

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 67 – December 2016

Pat Scorer 29th September 1938 - 30th October 2016

16 BHCG members attended a Mass to celebrate Pat's life at St Sebastian and St Pancras Catholic Church, Hay Lane, Kingsbury on the 7th November 2016. The church was full, a testament to her popularity; we listened as her family and the Priest shared with us their memories of Pat. Helga had picked a bouquet of flowers from the garden at Roe Green and they were laid on her coffin. After the service we went next door to the church hall where over bowls of hot soup, tea and coffee, we chatted and laughed as we remembered the fun times with Pat.

Pat was in charge of our Bric a Brac sales, she was akin to "Aunty Wainwright" ('Last of the summer Wine' TV series). Many a visitor went into 'The Barn' just to browse but came out clutching something that they probably didn't want but Pat had somehow made it sound irresistible.

Bric a brac is either donated to the group or items saved from landfill. No matter how it arrives, it is always appreciated and at times surprising. There was the time that we received brand new Ladies bras that were so large, they could have been used as hammocks! Pat's laugh infected us all as she sorted through the pile. Amongst them she discovered some unopened sachets labelled 'Chocolate Orange' that were still in date and declared that we should have a break and try one of the drinks; can you imagine the laughter when we discovered they were Condoms! Rose

Fryent Country Park

Scalloping has been a key technique on the autumn projects. Scallops are created by cutting a slice of Blackthorn scrub from one side of an overgrown hedgerow. This reveals the original hedge-line and trees and recreates an area of hedgerow edge. Edge habitat provides space for coarser grasses, wildflowers, shelter for butterflies and other invertebrates, and habitat diversity for nesting birds. Between the start of September and the end of November, we created 18 scallops with a combined area of 290 square metres, and re-cut 4 scallops (60 square metres).

Also, over-hanging vegetation was cut back along 790 metres of hedge, encroaching vegetation was cleared along 540 m of paths, 10 m of hedge was laid, improvements were made at 5 ponds, 7 fly-tips were removed, litter collected from 13 areas of the Park, Lyon Field was mown, acid grassland restoration continued, invasive Maples and Knotweed were reduced, a fallen large Oak branch was made into a seat, and the view of the landscape from a park bench was re-opened.

Species that should benefit include Narrow-leaved Bitter-cress, Crab Apples and fruit trees (with some apples harvested), Common Frog, Common Toad, reptiles (two hibernacula were constructed), meadow plants, Common Reed, Green Woodpeckers, and the diversity of invertebrates on decaying wood.

<u>Number Crunching</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	
Camps removed	93	9	
Bags of rubbish	1023	324	Kim

Roe Green Walled Garden

We had our usual September open day, but, as with previous open days this year, the weather was not kind to us. But we had better weather for our harvest, diwali and Xmas celebrations.

We have continued to introduce and guide a number of young people on head start projects in the garden and they have all contributed well. The extension of the stumpery to give it more artistic flair

has attracted praise by our visitors, including our MP Barry Gardiner. Another project has been the creation of a hibernaculum by the pond.

Work has taken place in preparation for next year, including the vegetable plots, weeding the rose beds and the long border, and the planting of new plants for next summer. Bernard



Stumpery at Roe Green Walled Garden

Ringlets at Fryent Country Park

Ringlet butterflies have established a population at Fryent Country Park. Their presence during 2016 was confirmed on both the Fryent Country Park and on the Beane Hill transect along woodland paths. While there have been a couple of records of Ringlets in recent years, these were the first records on the transects.

In general, numbers of other butterfly species were lower than during recent years, perhaps partly due to the spring weather. Other species recorded during the monitoring were the Small Skipper, (and Essex Skipper), Large Skipper, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Holly Blue, one Common Blue, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood (in low numbers compared with recent years.) Marbled White, Gatekeeper, and Meadow Brown. Gatekeeper numbers were the highest yet on the Fryent Country Park transect. The Marbled White was only the third recorded on transects at the Park. Group volunteers also contributed records from other areas of the Park, from Roe Green Walled Garden and elsewhere.

Michael Berthoud, Simon Mercer and Leslie Williams

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 January. 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 bric a brac, scrap metal such as copper, brass, aluminium, including aluminium cans, which help in fund raising.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

General meeting

Saturday 21 January 10.30am

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

Email: barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com

Website: www.bhcg.btck.co.uk