

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP

(Registered Charity No.1085476)

Annual report: 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013

We have had a busy and eventful year, and have maintained a full programme in Fryent Country Park and Roe Green Walled Garden, despite the wet winter and cold spring.

The *Walled Garden* received a Green Flag Community Award for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. We were also judged to be Outstanding (the highest grade) in the It's Your Neighbourhood awards – the third year we have entered this competition. We held 3 Open Days during the year, and 10 children's events (7 Newt Club sessions & 3 summer holiday specials). Some 845 workdays were spent on a range of projects, including a complete revamp of the herbaceous border, with many new plants added, and the replanting of the bed in front of the office as a memorial to Brenda Hatcher. We now have a starter beehive in the back yard, so we look forward to tasting our own honey in a year or two's time. We have planted a "Core Blimey" apple tree – a new variety specially developed for the metropolis by the London Orchard Project. Our weather recording facilities have been enhanced by the installation of an automated station in the geology bed.

The *Country Park* was awarded a Green Flag for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running. We planted another 192 trees (fruit & alder buckthorn). In October, we once again welcomed a large contingent of Sewa Day volunteers for a hard morning's work in and around Masons Field. In February, some students from Capel Manor College felled some scrub oaks. In September, some members attended a Biodiversity in Orchards day, run by OPAL, which introduced us to some of the mosses and lichens which are a feature of this type of habitat. Staff from the London Orchard Project gave us two days of orchard restoration training at the end of February. Ward Working funding enabled us to plant wildflower plugs and more bulbs on the Fryent Way mounds. Several projects have concentrated on Masons Field, particularly the opening up and extension of a stretch of green lane by the allotments. We have continued with our regular surveys of flora and fauna. We put in some 180 workdays over the year.

Well done, everyone!

John Barrington (Chairman)