

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 79 – December 2020

Walled Garden

We have continued our work whilst maintaining social distancing. We completed installation of a new liner in the pond. It was a huge job, lasting two months. Fortunately we completed the task just before the rains came, and well in time for the breeding season for our newts. The pond was made deeper and of a slightly different shape.

Further work has been carried out by Jim who has paved the area around the cold frames and also repaired one of our benches. John East fixed a water leak which was found to be around two feet underground.

Finally we collected a variety of our vegetable at harvest time and assembled them on a table. We took a video and entered it in the 2020 London Harvest Festival, for which we won a prize. Thanks to our vegetable cultivators and those who have tended the plots, and to Raul who took and submitted the video. A photo of the display is shown below. Bernard



Products from our harvest

Activities in Fryent Country Park

Keeping to Social Distancing, we have continued to run projects on Sunday mornings, and have worked in all parts of the Park - from Gaderbrook to the Repton woodland and many meadows in between – Gotford's Hill, Richard's pond, Cowlays, Masons field and Upper Hydes.

Work has been interesting and varied including pond work, hedge laying, tree planting and scalloping to improve the biodiversity and to encourage more wild flowers. There has been a profusion of many different fungi, with many very beautiful specimens.

Behind every successful Sunday project is a loyal background team who work tirelessly to keep the projects working smoothly. Every Tuesday Anjou comes to the Cottage to clean, sort and check the tools and replace them into the correct bags Any extra tools needed are made ready for the next project. To help in this work is Colin, assistant tool master. Then we have John East who willingly and

expertly sharpens any tools in need of his skills. Finally, there is the transport team who give up their Sunday to arrive early at the walled garden to get the tools ready for transporting, helped by Dave and Paul our van drivers from Veolia who transport the tools to the park .

When the project finishes the transport team have to go back to the walled garden to set out the tools on the floor to dry. So, as well as the projects themselves there is a lot of background activity. Kim

Number crunching at Fryent Country Park

Bags of rubbish collected by our Group

2017 319

2018 260

2019 290

2020 357

plus a pushchair, supermarket trolley, bedframe, discarded wheelbarrow, doors, carpets, 2 car doors, chairs, dustbin, 5 tyres, etc all carried from inside the park to the kerbside.

The highest number of bags collected was in 2015 when 1043 bags were collected, at the time of the rough sleepers.

A big thank you to everyone who collects the litter, including the dog walkers.

Thoughts of a new volunteer

As a long term fan of Fryent Country Park it has been a real pleasure to be able to participate in a small way to its conservation as a Barn Hill Conservation Group volunteer. I would like to thank Pat Tan for letting me know of this opportunity.

Working on the Sunday morning projects over the past few months has been rewarding in many ways - from learning about the history, flora and fauna of the Park from Leslie, to discussing what coppicing, scalloping hedgerows and conservation generally actually means on a practical level, to gaining know-how in using serious tools like loppers, saws, and the critically rather daunting looking slashers! Using these to hack and clear always delivers a good physical workout in fresh air and green space which helps to dispel the discomforts of cold weather, and scratches from prickly branches. It is always rather surprising and satisfying to see how much progress can be made by the Group in just two hours.

Last but definitely not least I have enjoyed the Group's camaraderie. All new volunteers receive a warm welcome.

I have also enjoyed volunteering occasionally at the wonderful Walled Garden where the work has been a little more sedate, except for the relining of the pond - a muddy, slippery but enjoyable experience with great teamwork. Sarah

We are back carrying out our Sunday conservation projects in Fryent Country Park from 10 am to 12.30 pm. 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. Training is provided. A free Green Gym at your disposal!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

General Meeting Monday 11 January 2021 at 5.30pm
To be held using Zoom

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

Email: barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com

Website: www.bhcg.btck.co.uk