

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 57 – August 2013

Roe Green Walled Garden

Roe Green Walled Garden has been awarded the Green Flag once again, along with Fryent Country Park.

We have had two successful open days in April and June – the June one as a part of the London Garden Squares weekend. In June we were delighted to be able to display in our garden part of Katie Gould's Gold Award arrangement from the Chelsea flower show.

The cold and wet spring left us with quite a few problems regarding leaking roofs on our barn and shed. We have carried out one permanent fix and one temporary. We have noticed that a lot of sludge has accumulated at the bottom of the fish pond and around the waterlilies, which are getting strangled. We are in the process of cleaning out the pond.

On 19 September we are offering a one day free training course on the life and wild life of hay meadows. This is a professionally run course and will also include community planting of wild flowers in Fryent Country Park. The course will be split between Roe Green Walled Garden and Fryent Country Park. Members of the public are invited. Give us a call first. *Bernard*

Fryent Country Park

We have had a good summer at the Park, helped a lot by the beautiful weather which has enabled us to work in dry conditions. – a bonus for the Sunday team who are more used to wet mud.

We have worked all over the Park, clearing paths and overhangs. We have also cleared bramble from the acid grassland area – an important habitat for woodpeckers and a number of butterflies which feed on the yellow meadow ant hills.

As usual we have cleared much litter and flytips, including household items dumped in the Park from adjacent gardens.

The orchard trees have blossomed beautifully and should produce some good organic fruit, the birds have sung and we have walked through clouds of butterflies. The hay meadows have been surveyed and our butterflies counted by our expert surveyor team – they have recorded a Marbled White for the first time at both the Park and Roe Green Walled Garden. *Kim*

Wildlife Champions

The Wildlife Champions have had a good season involving fifteen youngsters ranging from ten to sixteen years of age. We had excellent talks and hands on experiences from Aileen our beekeeper and Keith the batman. The group also participated in OPAL's tree health survey, learning to identify the different types of trees, measuring them, checking them for pests and diseases and then sending the results to the OPAL website. There was also an introduction to woodcraft skills in Fryent Country Park where we constructed a survival shelter. We also explored the symbolic representation of trees by a variety of artists. This inspired the group to create their own 'Green Man' sculptures from clay, wooden poles and vegetation. The youngsters have also contributed to conservation work at both Roe Green Walled Garden and in the nature reserve. They supported BHCG community activities at Open Days and our social. The majority of the group are well on their way to completing the 'Discovery Level Award' from the John Muir Trust. This is a national award recognising an individual's commitment to wildlife, environmental conservation and voluntary endeavour. *David*

A Fighter Pilot at Roe Green Walled Garden

Imagine you are a spitfire pilot hovering over Roe Green Walled Garden. You are positioned just over the tree at the far end of the garden by the vegetable patch, and coming into land. You descend. You need to reduce height quickly to avoid the 'flack' trying to shoot you down. On your descent you then

meet up with further obstructions in the way of barrage balloons. So you have to gain height to avoid the balloons, and then descend sharply to land onto an 'aircraft carrier'.

This was the set up was created by Graham, using simple recycled materials. The Spitfire was made of recycled wood, and was fastened with perfect balance onto a cable which ran from the top of the tree to the other end of the garden near the entrance gates. As the plane slipped down the cable from the top of the tree and gathered speed, you could control its height by tightening or relaxing the cable using a joystick.

The plane came in to land at a brisk speed. You succeeded in landing the plane correctly when a hook underneath the plane caught a piece of elastic stretching across the 'aircraft carrier' - actually a board in the shape an 'aircraft carrier'. It was a genuine test of skill

Graham demonstrated his creation at both our open days in April and June. It generated a lot of interest and enjoyment for many visitors. It took quite a bit of skill landing the plane correctly, but surprisingly quite a few people managed it over the two open days. *Bernard*

A new (eccentric) member

One day about nine years ago I was coming out of the old Kingsbury Library when something caught my attention. It was a handwritten note about a place called the Roe Green Walled Garden. Because the note was handwritten I thought how sweet, I must seek out this place that does not use typewriters. I was not disappointed . I now volunteer on a regular basis because my children are older and I have the time. Actually I don't want a job so the walled garden is my get out clause. I tell people it`s a green gym that I have joined with free membership as long as you are a bit eccentric (with only a few exceptions.) *Suti*

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 September. 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. A free Green Gym at your disposal!

Many people come with suggestions as to what we can do to improve Roe Green Walled Garden . Why not come along and implement your ideas. There is no joining fee.

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

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| Open Day | Saturday 14 September 11am to 4 pm |
| General Meeting | Saturday 21 September 10.30 am at Roe Green Walled Garden |
| Training on Meadow preservation | Thursday 19 September at Roe Green Walled Garden. Please call us first |
| Wildlife champion (over 10 yrs) | Saturday 7 September 1pm to 2.30pm at Roe Green Walled Garden |
| Newt club (under 10 yrs) | |
| Wildlife champion (over 10 yrs) | Sunday 22 September Fryent Country Park 10 am to 12.30pm (meet at Larkspur Close) Children can start their wildlife champions programme for the award on any of these dates |

Contact numbers: Garden 0208 206 0492 (answerphone if we are unable to answer)
John (Chairman) 0208 205 2040

Website: www.bhcg.btck.co.uk