

**BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP**  
(Registered Charity No.1085476)  
Annual report: 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018

We have continued to work on a variety of projects in Fryent Country Park over the year. We planted 30 fruit trees. The acid grassland strips have been tackled regularly, and their coverage increased. We have also cleared bramble and invasive scrub from the Pightle Orchard near the Mallard Way entrance to the Park. This orchard remnant, located at Beane Hill, was formerly part of Hill Farm, and covers 0.1633 hectares (including paths and hedgerows). A new patch of Bracken has been found on Barn Hill (only the second one in this area) and should be an attractive feature as it develops. The scalloping and other work on the hedgerows benefits field layer plants, including one of our rarities, Narrow-leaved Bittercress. Frog productivity has increased – 2,800 clumps this year, the highest total since monitoring started in 1983. We were joined by SEWA volunteers in April and again in October. In July we welcomed a team from Santander for a clearance session in the Masons Field orchard. The Kensal to Kilburn Fruit Harvesters held a September fruit harvesting event in FCP. In the London in Bloom competition, the Park received a Gold award, and was judged the best country park in the whole of London. We have had an encouraging trickle of new volunteers working on Sunday projects this year. We put in some 261 workdays.

The gardeners have been hard at work back at Roe Green, with some 1535 workdays this year. The most visible achievement is the new greenhouse in the back yard. This was funded by a generous grant from the Santander Foundation under their Discovery Grants programme. It has already been put to good use by our green-fingered volunteers, and arouses keen interest from visiting parties from local schools. We also have a small wild flower meadow in the back yard which has attracted several butterfly species. We have enjoyed the organic honey produce from our backyard beehives. There were 37 young volunteers from the Headstart and Duke of Edinburgh's Award schemes. In addition to working in the Garden, they also constructed a stumpery for the Little Xplorers Nursery in Roe Green Park, based on the one they created in RGWG. School parties paid regular visits – 133 children in all. The local Network Housing Partnership held a team building workshop in the Garden. RGWG gained a Green Flag Community Award for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and reached Gold Standard again in the Small Conservation Area category of the London in Bloom awards.

We held 3 Open Days again this year, in April, June and September. We also managed to squeeze in parties to celebrate summer, Harvest/Diwali, Christmas and Valentine's Day.

Well done everyone!

John Barrington (Chairman)