

# BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

## 'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 72 – August 2018

### **Activities in Fryent Country Park**

Since our last newsletter we have had 17 projects in Fryent Country Park and have also completed the hay meadow and butterfly survey for the year.

Our projects on the Park have included work on the meadows to improve the species and richness, we have worked on the orchards, and continue to restore the acid grasslands areas. We keep Hell Lane (the ancient lane between St Albans and London in use since 1000) clear of overhangs. Our thanks to Helga who keeps the refreshments rucksack replenished each week and to Anju for sorting the tools for the projects, and our volunteers who collect and return the tools each week (with help from Parks Dept).

We have had a good year for hay at Fryent Country Park due to the fine weather. The hay has now been collected by an organic farmer.

Kim

### **Walled Garden**

Many people help with the collection of litter on the Fryent Country Park, and we are rewarded when people thank us. But recently we have also been collecting litter / rubbish from the woodland area of Roe Green Park. Unfortunately there has had an increase in the amount of rubbish left around – so far we have collected 32 bags – plus large items. We all benefit from a clean Roe Green Park, and if any local residents would like to help with this task please contact us at the Walled Garden. We would be most grateful.

In July we found a hedgehog caught in a wire fence. After we decided he could not go forwards or backwards our surgery skills came to the fore and with the aid of wire cutters he was freed. And enjoyed a dinner of prawns, cat food and biscuits and went on his way happily.

We are happy to announce that the Walled Garden has been awarded once again the Green Flag for Community Gardens. We continue to host visits from local school and also supervise students carrying out head start and Duke of Edinburgh award projects. As many as 200 infants and primary school children have visited the Garden and learned about gardening, nature and recycling.

Bernard

### **Dr Bruno Bubna-Kasterliz**

What is the connection with Dr Bruno Bubna-Kasterliz and Barn Hill Conservation Group I hear you ask?

Kingsbury Manor (originally called 'The Cottage') and the adjacent Walled Garden were built in 1899 for the Duchess of Sutherland as a weekend retreat for herself and 3rd husband Sir Albert Kaye Rollit. Irene, the Duchess's daughter by her first marriage to Arthur Kindersley Blair, married Count Johann Franz Bubna-Litic in 1901; they were Dr Bruno's grandparents. On the death of her mother in 1912, Irene inherited 'The Cottage'.

Dr Bruno contacted our Group through our website and Scott emailed photographs of the Garden and the models we have of the Duchess, her maid and gardener. There has been a lively exchange of emails between myself and Dr Bruno who kindly donated to the Group a

book that was published in February 2018 called 'The Life and Times of Mary, Dowager Duchess of Sutherland' by Catherine Layton and Dr. Bruno.

Dr. Bruno will be visiting the Walled Garden on the afternoon of [19th October](#) and in the evening will be giving a talk for the Wembley History Society about his great grandmother.

Rose

### **An unexpected volunteer**

When I started to volunteer at Roe Green Walled Garden I had only been in Kingsbury for around a month. It had been quite a lonely journey and, being 4 months pregnant, I really needed some company away from home. Everyone was so kind and really made me feel like I had known them all for years! Around the beginning of April, just as the weather began to brighten up, I took a walk through Fryent Country Park until I reached the Barn Hill pond at the top of the hill. I was taking in the beautiful scenery and the fresh smells of nature that surrounded me when to my surprise as I looked down at the pond there was a tortoise. After a quick check over I scooped him up and he lived at my home and visited the Walled Garden with me, volunteering his weed eating skills. At first it was sad to think someone may have dumped him, but after about 3 weeks we discovered 'MISSING' posters for the much loved family pet 'SPEEDY'. So the happy ending came to the tortoise and off he went back to his family that missed him dearly after his adventure with us at Roe Green. Just like when I first arrived at the Walled Garden we took in Speedy like one of the family. It's not just a volunteering role. It's about being part of something bigger and belonging to a community no matter where you come from or what species of animal you may be. Thank you.

Sophie Lee Turley.

### **A fine day's work**

Today, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August, I made an enjoyable trip to Roe Green Walled Garden. I first had a look around and then I was given jobs to feed the fish, which I especially enjoyed, and putting wild bird feed in the feeder. I then watched Kim feed the worms. Soon after having a snack I took part in the Roe Green Garden challenge, in which participants have to do a small challenge including doing bark rubbings, naming tree plants and making a picture of the garden. When I completed it I was given a certificate to show my achievement. After that I helped load wheelbarrow twigs to start making a stumpery. Just before lunch I weeded some vegetable beds. After lunch I helped sort out some donations to Garden and price them so they can be sold. At 2 o'clock we went home. I learnt a lot about the Garden today and it was fun helping out.

Megan aged 10

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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**

September Open Day  
General Meeting

Saturday 8 September 2018 11am to 4pm  
Saturday 22 September 2018 10.30 am

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)