



Islington is one of the most built up boroughs in London, however 25% of Islington's landscape is made up of private gardens. It's important to recognise the opportunity these spaces provide for wildlife, no matter how small, and the role we play in protecting them.

## **Wildlife in Islington?**

When we talk about wildlife in Islington, many people might say what wildlife? You may be surprised to learn there is an abundance of wildlife living on our doorstep; you sometimes just need to take a closer look. Can you imagine finding Pyramidal and Bee Orchids in the Borough? They're here and much more besides!

## **Why the Wildlife Gardening Pack?**

The Pack is just one part of a much wider initiative addressing the whole issue of biodiversity within the Borough, its health, enhancement and long term sustainability.

## **What is Biodiversity?**

Biodiversity is the word used to describe the abundance of life on earth; it covers the whole range of living things; animals and birds, trees and flowers, insects and fungi. It is not just about the rare and the threatened, just as important is the wildlife we see and experience every day, from the robin on our bird-table to the dandelions in our lawns.

Following the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the UK was one of the first countries to sign up to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which led to the production of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). In 2001 The London BAP was produced by a consortium of partners including local government agencies, the Greater London Authority, NGO's (RSPB, London Wildlife Trust), and private landowners (Peabody Trust, and Thames Water).

As a result of the above Islington produced its very own Biodiversity Action Plan, to protect conserve and enhance the Boroughs wildlife. Gardens were identified as being very important to the Borough and were given there own Habitat Action Plan which also included allotments. For a copy of the Islington Biodiversity Action Plan, phone 020 7354 5162.

## **Key Actions:**

Some of the key actions in the Gardens and Allotments Habitat Action Plan are as follows:

- Carry out a public survey of garden wildlife.
- Produce literature on wildlife friendly gardening.
- Establish a demonstration wildlife garden at the Islington Ecology Centre.
- To seek to limit the loss of gardens through development.
- Hold a series of wildlife gardening events and establish a group of wildlife gardening experts.

The Islington BAP is an on-going process that continues to evolve. If you would like to get involved, or would like some advice regarding your own garden contact us at the Ecology Centre or one of the many contacts listed throughout this pack.

## Wildlife gardening in Islington

There are a number of projects that are taking place in the Borough and local groups / organisations that you can get involved in.

### Islington in Bloom

This is an annual competition run in the Borough and is a chance to show off your garden and help make Islington a greener, cleaner and brighter place: there are awards for Best Wildlife-Friendly gardens in each category. Entries that are successful are put forward into the London in Bloom competition. The criteria for entries, is for any blooms that can be seen from the highway. For more information contact: 020 7527 4953 or [supportservices@islington.gov.uk](mailto:supportservices@islington.gov.uk)

### Forgotten Corners

A scheme run by Islington Gardeners and funded by Islington's Greenspace division, whereby gardeners adopt and maintain an area of public land local to them, that has been neglected.

For this project and wildlife gardening information, contact: Susan Lees on 020 7272 3646 email [susan@lees.org.uk](mailto:susan@lees.org.uk)

### Wildlife Garden Survey for Islington

A key component of the Islington BAP is to establish baseline information about the status of wildlife in Islington's private gardens and allotments. This pack contains a wildlife survey that is conducted by the London Wildlife Trust annually so please complete yours and send it to them at the address on the form.

Islington will also be conducting a Borough wide public garden survey in addition to the London Wildlife Trusts survey. For more information about the Islington Wildlife survey contact the Nature Conservation Team on 020 7354 5162.

### Islington Gardeners

Has over 350 members, and are interested in all aspects of gardening. They produce a newsletter with regular wildlife articles. Contact: Joy Chamberlin 020 7272 4589 [www.islingtongardeners.org.uk](http://www.islingtongardeners.org.uk)

### Islington Environment Forum

A network of voluntary groups, local residents, elected representatives and council officers interested in working together to protect and improve Islington's environment and long-term sustainability. The Forum meets once a month is funded by Islington Council and helped run by Groundwork. Contact Groundwork on 020 7278 1514 [www.ivac.org.uk/environmentforum](http://www.ivac.org.uk/environmentforum)



In partnership with



Nature Conservation Team,  
Islington Ecology Centre,  
191 Drayton Park,  
Gillespie Park local  
Nature Reserve,  
London N5 1PH

T 020 7354 5162

F 020 7288 1717

E [ecologycentre@islington.gov.uk](mailto:ecologycentre@islington.gov.uk)

W [www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)

Many of our parks and open spaces have areas that are managed for wildlife or have had enhancements for biodiversity. For a list of sites across the Borough with such improvements check out the website [www.islington.gov.uk/environment](http://www.islington.gov.uk/environment) or contact Greenspace on 020 7527 4953