

# BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

## 'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 74 – April 2019

### **Walled Garden**

We have created a new 'stone village garden' in children's area made up of recycled miniature stone models. All our volunteer artists have been at work painting the models to create an attractive feature.



Our head start volunteers have also created another new feature at the back of the garden. We call it a 'random, abstract' garden. It is 'guarded' by a newly created a life like mannequin called Horace. We are now preparing for spring and summer with many new plants which we have bought. We are pleased to have made agreement with our neighbour, Southover partnership school, for three car park spaces for our visitors. The spaces are located just outside the garden. Anybody using these spaces needs a visitor pass for their car, which we will gladly provide.

LB Brent has created 'Public Spaces Protection Orders', to include Roe Green Park. These Orders help the police and council to tackle antisocial behaviour. Bernard

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

2019 has got off to a good start. We have cleared the banks of Gadesbrooke stream thereby increasing the light to allow for more bio diversity to enhance the linear habitat . We continue to work on the Repton landscape on Barn Hill and are opening up the views especially towards Harrow. Scalloping has continued in a number of hedgerows around Little Cherrylands, Cowlays, and Warrens Meadows, this proving very successful, as these areas are being filled with wild flowers to add colour and beauty to the park.

At Bush Farm orchard we have pruned the fruit trees and continued with the hedgelaying. Two of our young volunteers, Serena and Raul, with the help of Maurice, have planted 25 alder buckthorn trees to encourage the brimstone butterfly to Brent. We have also planted 16 fruit trees and alder buckthorn trees in the Pightle orchard. The name Pightle, on the map dating back at least to the 1900s, is an east anglian term, where it is still used to denote a small area of land at the side of a house.

There has been much frog activity at our many ponds and hundreds of clumps of frogspawn have been recorded for the annual frogspawn survey - first started at Fryent Country Park in 1983.

Also thanks to Carol and John Parker who have painted the white trig point.

More and more volunteers see the value in improving the parkland area in Brent and we have seen an increase in the number of volunteers helping us. Below is contribution from Francine

### **A conscientious litter picker**

I joined BHCG by chance whilst walking in the commons around Barn Hill. I also volunteer with other organisations to clear litter around Brent Parks. Participating in the Sunday projects is extremely enjoyable and rewarding experience. And we do make a big difference to all the areas we look after. Leslie is an inspiring project manager, extremely knowledgeable, a very good teacher and nature lover. I have learned a lot and still do. It is the best way to keep fit in a natural environment with friendly peoples.

Francine

### **Gilets jaunes come to Barn Hill**

Our volunteers working on Sunday in the Park are now sporting yellow jackets 'à la française' to make themselves more visible. It also gives them an identity as a group and with the words 'Barn Hill Conservation Group volunteers' on the backs it tells visitors to the Park who we are, generating interest in the Group.

The yellow vests help us to locate everybody as we spread out. Kim says that it gives her the confidence that she won't be forgotten if she should get trapped in a hedgerow whilst gathering litter

The photograph below shows the group of volunteers who came out to brave the elements one Sunday in March



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

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

AGM	Saturday 25 May 10.30am
Open Day June	Saturday 8 June 11 to 4pm
	Butterfly monitoring has started for 22nd year at Fryent Country Park . If interested please contact group

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

Email: barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com

Website: [www.bhcg.btck.co.uk](http://www.bhcg.btck.co.uk)