

LONG LANE PASTURE TRUST

Restoring a green space for the local community and protecting a haven for wildlife

Registered Charity: 1122236

1 Princes Avenue, Finchley, London N3 2DA. www.longlanepasture.org

ANNUAL REPORT: 1 January – 31 December 2011

Key Objectives

1. To conserve the environment and in particular Long Lane Pasture in Finchley for the benefit of the public, and
2. To educate the public in the principles and practice of environmental conservation.

Protection and conservation of the Pasture is being implemented through a Management Plan, agreed with the London Borough of Barnet (freehold owner of the land).

The main aims of this Plan are:

- To re-open Long Lane Pasture for public recreation and enjoyment
- To create an environmental resource for local schools
- To encourage children of all ages to visit and benefit from the site
- To clean up the land by removing dumped debris and rubbish
- To restore, enhance and protect the site's wildlife value
- To involve the community and volunteers in management
- To obtain resources to implement the Management Plan.

The charity is wholly run by volunteers and has no paid staff.

Achievements

Public Opening of the Pasture

The Pasture was open to the public nearly every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday during the year, except on a few occasions when there was snow or after very heavy rain. Altogether an estimated 1,450 visits were made to the Pasture in 2011. New visitor counters have now been installed so that in future an accurate measure can be made of the number of people who come through both gates. All seats were thoroughly cleaned, thanks to the efforts of the 14th East Finchley Girl Guides. A new paved base has improved the embankment seat. On 11 and 12 June we took part in the London Open Gardens Weekend (*photo*). Once again we welcomed Barnet Councillors to an informal reception to mark the second anniversary of our leasehold of the land.



Involving the Community

We were delighted to host a group of 22 Beavers in March and 56 children on two visits from Akiva School in May. A number of events were organised: a Pond Day on 16 April, a Wildflower Day on 28 May, a Spiders, Bees and Bugs Day on 10 September and a Tree Day on 26 November. The very popular Blackberry Pick started in early August and continued well into September. We welcomed The North London Holiday Fellowship on a visit in July.

The number of registered Friends, nearly all of whom live locally, now stands at 282 addresses, representing over 650 individuals. The continued support of The Finchley Society is much appreciated.



Three Newsletters and an events programme have been issued. Our website has been updated with latest news and photographs. We continued to distribute leaflets to the surrounding neighbourhood.

Forty two volunteers have worked on the Pasture during the year clocking up over 730 work hours. This effort included a volunteer working for her Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has given up their time to help with both regular and special projects in 2011.

Protecting, Restoring and Enhancing the Wildlife

On the embankment hundreds more snowdrops have been planted and major patches of bramble have been cleared prior to planting native shrubs. Efforts continued to prevent bramble re-growth elsewhere. Wildflowers covered the grassland in early summer; grasshoppers and spiders were again plentiful in late summer. Grass paths were regularly cut during the spring and summer. A series of wildlife information notices were placed around the site. Most of the Pasture was flail mown in October and November. The



cut hay was then all raked up into habitat piles. A long standing area of oily polluted ground was removed. Work continued extending the 'butterfly border' along the walled boundary, with further areas planted to attract butterflies and insects. For the first time brimstone butterflies bred here. Moth records now total 115 different species. Our beehive area was extended. Encroaching bulrushes and waterweed were cleared from the large pond. The small overflow pond was enlarged with a shallow scrape area. Litter was removed and sorted for recycling on a regular basis. It was exciting to record hedgehogs for the first time. Foxes were

often seen perhaps discouraging ducks from staying very long on the pond though one duckling enjoyed the whole summer with us. Bird highlights included the appearance of a flock of 60 waxwings in February and a woodcock in December. All trees were surveyed and mapped.

Financial Review

Friends of the Pasture and visitors have again been very supportive which is much appreciated. Donations were considerably increased on 2010, notably from Blackberry Pickers. We rely on such donations to protect and manage the Pasture. Those who have signed up to Gift Aid and regularly donate with a Bankers Order are particularly thanked - but we do need more of these generous supporters. We are very grateful to Awards for All (a Big Lottery scheme) for a grant of £9,582 to pay for signs, removal of polluted ground, visitor counters, plants, trees and seeds. Looking to expand our fundraising effort, we had a stall at the East Finchley Festival and published a 2012 centenary calendar which was a sell out.

A healthy balance of funds is in hand at the year end, though some of this is ear-marked for special projects. We wish to continue to build up a contingency fund (currently standing at £3,731, but aiming for £5,000) to meet unexpected or emergency expenditure which may arise from time to time.

Structure, Governance and Management

Long Lane Pasture Trust is governed by a Trust deed. It is a registered charity with a Board of Trustees, who appoint members to it and manage the charity. Trustees in 2011 were Ann Brown (Chairman), Dennis Pepper (Vice Chairman), Wayne Armsby (Treasurer), and Maureen Delandro.

A Management Committee meets monthly to run day to day activities including the Pasture's detailed work programme and activities. In addition to the Trustees, Jan Andersson, Linda Dolata, Donald Lyven and Harriet Copperman served on this during 2011. Four members of the Committee have Criminal Records Bureau checks to cover working with children.

The Long Lane Pasture Trust subscribes to BTCV as an associated group and is a member of Barnet CommUNITY.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Report for 2011.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Name Ann E Brown Signature A. Brown
Position Chairman Date 28 February 2012