

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 76 – December 2019

Dr Bruno Bubna-Kasterliz visit

Dr Bruno Bubna-Kasterliz, the great grandson of the Duchess of Sutherland, visited the walled garden on the 20th September 2019. Bruno's visit was two fold; in the evening he would give a talk to the Wembley History Society about his great grandmother, the Duchess of Sutherland, and during the afternoon would visit Roe Green Walled Garden and Kingsbury Manor, formerly known as 'The Cottage' and built in 1899 for the Duchess.

Bruno, a tall man wearing a check shirt and a small rucksack on his back, strolled through the garden gate just after 12.30pm. He had travelled up by train from Bath. There was quite a welcoming party for him at the Walled Garden, and lots of introductions took place. Francine greeted him in French to which he replied in French and kissed her hand.

John Parker had organised lunch for 13 of us in the restaurant at the Lodge house and we were made most welcome by Hamid the owner. After lunch we walked over to the building that is now a children's nursery. It was formerly the stables and carriage house. In 1928 John Logie Baird rented the stables and in 1929 received the first TV picture broadcast from the continent there.

It was a beautiful day and we returned to the Walled Garden where Philip Grant and Bruce Thomson from the Wembley History Society joined us. We strolled around the garden and its out buildings, relaxed in the sun chatting before going across to Kingsbury Manor.

Kingsbury Manor is now the home to a day school for special needs children. It is run by the Southover Partnership which is a charitable organisation. We were warmly greeted by staff and the headmaster Dayo Okunlola who took us on a tour of the building pointing out the various features that were still original. It was most interesting and sparked lots of discussions about the building's history.

After the tour we said our goodbyes to Bruno and handed him over to Bruce Thomson who took Bruno home with him in order to relax before his talk in the evening.

Rose

Humphry Repton Landscape on Barn Hill

On 23rd November London Parks and Gardens Trust invited us to a talk on the subject of Humphry Repton, who was a celebrated landscape gardener in the 18th Century. In 1792 he was engaged by the wealthy Page family to 'lay out' Wembley Park which also included the slopes of Barn Hill.

A very interesting talk was given by Leslie Williams followed by a walk up to Barn Hill. Leslie pointed out the areas that Repton designed which included an area in Brampton Grove which, thankfully, was saved from being developed in the 1930s

Back at the hall a further talk was given by a member of the London Parks and Garden Trust which is a charity whose aim is to increase knowledge and appreciation of parks, community gardens, cemeteries etc.

All in all it was a very interesting afternoon

Carol

Activities in Fryent Country Park

In November our Sunday morning projects included the Repton Woodland at Barn Hill. On the north-east of the hilltop, Humphry Repton designed a woodland with fringes separated by grassland. To recreate this, we started work on the path and woodland linking the toboggan slope and the Lombardy

Poplar avenue. The path had become blocked with a fallen lime tree, possibly dating from Repton's time, and a younger oak. The lime was dealt with and the oak safely propped until we returned in December when a specially dug trench and a tug-of-war with a large rope brought the oak down.

Notable during our visits this autumn have been the fungal shapes and sizes. Over 52 fungus species have been recorded in Fryent Country Park including Fly Agaric and Candle Snuff. With the many stumps from fallen trees there was also a presence of Sulphur Tuft *Hypholoma fasciculare*, possibly seen here in a November photo near the toboggan slope. Sulphur Tuft is described as gregarious, with jostling fruitbodies which can swarm over the tree stump. Simon



sulphur tuft fungus

Number crunching at Fryent Country Park

We have continued to pick up bags of litter on each of our Sunday morning projects, and our records of bags collected are as follows:

Yr 2015 - 1043; Yr 2016 - 351; Yr 2017 - 319; Yr 2018 - 260; Yr 2019 - 295 to date. We have also collected many large items.

We would like to pay special thanks to all the dog walkers on the Park who also pick up litter, helping to make the Park as litter free as possible. Kim

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 and brass. We sell this, which help in fund raising.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BHCG General meeting Saturday 25 January 2020 10.30am

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

Email: barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com

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