

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 58 – December 2013

Roe Green Walled Garden

We had our third and final Open Day of the year in September. Once again we had many visitors who were not aware that our Garden existed, so we are very pleased to have spread the word. The display of blooms along the long border this year was amongst our best ever. The display has continued into December.

If you have not visited the Garden for some time you will notice that we have resurfaced the path at the entrance all the way up to the workshop. We have also set up Braille / Tactile notices up at key points. All this with the aid of a grant from the Queen Elizabeth Field fund.

However, it has been the maintenance activity which has been uppermost in our minds this autumn, and also the latter part of summer. We repaired the roof of the large shed in the summer. Then at the end of October following the high winds, we discovered that part of the roof of the barn had blown off. Thankfully Jim, one of our new volunteers, was happy to carry out a repair, which is still holding up. But we know that at some stage we will have to consider a more permanent job.

Bernard



The island garden – also showing the re surfaced path

Fryent Country Park

The weather forecast for the 27th October was storms and high winds but it was also the day we were to plant thousands of wild flower plug plants in Masons Field. This is all part of a project to transfer this once sports field into a Wildlife Meadow, with the aid of a grant from the Lottery Fund.

We had prepared for this by delivering 250 colourful leaflets designed by David to the residents looking out onto the field. One family came along to help and we managed to plant 1250 wild flowers.

The flowers were chosen especially for their colours and also that many were the food plants of butterflies, moths and other insects.

We planted ladies bedstraw as it is the food plant of the plain wave, riband and red chestnut moths. Lesser knapweed is liked by finches and is also the food plant of the lime speck pug moth (what a wonderful name).

Other wild flowers we planted were ladies smock, meadowsweet, cats ear, oxeye daisy, birds foot trefoil, self heal, cowslip, common sorrel, red clover and devils bit scabius.

Then in November on a damp and dullish November day, once again we were in Masons field to plant 800 wild flower plants and 5500 fritillary bulbs. Could we do it within our project time of two and a half hours? A tall order!

Well, with the help of 39 young people and three teachers from Alperton Community School we succeeded in our objective. So thank you Alperton Community School and our Sunday team. Well done everyone. Our wild flower meadow is coming on.

All through this period we have continued to collect rubbish and litter dumped in the Park. So far we have collected 268 bags of rubbish this year in addition to rubble. Kim

John Muir award

We will be running two John Muir Awards starting in early spring. The dates are still to be decided. We will again be running the Discovery Award and those who received their certificates in September will be invited to join the Explorer Award. This award will last a whole year and will include organic gardening, the conservation of Bush Farm orchard and a summer camp and night trek into Fryent Country Park. David

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

General Meeting	Saturday 18 January 2014 10.30 am at Roe Green Walled Garden
Wildlife champions and John Muir Explorer Award	To start February 2014, date to be announced
Wildlife champions and John Muir Discovery Award	To start March 2014, date to be announced

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