

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Association's origins lay in conservation of the natural environment, and as early as 1986 they subscribed to the Berks Bucks and Oxon Naturalist Trust or BBONT (since renamed BBOWT, 'Naturalist' being replaced by 'Wildlife'). A donation was made to a local arm, Reading Urban Wildlife Group. In the same year EGRA collaborated with CADRA on a 'Conserve the South Chilterns Committee', to consider boundary changes to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Towards the end of 1987 the Council initiated its Cleaner Reading Task Force, and invited the Association to identify itself with a community project the following year to transform the woodland between Stuart Close and Surley Row into a wildlife conservation area.

EGRA was represented at RBC's Environmental Forum in 1989, whose aims were to develop projects to make Reading a greener cleaner place in which to live. In the same year, Friends of Clayfield Copse, a pro-active voluntary conservation group, was set up to protect and conserve our local woodland. Although an entirely separate enterprise from EGRA, we have nevertheless maintained a very close relationship.



FOCC's projects that EGRA has supported include three Woodland Days and a local art project. In 2003, the group's grant for the Woodland Day was rejected and the EGRA committee agreed on a donation of £100.

EGRA has closely monitored trees and hedgerows in the area, reporting areas of concern and encouraging replanting where necessary. A detailed survey was carried out of all trees with a Tree and Woodland Preservation orders.



In 2016, with the approval of Reading Borough Council, Clive and Veronica Leeke organise the sowing of a wildflower patch in the southwest corner of the recreation ground.