

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 62 – April 2015

Monica Green

Monica Green passed away in December 2014 after a busy life. Monica was a founder member of our Group and secretary for many years. Monica was an expert in reptiles and was secretary of the herpological society for 57 years. She was able to give us her specialist advice on all things relating to newts and frogs in our Garden. Monica worked tirelessly at Fryent Country Park helping to restore many of the ponds and was a keen gardener at Roe Green Walled Garden. Monica taught us many things and we will miss her very much.

Number crunching No 2

Since the beginning of 2015 volunteers from our Group, together with Barn Hill Residents Association, Valley Drive Residents Association, other concerned residents and LB Brent have joined forces to clear the 44 illegal rough sleeper camps in Fryent Country Park.

476 bags of rubbish have been collected this year by the volunteers alone, plus 19 mattresses, 12 carpets, 6 cases, 2 window frames, 21 duvets, 5 tarpaulins, 2 beds, 8 pillows, 2 settees, 2 toy cars, 1 cycle, 1 radio, 8 corrugated sheets, 1 computer, 3 chairs, a stove, a safe, loads of clothes, 15 tyres, razors, shoes and food. What would our country park be like if all this was left in our hedgerows. How would our flora and fauna fare? Would we lose any of our species?

Our hedgerows and meadows have been recorded for over 1000 years. How can we allow them to be ruined in such a short time? We have seen fires in the Park, our precious trees cut down, and the bark stripped from trees, which will eventually kill the trees.

Thank you to all who help by reporting the camps, and clearing rubbish. If you can help in any way please contact us on 0208 206 0492 or email barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com

We can supply rubbish sacks, litter pickers, and maps of hedgerows and meadows to enable identification of the sites. Any help is really appreciated.

But - the park still looks beautiful. Work has finished on Masons Field, to make this former sports field into a wildlife meadow. All the hard work is paying off, the wild flowers are flowering and the birds are singing. The ponds have frog spawn and the frogs are making an appearance.

The butterfly transect walkers have started their weekly recording and so far this year we have brimstones, peacocks, small tortoiseshell, speckled wood and comma. The blackthorn, bullace and cherry are in full blossom and soon the fruit trees will follow, Our resident blackbirds, song thrushes and robins are making nests and have been joined by an early migrant chiff chaff.

Thanks to a generous donation by a former resident Mr Carlo Rimassa, we have been able to plant ten poplar trees on the Poplar Avenue to replace the ones that have died.

Do come and enjoy our wonderful Park and join us if you can on any of our activities, conservation, rubbish clearing and wildlife recording,

Kim

The Restoration of Bush Farm Orchard

Bush Farm Orchard enters the growing season in an excellent state. Early in the New Year The Urban Orchard Project conducted a successful pruning workshop in the orchard and now all the apple trees have that familiar goblet shape. The larger pear trees and older plum cherry have also undergone pruning allowing more light to penetrate the orchard. This will improve the quality of the sward as the year progresses. Dead hedges left from previous pruning sessions have been removed improving the sightlines within the orchard making management of the space much easier particularly at the height of summer. Traditional hedgelaying has taken place along one side of the orchard. This will rejuvenate

the existing hedge and also allow more light in. Not only will the trees and wildlife benefit from these restoration measures but the public will find the orchard easier to access and will be able appreciate its special qualities .
David

Roe Green Walled Garden

The main activity has been the reorganisation of the barn to display our bric a brac in a more organised fashion. We have dug out our old fruit bushes and replaced them with raspberry, blackcurrant, red currant, blueberry and cranberry bushes,

We have hedge-layed our hawthorn hedge to encourage a bushy growth for our wildlife.

Aileen, our beekeeper has installed a second bee hive. Thanks to Aileen for honey donated to our group

We have installed a permanent wooden structured gazebo in the space behind the workshop. This will be used as an educational centre and can also be used for woodworking.
Bernard

Childrens activities

Our Group is now preparing to pass on the baton to the next generation of conservationists. To that end we are inviting children over the age of ten years to join us on conservation projects and events at Fryent Country Park and Roe Green walled Garden.

Some of the topics for this year include: studying native trees, growing organic vegetables, pond dipping, pruning fruit trees, studying insects and their habitats, bats, making compost, recycling.

If you or your children are interested in getting involved then please contact us at the Garden or through our email (details below).
Vrinda

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. A free Green Gym at your disposal!

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

Foray for spiders (children welcome)	Sunday 10 May Fryent Country Park. Meet top of Barn Hill 10am
Projects for children over 10	Saturday 23 May. Roe Green Walled Garden, 1-2.30pm
Annual General Meeting	Saturday 30 May
Conservation projects for Children over 10	Sunday 7 June Fryent Country Park 10am. Meet Beverley Gardens / Uxendon Hill
Open Day	Saturday 13 June. Part of London Garden Squares weekend
Pond Dipping	Saturday 27 June 2015 from 10.30am. Roe Green Walled Garden
Conservation projects for Children over 10	Sunday 12 July Fryent Country Park 10am. Meet Bush Farm

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

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Website: www.bhcg.btck.co.uk