

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP
(Registered Charity No.1085476)
Annual report: 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

We have continued to work on a variety of projects, old and new, in Fryent Country Park over the year. The Pightle Orchard is taking shape, with the addition of 15 fruit trees and a row of Alder Buckthorns along the west side. 25 Alder Buckthorns have also been planted at Bush Farm. Several projects have concentrated on the strips of acid grassland, with encouraging results – fewer invasive bramble patches, increased grass cover, and a variety of wild flowers regenerating from the seed bank. We have begun to work on the banks of the Gaderbrook either side of Lower Hydes Pond to encourage the growth of more ground layer plants. It has been another good year for frogspawn, with an early start (by the end of February), although the total clump count was slightly lower than that for 2018. Some butterflies benefited from the warm spells and drier summer conditions, with Ringlet and Marbled White counts increasing. Brown Hairstreak was added to the species list during the winter, with the discovery of eggs in one of the scalloped hedgerow areas. Once again, the Park received a Gold award in the London in Bloom competition. SEWA volunteers joined us in October. More volunteers have been working on our Sunday projects so we have been able to achieve more in the sessions. We put in some 319 workdays during the year.

We have been working hard in Roe Green Walled Garden, with some 1465 workdays over the year. The back yard has been transformed and should become a haven for many forms of wildlife. There were 22 young volunteers from the Headstart and Duke of Edinburgh Award schemes, and we put their creative energies to good use! We were visited by 7 school parties during the year. RGWG gained a Green Flag Community Award for the 13th consecutive year. We reached Gold Standard again in the Small Conservation Area category of the London in Bloom awards and were judged the best entry overall in this category.

We held 3 Open Days again this year, in April, June and September. Parties were held to celebrate summer, Harvest/Diwali, Christmas and spring. We also held a party in a local pub to celebrate the start of a new year!

Well done everyone!

John Barrington (Chairman)