

FRIENDS *of* LONG LANE PASTURE

NEWSLETTER

No. 23 - March 2013

*The Pasture will be open every day from
Good Friday 29th March 2013, 10am - dusk*

Pasture Opening Extended for 2013

This year, throughout the spring and summer, the Pasture will be open every day until the end of September (when opening will revert to weekends only). Please note that during the week access will only be through the main gate. A number of special event days (*see over*) have been arranged for 2013. Once again, there will be a wildlife trail around the Pasture. Close to the small gate entrance we will shortly be erecting a panoramic sign etched to show Finchley's landmarks visible from this fine view point. So, visit us soon and don't miss out on the wildflowers at their best in May and June.

Can You Help - even just a little bit?

- Weed, plant and sow the Butterfly Border
- Mow grass paths
- Pick up litter and rubbish
- Clean seats
- Cut back brambles along the boundaries
- Record wildlife
- Distribute our Newsletter/leaflets to local neighbourhood
- Warden the Pasture for a few hours any day
- With special event days and during blackberry harvest
- Make some jam from our own produce to benefit the Pasture
- Manage the bird feeding area and donate bird seed for the feeders
- Encourage local schools and other group visits

If so, please get in touch or come along on any Saturday morning from 10am - 12 noon. You would be very welcome. Our small band of regular volunteers urgently needs more support.

Wintertime



The Pasture has been exceptionally wet throughout the winter. Ponds were full to overflowing (and often iced over) and the paths have been flooded. We are sorry that we were not able to open the Pasture on some weekends due to severe weather, particularly in heavy snow. The hay cut last October was finally all raked up in mid-February! We took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch on a cold 25th January (*left*). The 12 records seen on that morning included a fieldfare. Earlier in the day Derek Warren had seen a redwing, another winter visitor. On the embankment early flowering snowdrops and winter aconites have provided a lovely display. Our fox has been on regular patrol - paw prints easy to see in frost and snow.

Thanks to **The Panton Trust** and **Jeremy Leaf & Co** (estate agents, E Finchley) for their generous support.

If you have changed your e-mail address, now wish to receive this Newsletter electronically or would like to volunteer, please get in touch: enquiries@longlanepasture.org We'd love to hear from you.

PASTURE EVENTS 2013

April 20th

Saturday

10am - 1pm

Pond Day

There should be plenty of tadpoles, plus newts, water beetles, pond skaters and all sorts of other pond life to discover. We may even find a few sticklebacks. Pond trays, nets and help with identification will be on hand.

May 4th

and onwards

Wildlife Trail and Vista Sign

Our Wildlife Trail, a series of information notices around the Pasture, will be in place to enhance your visit.. This year we have a 'Vista Sign' at the top of the Pasture with a map to pick out Finchley features from the view.

8th - 9th June

Saturday & Sunday

10am - 6pm

Open Garden Squares Weekend

The Pasture welcomes visitors taking part in this popular London Parks and Gardens Trust event. We will have a sale of 'plants for wildlife'.

July 20th

Saturday

10am - 4pm

Butterfly Day

This is a special event focusing on the Pasture's butterflies. We will be taking part the national Big Butterfly Count. We may have caterpillars and moths to show you too! There will be help on hand to help with identification and forms to record what you see which will help to build up our sightings list.

August 3rd

Saturday

Blackberry Pick Begins

The Pasture will be open for harvesting blackberries from now until early September. There will be punnets of blackberries and jams for sale. We ask for a donation in return for any blackberries you pick yourself. Please bring your own container.

August 10th

Saturday

10am - 12 noon

Moths

As part of National Moth Night we will be looking at moths from our moth trap run overnight. We have over 100 different moth records on our site list and are looking to increase it. This event will be postponed in the event of bad weather.

September 7th

Saturday

10am - 12 noon

Spiders, Bees and Bugs

The Pasture is by now alive with grasshoppers, spiders and other creatures. This is a chance to discover more about these small creatures, to observe the beautiful wasp spiders and find out how our resident bees are getting on.

November 30th

Saturday

10am - 12noon

Tree Day

We will be planting, weeding and tending our trees during National Tree Planting Week. Everything provided, but we need volunteers to make it all happen. No trees please.

Visit our website: www.longlanepasture.org