

# BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

## 'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 69 – August 2017

### **Fryent Country Park**

The Park has been at its best and most beautiful and interesting this summer. The meadows have produced a profusion of wild flowers and grasses which in turn have encouraged much wildlife. Many butterfly species have been seen and recorded. If you had been in the park on the right days you would have seen hundreds of gatekeepers, meadow browns and marbled whites.

The Sunday team are also working on uncovering an old orchard, which was part of the former Hill Farm seen on the Victorian ordnance survey map, and identified as Pightle Orchard in the All Souls College Hovingdon map of 1590. The area is given as 1 acre, 2 rods and 25 perches.

It has been necessary to replace a number of young poplar trees in the 'poplar avenue' that local residents Carlo and Raf, who both loved the park, had donated to the Park before they moved to France. The replacement trees were planted in late February 2017 but due to the extremely dry weather in early spring the trees were suffering. Dan Ridley-Kitts and John Parker spent every Sunday morning from June to the end of July watering the trees. They used pond water and gave each tree 20 litres of water. Due to this action only one tree appears to have been lost but may still recover. Lets hope so.

Kim

### **Roe Green Walled Garden**

We have put on Open Days in April and June. The June open day happened to be on one of the hottest days for many years. Very few people ventured out because of the heat and the day turned out to be a disappointment for us. But we have continued to receive many visitors on our weekdays and Saturdays. More than 120 primary schoolchildren have visited and learned about the habitats of wildlife. We have also supervised several teenagers doing Head Start and Duke of Edinburgh programmes.

Thanks to Jim who has done a fantastic job repairing the rotted external windows of the workshop. Jim actually made up two new window frames from scratch and reglazed them. Jim also replaced the rotted boards at the side of the roof on the cottage.

Once more we have been awarded a Green Flag for Community Gardens, and have also been judged for London in Bloom

The recently planted wild flower meadow in the Garden has been a success and has been attracting bees and butterflies, including a Ringlet which was seen during the hot weather. The meadow is close to the Stumpery and was developed during the winter months and planted up with wild flower seeds, grass seeds and plug plants during the spring.

Bernard

### **Reflections of an ex Heathrow worker**

Roe Green Walled Garden is to all who know it a little oasis away from the hustle and bustle of modern life, where it seems you have stepped back in time. People who stumble upon it are often quite surprised of its existence, even the locals.

I've been coming both as visitor and volunteer to this beautiful garden for many years and enjoy its many features, and the great company of the other volunteers who work tirelessly in keeping the garden up to its award winning standard.

We all have a laugh along the way and have regular open days throughout the year which are very popular.

Recently we were joined by a group of volunteers from Santander Bank who came to work in Fryent Country Park as a team building exercise and to help a local charity. They did a fantastic job clearing brambles and picking up litter and rubble. It was a very hot day and everyone said how much they enjoyed it.

I was amazed at how clean and tidy the Park is as a result of all the hard work that the Sunday project volunteers from our Group put in.

Having worked in at Heathrow airport for many years Roe Green Walled Garden is a far cry from the noisy jets, and hopefully the Garden and Country Park will be around a long time for future generations to enjoy.

Colin

### **Humphrey Repton at Fryent Country Park**

Much of the top of Barn Hill was landscaped by Humphrey Repton. He started his work at Barn Hill about 1793, when the land was used for grazing before his design work. The area covered by his landscaping was the Acid grassland at the top of Barn Hill and also where Basing Hill and Brampton Grove now stand. It is thought he also designed the pond. He planted many of the trees including English Oak, Elm, Lime, Beech Hornbeam, Wild Cherry and Ash.

Humphrey Repton was involved in many London gardens - possibly about 50. Many are now lost, so at Barn Hill we still have part of the garden he designed – an important part of history we should treasure.

### **The London butterfly project**

Can you help by recording any butterflies you see in the London area? Please could you let us know of the species, date, and place seen anywhere - in gardens, roads, parks etc or record on the website [londonbutterflyproject@btinternet.com](mailto:londonbutterflyproject@btinternet.com)

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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, but it has to be **non-magnetic** such as copper, brass, aluminium, including aluminium cans. We sell this, which help in fund raising.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

General Meeting	Saturday	9 September 10.30am
September Open Day	Saturday	16 September 11am to 4pm

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

Email: [barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com](mailto:barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com)

Website: [www.bhcg.btck.co.uk](http://www.bhcg.btck.co.uk)