

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 70 – December 2017

Fryent Country Park

Good News – Fryent Country Park was winner of a GOLD award in the London In Bloom Competition - and also rated the best Country Park in the whole of London. Wonderful news for all those who work in the Park. Our loyal band of litter pickers continue to do sterling work week after week – a never ending task.

Our work this autumn has concentrated on the acid grassland areas. We have extended the visible acid grassland area by pushing back the scrub. This helps show up the original Repton landscape more. We were greatly helped in this project by a large group of SEWA volunteers, who helped clear a large area of Coneyvale. We continue to scallop the hedgerows near Lyon field and Lower Hydes.

We have cleared the 'moat', especially of overhangs, and Upper Hydes pond and Little Hillcroach pond - both ponds look much better now.

Number crunching: Our records show the following camps and bags of rubbish removed by our volunteers

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Camps removed	93	6	3
Bags of rubbish	1023	324	311

Kim

Bat walk

On the evening of 25th August, Simon Braidman organised a bat walk on Barn Hill. We met in Fryent car park whilst it was still light and made our way across fields and up to the pond. It was a real family occasion with lots of mums and dads and young children and on our way to the pond some keen eyed "birders" spotted a couple of Hobbies. As dusk approached we were fortunate to see and hear Soprano Pipistrelles and Daubenton's Bats. When I say hear, this was because Simon had loaned us bat detectors so we were able to hear their echo location calls.

On returning to the car park in pitch darkness, two eagle-eyed youngsters managed to find a common newt just off the path and to end the evening John Hollingdale had set up a moth trap near the car park and identified a number of species for us.

All in all it was an excellent way to spend a summer evening.

Carol

Roe Green Walled Garden

We are proud to report that the Walled Garden has once gain won the GOLD award in the London in Bloom competition. Thanks to all our volunteers who have worked so hard to achieve this.

We have had a successful year with the vegetable plots. For the fist time we have grown aubergines. We continue to support young people carrying out Head Start and Duke of Edinburgh projects.

We have also cleared two camps which had been set up among the trees in Roe Green Park.

Visitors may have noticed that the gates to the Park were locked in August and September at the request of Brent Parks. The issues relating to this have now been resolved and the gates are being left open, at least during the daytime. Thanks to John Parker who has initiated meetings on our behalf to overcome the problems.

Bernard

The trig point on Barn Hill



Trig point at the top of Barn Hill Open Space

Many are familiar with this white pillar at the top of Barn Hill. It is of course trigonometrical point, or trig point, one of thousands that were constructed throughout the country in the 1930s at the top of prominent hills. Surveyors used them to measure the angles and distances between the lines-of-sight of adjacent trig points. This enabled an accurate profile of the contours of the land to be made covering the entire country. More accurate Ordnance Survey and other maps could then be produced. Because of vegetation growth around Barn Hill we cannot now see the adjacent trig points, one of which would have probably been at Harrow on the Hill.

On every trig point there is a brass plate with three arms and a central depression, which would have been used to mount a theodolite for measuring the angles to the adjacent trig points. Also at the bottom of the column is a plaque with an identification number known as a benchmark.

Thousands of these trig points still exist, although they are no longer in use due to changes in technology. Interesting to note that there are people who make it a hobby visiting these trig points in order to 'bag' them. They take a photograph, comment on its condition and enter the information on a national database which is accessible on the internet. It appears that we have regular visitors to the Barn Hill trig point. We find that 'Madaddo' visited on 14th October this year and rated it 7/10. 'eon' visited it on 9th September and rated it 8/10. He, or she, recorded that it was a good looking pillar in a nice location. All this and more can be found if you 'google' barn hill trig point.

Bernard

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 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

Next General Meeting	Saturday 13 th January at 10.30am
April Open Day	Saturday 14 th April 11am to 4pm

Contact number:

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

Email:

barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com

Website:

www.bhcg.btck.co.uk