

FRIENDS *of* LONG LANE PASTURE

NEWSLETTER

No. 11 November 2008

You may not have heard of the Tree Council, an umbrella organization whose members range from the Ancient Tree Forum to the Woodland Trust. It campaigns to protect trees and woodlands from those who, like property developers, regard them as unnecessary obstacles standing in the way of progress and, of course, profit. It also helps to engage people in various community activities: collecting seeds in the autumn, walking in the woods in spring, and planting trees in the early winter when it holds a National Tree Week.

That's where you come in. We have trees to plant, so we will be holding a **tree planting session** at the start of National Tree Week on Saturday, 29th November. This is one of our regular work days so the Pasture is open and you are very welcome to come along at any time after 10.00 o'clock (and before 2.00 p.m.) to help with the planting or just to look round to see some of the changes we've made.

What trees? Pat Dunnill has kindly donated two silver birches, an oak and a hazel. We also have a mountain ash as well as various hawthorns, blackthorns, and honeysuckle. Friends who remember Frank Derrett, one of our trustees and a doughty campaigner for the Pasture who died suddenly last Easter, will like to know that we have been offered half-a-dozen oak saplings that were growing on his allotment so we will be planting these too. We also have a seat in his memory – not that Frank ever spent much time sitting down – and we have a plaque to mount on it. In time others will be able to enjoy what he worked so hard to achieve.

If you haven't been for a while you will, we hope, notice some changes. The big pond is thriving, and has even been visited by a heron. We are well on the way to completing a smaller pond which will take some of the overflow when necessary. The various footpaths, though not yet finished, make movement round the Pasture more of a pleasure than an obstacle course. And brambles? Well, yes, there are still brambles and winter is the time when we begin another assault. Wayne's sketch overleaf will show you how far we have come over the years. It's looking good.

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