

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 71 – April 2018

Fryent Country Park

We work in all weathers on the Park. In January we had one of those dull drizzly mornings, but, suitably clad, we set off for our Sunday project. On arrival, Simon was already organised with the tools and a cheerful smile. A mist came down and the rain became heavier. Through the mist, on the distant horizon, you could see a blue rubbish bag – a sure sign that a dedicated litter picker would be in the bushes collecting other people's thoughtless litter. The rain kept falling, but we started work by the fish pond, cutting back bramble and seedling trees on the acid grassland area, which is a habitat for specialist plants, invertebrates, and other wildlife, and also to expose the Humphry Repton landscaping of 1793.

The rain turned to large wet snow flakes and more volunteers arrived – 9 in all. Amazingly the mower was also working overtime. Imagine using a mower to cut low bramble in the snow in January!! Our volunteers are a very hardy lot. A good morning's work and fun, five bags of rubbish collected, whilst 18 mm of rain and snow fell over the weekend.

We have good news on our annual frogspawn count, as we have recorded the highest number of clumps since recording started in 1983. We think this is due to our pond restoration programme and habitat improvement near to ponds. Great Cowleys pond has spawn this year for the first time since 1989.

We have made further progress on the clearing of the bramble and scrub to reveal the fruit trees in the old orchard we have discovered. The orchard is known as Pightle orchard on the ordnance survey map 1865.

The 20000 daffodils on Fryent Way are giving a good show once again,

Kim

Roe Green Walled Garden

We have now installed the new greenhouse. Thanks to Santander Bank who provided the funds. Also our thanks go to Dennis Varcoe for his initial work in this project.



New Greenhouse

We have had our first school visit to the greenhouse. 33 children carried out bulb planting and each child went away with a bulb in a pot. The children then participated in a 'children's challenge' in the garden, which we organised. They then made peg butterflies. Finally we told them about dangerous litter and about the use of compost. We would like these activities to be a blueprint for future school visits.

We are in the process of signing the new data protection regulation.

Thanks once again to Jim who has designed and built a wooden dresser for the 'cottage', which will provide additional shelving. Jim has also made a 'flagpole' to display our green flag award pennant in the open air.

We had a very good attendance for April Open day and benefitted by good weather for the first time for several years. Bernard

Stumpery for local nursery

The Little Explorers Nursery in Roe Green Park asked us if we could improve the raised the flower bed in the children's outside play area. We gave this task to Damian and Aman, two of our students volunteering in our Garden as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme. Over the months of February and March we set about creating a raised stumpery bed with ferns and logs laid out artistically, together with small toys and various objects.

The children from the nursery were delighted with the new bed and came to our Garden to deliver a hand made thank you card. The nursery kindly made a large donation to the Walled Garden, which we are going to use to purchase plants for the long border.

Thanks also to Colin and Scott who were also involved in the project.

John P

Surveys on Fryent Country Park

Our two main surveys during the summer months are the butterfly and meadow survey both of which are long running and help to increase the flora and fauna of the Park by the work we do on habitats. The butterfly survey runs from April to September and three transects are walked every week, and our meadow survey starts in June.

If anyone would like to help with either of these surveys please contact the Group. Also if you see any butterflies in parks, gardens or streets in London please record them and pass them onto the Group either by post phone or email - which is barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com

The survey team

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 May. 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

Annual General Meeting
June Open Day

Saturday 26 May 2018 10.30am
Garden Squares weekend
Saturday 9 June 2018 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