

. BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

Registered Charity No. 1085476

'Keeping in Touch'

Issue 87 – August 2023

Roe Green Walled Garden

Since the last newsletter the Garden has been awarded the Green Flag once again. We had also had a very successful Open Day on 1 July.

We continue to have regular school visits to the Garden from the Village School for children with special needs, and also the local nursery. Also, we are giving support and assistance to twelve young people on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, working both in the Garden and Fryent Country Park. We take responsibility for managing and reporting on their activity

Thanks to John Parker we have acquired a new bench from one of Brent Parks. The bench had been vandalised and was condemned. With the permission of Brent Parks we took it back to the garden. Jim and Usman refurbished the bench like new and it now provides additional seating for our visitors.

A new feature of the Garden

Anyone visiting the garden recently will have noticed, dotted around the place, little wooden models of animals, birds and other characters, made up of scraps of wood and small logs.

These are the creation of Usman, who joined our Group as a volunteer around a year ago. We learned very quickly of Usman's skills using wood, but little did we know that that he was a professional carpenter / cabinet maker. The creation of the little models is a fun task for Usman and they have provided some amusement to everyone. They have proved very popular displays in the garden. In my opinion they are works of art and would find a place in an art gallery.

Usman has built shelves in the barn, helped restored benches, fixed sagging doors and has also lent his hand to giving a coats of paint to the barn, furniture, benches and doors. Usman is very modest and he is happy to lend his hand to all tasks in the garden including sweeping up, weeding, planting flowers etc . An example of Usman's models is shown below

Bernard



Fryent Country Park

For more than thirty years we have carried out the Hay Meadow Survey at Fryent Country Park and recoded for the National System. After the survey the hay is harvested as organic hay. We have in the Park some of the few traditional meadows in the London area, and they been preserved without the use of pesticides or herbicides. Each year they produce a rich species of over one hundred grasses and

flowers, including common vetch, meadow vetch, brome, hairy tare lesser yellow tefoil and yellow rattle which are appreciated by our many pollinators, including bumble bees and meadow brown butterflies.

Our butterfly monitoring group have reported sightings of the brown hairstreak butterfly. This butterfly is rarely seen in the Park. We called in an expert in the brown hairstreak and he was very surprised to see them in this Park. Our work in enhancing biodiversity has possibly helped create the right environment for them.

We had an excellent crop of apples at Bush Farm Community Orchard, enough for everyone BUT unfortunately three people came in and stripped the trees of apples – all unripe, broke the branches and damaged the trees. How sad and selfish. But on a happier note most people enjoy and look after the Park.

Kim

A new resident for our Garden

On the 8th August, a young hedgehog was 'rescued' from the Garden. The hedgehog was out during the day and being attacked by a magpie. It was taken home and immediately ate some cat food. On that day he weighed 156g. The good news is that after nearly 2x tin of Gourmet each day the hedgehog weighs in at over 348g and is ready for release. A hedgehog house has been built and hopefully our 'rescue' will take up residence soon.

For more information about helping hedgehogs, please visit www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk Gloria

Honey Slough and Richards ponds in Fryent Country Park

Honey Slough and Richards ponds are two ponds in the Fryent Country Park in a secluded corner between Fryent Way and Broadview. Both ponds were in need of improvements. Honey Slough pond had accumulated much sludge with organic matter from the leaves of trees growing right up to the pond edge. Richards pond was in much better condition but was surrounded by overgrown, thick vegetation and impenetrable bramble.

As part of our Sunday morning project work we set about clearing Honey Slough. We donned waders and used buckets to remove the contents over a period of months. After the heavy rains we have had the pond is now partially refilled and the water is noticeably much clearer than before. The pond, which was previously largely hidden, should be much more visible from the meadow area alongside. The extraction work so far has roughly doubled the surface area of the pond. Pond vegetation has been able to take advantage and grow back with several plants of Water Plantain, Hornwort and Trifid Bur-marigold amongst others.

For Richards Pond we used slashers and shears to cut the dense bramble to ground level, following earlier work to encourage the plants in the pond margins. This allowed a more varied natural vegetation to re-establish. The pond area is now more accessible for maintenance work. Following this work a corridor has been cleared between the two ponds, much like a small wooded glade. Neil

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 September 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

General Meeting

Saturday 30 September 10.30 am

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

Email: barnhillconservationgroup@gmail.com

Our Website: www.barnhillconservationgroup.org