

## Working for you

Community Groups 'Biodiversity' ideas:

Many BAFTERS nominees are committed to improving biodiversity and protecting special wildlife areas.

The Pinewoods Conservation Group was set up to help protect the Pinewoods beauty spot on Harlow Hill.

Over the past couple of years the group has continued to battle the invasive Himalayan Balsam plant in order to preserve more diverse ground cover.

They also undertake other activities such as 'balsam bashing' to remove this invasive non-native plant; and bird and bat boxes have been erected by both Pinewoods and Bilton conservation groups.

The group has also improved access to the woods by improving the footpath to Harlow Carr Gardens, and interpretation panels on the woods and the new lane have been erected to help increase walker's appreciation of the area. Bird boxes, bat boxes and insect pites have been put up in order to encourage more wildlife in the area.

Open Country provides conservation opportunities to people with learning difficulties. There are two groups of volunteers who come together every week. The Trailblazers bring 'Access for All' to the local countryside, so people of any age or ability can enjoy their surroundings. Various tasks are undertaken such as, litter picking, cutting back overgrown plants, evening out pathways and removing obstacles so the visually impaired, wheelchair users and pushchairs all have access.



The Open Country Conservation Volunteers continue the Trailblazers' work and lend their experienced hands to help other community groups.

This means that the Conservationists can be working in a variety of places, from rare peat bogs to chalk grasslands and ponds.

It also means they could be doing any number of activities they've even done the occasional sheep herding!



The Rotary Club of Harrogate undertook two large nature projects. The first was the clearing and replanting of Scholars Wood in Jennyfields with the help of Saltergate School and New Park School. The second project created the Rotary Centenary Wood, adjacent to the Pinewoods, celebrating 100 years of the club. The wood's paths are wheelchair friendly and the aim is to screen the view of the Harrogate Spa Water Factory with over 200 different tree

varieties.