

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP
(Registered Charity No.1085476)
Annual report: 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

We have been working hard again this year, with some 1,514 workdays in Roe Green Walled Garden and 179 in Fryent Country Park. Fly tipping is now a bigger problem than rough sleeping, and we are very grateful for the additional help from local residents in clearing the resultant mess. In October we benefited from the annual visit of the SEWA Day volunteers, and in March we were helped by Mitzvah Day participants. The SEWA visit coincided with a Froglife Dragonfinder project session, and we were able to build a new hibernaculum for amphibians and reptiles in addition to continuing improvements to the acid grassland strips. The Dragonfinder project ended in March, which also saw one of the best ever counts of frogspawn in FCP, with over 1700 clumps in 12 ponds. We planted 81 trees in FCP this year, mostly fruit but we also replaced some of the poplars in the avenue on Barn Hill. October saw the annual fruit pick, organised by the Kensal to Kilburn Fruit Harvesters. RGWG received a Green Flag Community Award for the 11th consecutive year. The stumpery in the back yard, created by a team of Headstart volunteers, received one of the new Innovation Awards from Green Flag. A lot of hard work has been put into the Garden over recent years, and we were delighted to reach the Gold Standard (the highest rating) in the Small Conservation Area category of the London in Bloom awards.

RGWG continues to attract young volunteers on the Headstart, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and School Volunteering schemes. 37 young people, mainly 16-18 year olds, worked with us. Many of these received a certificate from BHCG after completing at least 16 hours work in the Garden.

We keep up our links with local schools, with 7 children from the Village School and 120 from Roe Green School visiting during the year.

There were 3 Open Days again this year, in April, June and September. We also used any excuse for partying, celebrating summer in July, Harvest in October, Diwali in November, Christmas in December, and spring in March.

Well done, team!

John Barrington (Chairman)