

BARN HILL CONSERVATION GROUP
(Registered Charity No.1085476)
Annual report: 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

We have been able to run a full series of Sunday morning projects in Fryent Country Park this year, covering a wide range of habitats. We have continued to improve the acid grassland areas around Barn Hill. The views from the Repton woodland over to Harrow and the City have been opened up further. The work already carried out along the Gaderbrook has turned this into an attractive feature of the Park, and we have continued our efforts in this area. Using a grant from Brent Council's Edward Harvist Fund we have been able to run several training sessions to give potential new volunteers some experience of the practical skills involved in conservation work. Our regular surveys of habitat and wildlife have continued – frogspawn counts, butterfly monitoring and the hay meadows survey. An estimated 845 clumps of frogspawn were recorded this year over 9 ponds. This is the lowest count since 2014, and may reflect a series of dry summers which have prevented young frogs from developing sufficiently to be able to move to dry land as the ponds dry out. 19 species of butterfly were recorded on the transects this season, with a significant drop in sightings during the hot, dry weather in August and September. Meadow Brown remains the most numerous species, and Marbled White had its highest count to date. The NCIL-funded work mentioned in last year's report has now been carried out, and there has been an immediate improvement to conditions underfoot on the access path at the Slough Lane entrance to the Park. Our volunteers put in some 441 workdays in the park, with between 12 and 20 participants on most projects.

Roe Green Walled Garden has seen a dramatic improvement to its facilities this year, facilitated by a successful bid for a £46,000 grant from Brent Council's NCIL funds at the June YouDecide Day. The barn has been reroofed, an area at the further end has been partitioned off as a workspace for maintenance work on equipment and tools, and the flooring surface has been improved. Having had to clear everything out before the building work started we have been able to put in storage space (mainly new shelving) against most of the walls to house items for sale (bric-a-brac, books, etc.) and display material. We have also done a major tidying up and reorganization of tools and equipment in the tool shed and former workshop (now entirely devoted to storage). The Garden was awarded a Green Flag again this year. We held 2 Open Days in 2022, in May and September. We enjoyed 3 parties during the year: celebrating the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, and Christmas in December, and holding a lunch party in February. Our volunteers put in some 1,791 workdays in the Garden this year.

Well done everyone!

John Barrington (Chairman)