

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 95 – April 2026

Work going on at Fryent Country Park

Some of our members have been learning the ancient craft of hedgelaying, and have become experts, having made a very good hedgerow in Bush Farm orchard.

A number of ladies from Vannas Group attended a wood working course at Kew Gardens, and made really good bird boxes, and two were donated to our Group and these have now been placed on trees in Summers Croft in Fryent Country Park.

Much litter has been collected including 25 gas cylinders.

Where the Group has increased the light to an area by scalloping and clearing the bramble wild flowers appear within weeks. Around the clump hundreds of bluebells are shooting up. In the same area Martin made a wonderful dead hedge – a real work of art. This makes a very rich habitat for much flora and fauna – hundreds of species have been found a home in a dead hedge - living and feeding on the decaying wood, including butterflies, moths, mammal, birds, beetles, ladybirds, bees, grasshoppers, spiders and sheildbugs, All of these will appreciate Martin's skilful work. Kim

Visitors to Roe Green Walled Garden

The Garden is open to all and we especially enjoy visits from local schools. One such visit took place recently. A group of 5 year olds from Roe Green School joined us to learn about Spring. Our volunteers Ann and Jackie, showed the group around the garden pointing out plants, blossom and birds, all things that herald the beginning of Spring. We were especially lucky during this visit as Colin managed to find five newts under a log. We put them in a plastic container so that the children could view them close up and they were delighted and asked lots of questions. They were a lively bunch of children and I am sure they learned a lot from their visit.

A big thank you to Ann and Jackie for sharing their considerable knowledge with the children. Carol

The many faces of Roe Green Walled Garden

I have to admit that I often do not feel like the trek from my home in Willesden Green to the Walled Garden in Kingsbury, but the anticipation of the kind, warm and friendly faces of the volunteers entices me to begin the journey.

Walking through the entrance to the garden, grinning faces of ceramic frogs and happy gnomes are waiting to greet me. I hear shouts of 'morning', 'alright', and perhaps 'missed you on Saturday'. By the way these greetings are from volunteers not the frogs or gnomes. A smiling face offers me a welcome cup of tea as I reach the garden cottage.

Around the garden I see relaxed faces of visitors as they wander and maybe find calm by sitting in one of the benches. In contrast are the excited faces of young children rushing to the play area or peering over the circular wall of the fish pond. Primary school childrens' faces are full of expectation at the beginning of their seasonal walled garden tours. I glance at the Village School students whose faces are keen and alert as they learn about what they will be growing this year in their garden vegetable plot. The focussed confident faces of older Duke of Edinburgh award students pass me as they work hard to complete the volunteering aspect of their D of E awards.

Next, I notice faces of people satisfied with their purchases of bric-a-brac from the garden barn. And you cannot help noticing the painted faces on giant doll-like mannequins which are dotted around the garden dressed up in Edwardian, Victorian and more recent costumes. They represent people who lived and worked on the estate which included the walled garden. Their expressions make me chuckle and remind me of the garden's history. Two more faces are those on the red nosed reindeer, possibly Rudolf, and a younger reindeer by its side on the front lawn. These have been crafted out of branches pruned from trees growing in the garden

Sly faces of foxes can be seen when they occasionally emerge from their burrows in the garden stumpery. They steer clear of the snooty face of the cat that prowls along the paths of its walled garden territory.

Now in February the petals of snowdrops, hellebore, crocus and primrose are opening to reveal their faces indicating that Spring is on its way to the garden. The face of a bee looks at me from inside a crocus as I stoop down to admire the beauty of the purple petals and bright orange pollen filled centre. I consider the many nocturnal, cautious, tiny creatures whose faces I cannot see, but who are able to live and thrive in the carefully designed and created sheltered habitat of the garden.

Lastly I think of the ever changing face of the whole Walled Garden through all the seasons, as volunteers strive to cultivate an informative and sustainable community minded garden which is an inviting, enjoyable and fun place to be. I am so glad I made those journeys from my home to the Walled Garden.

Jackie

Maintenance in the Garden

It sure has been a rainy winter, but we have used the time to carry out those so important maintenance activities.

We have had to fix burst pipes in the old victorian workshop, and also repair the lock on the door to the old workshop and reinforce the sagging door. We have also cleaned the gutters, and pruned the trees. We have sharpened the tools and serviced the lawnmowers for the work in the Park. Jim also built a large wooden container for leaf mould. Usman has built three bird boxes for installation in the park. Several volunteers have worked on these activities, but especially thanks to John Parker, Usman, Jim and Colin. Fortunately we have the skills to do these jobs.

Weeding is always a big problem especially around the rose beds, so we have now laid masses of bark around the roses and hopefully it will reduce the time spent weeding.

We currently support DOE students working in the garden as well as supporting the weekly visits of the teachers and pupils from the village school.

Bernard

We are open at Roe Green Walled Garden Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10.30 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 April. Please see the web site below for details, or telephone the Walled Garden. Feel free to join us in our conservation projects at Fryent Country Park or Roe Green Walled Garden. We are still collecting old pottery garden pots. We also collect scrap metal such as copper, brass, aluminium, which help in fund raising.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Open Day

Saturday 6th June 2026 11am – 4pm

Telephone number 07421437441

Email: barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com

Our Website: www.barnhillconservationgroup.org