire Fog occurred in 99% of quadrats and was the most frequent plant in the meadows, though the taller False Oat-grass (at 94%) was often more prominent. Meadow Buttercup (71%) had its highest frequency since 2001, Red Clover since 2000, Dandelion since 1995 and Common Sorrel had its best year yet. Rough Meadow Grass and Small-leaved Cat's-tail had relatively low frequencies compared with recent years. Many other species were also recorded.

Abundance of meadow plants often reflects the meadow management of previous years. The year 2012 experienced the wettest April to June since records commenced and high rainfall continued during the summer. During July the ground conditions became too wet to support harvesting machinery. At Fryent Country Park hay harvesting eventually commenced on 10 September 2012, the latest start date on record for the Country Park, but unfortunately some of the hay had to be set aside.

Hay Meadow Survey Team

We are open at Roe Green Walled Garden Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2pm. Sundays we are out in Fryent Country Park from 10 am to 12.30 pm carrying out conservation project work. Our new programme of projects will start again in May. Please see the web site below for details, or telephone the Garden. Feel free to join us in our conservation projects at Fryent Country Park or Roe Green Walled Garden. Training and Refreshments are provided.

We are now collecting old pottery garden pots. We collect scrap metal such as copper, brass, aluminium, including aluminium cans, which help in fund raising.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Open Days Saturday 8 June 2013 at 11.00 am. This features as part of the London Garden Squares weekend
Saturday 14 September
AGM: Saturday 11 May

John Muir award: *Roe Green Walled Garden* – Saturdays 1pm to 2.30 pm - 4 May, 1 June, 6 July
3 August, 7 September
Fryent Country Park (meet at Larkspur Close) at 10am to 12.30pm - 21 April,
19 May, 16 June, 22 September

Newcomers can start their programme for the award on any of these dates

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