

. BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 63 – August 2015

Fryent Country Park

We have had a good summer at Fryent Country Park. We have worked each Sunday on a different project, but especially on the acid grassland areas, Masons Field, the linear orchard and Bush Farm orchard where we have laid the hedge, and David has done sterling work clearing and cutting back. We have scalloped some of the blackthorn, and this is working very well. We have had good crops of wild flowers including Great Burnett and sneezewort.

The butterfly team – Simon, Michael and Leslie have walked the two butterfly transects every week since April and Gatekeepers have had an excellent year. Meadow Browns, Brimstones and Holly Blues have also had a good year as they find their food plants in abundance on the Park.

There has also been sightings of a Ringlet – great news for the Park. Our records are part of the National Butterfly records and go back to 1986 when the transects were started. Our thanks to our recorders – new recorders would be most welcome. We are lucky in Brent to have such a wonderful Park with such biodiversity. BUT

Number crunching No 3

Since 11 Jan 2015 some 70 illegal rough sleeper camps have been cleared and 766 bags of rubbish collected, mainly by volunteers but with support from LB Brent and Veolia. In addition we have collected: 35 mattresses, 15 duvets, 11 tarpaulins, 11 pillows, 2 safes, 12 carpets, a recycling bin, a wardrobe, a door, 8 sheets of roofing, a satellite dish, 7 chairs, an iron, a phone, 2 toilet seats, large quantities of wood and metal, 2 drums, one petrol scooter etc etc. To all those who help in this difficult and dirty work, - thank you we would not have a Park without you.

One August morning I was filling yet another sack from a rough sleeper camp when I looked up to see two beautiful kestrels above me in Pages meadow. They swooped and hovered. They came so low the blue head and beautiful pattern of the wings could be seen easily. The beauty of nature above the rubbish being deposited in the Park

Kim

I joined the Barn Hill Conservation Group in early May and have been helping out on a Sunday morning in Fryent Country Park. The work is varied and interesting and involves anything from pruning apple trees, path clearing, eradication of Japanese Knotweed and general rubbish collection. I also help out during the week or on Saturday at the Walled Garden in Kingsbury. The garden is so peaceful and a haven for wildlife. Duties include planting, weeding, watering and a host of other enjoyable things.

The group are really friendly and welcoming as well as good fun and they all have a great knowledge of nature which they are happy to share. Not only is it rewarding but good exercise as well, so if you haven't thought about it before do come along just to see what we do, you won't regret – I haven't.

Carol

Roe Green Walled Garden

With the help of new volunteers I believe the Garden is looking better than ever. Peter has been with us now for around a year working on the fruit garden and Lee has set about propagating an assortment of plants for sale at our next open day on September 12th. Carol has recently come to work in the Garden after contributing greatly to the work in Fryent Country Park. Jim has just completed a paved area in front of the new gazebo.

We have achieved the Green Flag award for community gardens 'Keep Britain Tidy' for the tenth year. We were happy to see the judge's comment - 'thank you for the opportunity to visit such a great site. Well done to all involved'.

We have also entered the London in Bloom competition.

We have had Open Days in April and June. The June one, part of the London Garden Squares weekend, was unfortunately marred by atrocious weather. But we are now looking forward to the next Open Day (September 12th) with an Apple theme. We will be collecting apples from the trees we planted in Fryent Country Park, and will be producing apple juice for the day.

Thanks to Simon Braidman who organised a pond dipping session at the end of June. Also in June we organised a midsummer party for the volunteers.

Currently we are hosting eleven young people who are working on Head Start projects in the Garden. Head Start is a government programme to help young people develop experience and skills for work and life through volunteering. We are very much a community garden and are proud to provide the facilities and help to enable each volunteer to gain 16 hours of valuable volunteering and work experience.

Bernard



A quiet corner of Roe Green Walled Garden

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!

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 5 September 2015 10.30am
Open Day	Saturday 12 September 2015 11am to 4 pm

Contact number: Garden 0208 206 0492 (answerphone if we are unable to answer)
Email: barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com
Website: www.bhcg.btck.co.uk