

# FRIENDS of LONG LANE PASTURE NEWSLETTER *lite*

Saturday 9 November. No. 37 Winter 2017

Welcome to this Special edition of our Newsletter, published for handing out at today's Martin School Christmas Fair! Over the two sides of this A4 we hope to summarise what's been happening on the Pasture during the past few months as well as a recap on some of this year's highlights. We've already had a few flakes of snow fall on the Pasture this winter with last week's cold snap, but generally this year's weather has been mundane in its lack of extremes. Considering the number of weather related tragedies that have occurred elsewhere on the planet, I am very grateful for our relatively benign temperate maritime climate.

## Nature Table

We had 21 species of butterfly noted at the Pasture this year; two more than usual with the welcome sightings of a clouded yellow, and a valiant small copper that defended a particular patch of the Pasture for more than 3 months! He is pictured in **our new 2018 Calendar available from next week at £5** please order one today!

## Long Lane Pasture Calendar 2018

Long Lane, Finchley, N3 - opposite Finchley Fire Station (A39)  
Winner of: Green Flag Community Award 2017/18  
& London in Bloom 2017 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awarded 'Outstanding'



Photographs © Oliver Kane, Lucy Nowell & donaldelyven@aol.com

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Have you thought about volunteering? Come along any Saturday 10am to noon, we'd love to meet you.

New birds spotted at the Pasture were a pair of little egrets that overflowed, & sedge warblers seen feeding in the reeds at the main pond. Grey herons, mallards, moorhens and grey wagtails also made use of our main water feature; while greenfinch, coal tits, and great spotted woodpecker were again seen as well as all our usual birds, with a healthy flock of house sparrows in evidence every day; no doubt an attraction for this kestrel that visited regularly.



Our moth trap nights produced the usual gathering of many subtle coloured species, but it is the day-flying cinnabar & six-spot burnet moths that we look forward to seeing, wending slowly over the Pasture on warm summer afternoons; seemingly unhurried despite their all too brief lives. Plenty of caterpillars were seen feeding on the ragwort, so all being well, there'll be more of these spectacular moths next summer!

During August we had a welcome visit from GoodGym Barnet, who celebrated their first anniversary by returning to the venue they began carrying out their good deeds for the community. As is tradition we had birthday cake, and were very grateful for their help



in hay making and compost heap tidying; and also with the grass cutting and pruning they did during a subsequent visit.

We also benefitted from having our annual group from the National Citizen Service helping us in August. The weather was sunny as the enthusiastic students set about ditch clearing, hay raking, bulb planting & bramble cutting. We are very grateful that NCS include



us in their list of accommodating organisations & hope those who participated learned something about urban nature & conservation.

## A Successful Year

In March we received a welcome share of the Community Matters scheme run by Waitrose, when we obtained around a third of the green counter votes from customers at their North Finchley branch and were presented with a cheque. Another honour was won by our stalwart volunteer Wayne Armsby at the annual Barnet Council



Civic Award ceremony. In a packed Hendon Town Hall, Wayne was handed a certificate and a citation read out about his outstanding achievement in the borough for his dedication to Long Lane Pasture. Here he is seen with the then Mayor, Cllr David Longstaff. It was a fabulous evening with many other worthy



winners who selflessly benefit the community with their unstinting commitment and enthusiasm. Congratulations!

We enjoyed a very successful Pond Dipping Day, with many water snails, tadpoles, dragonfly larvae and these common newts (seen from below) that were found, & enchanted the many young families that attended on a pleasant warm sunny spring morning.



Identification charts and reference books helped in naming the diverse array of creatures discovered. At the end of April our annual Dawn Chorus walk proved popular again, with a multitude of beautiful bird songs, especially the blackcaps and wrens singing on cue, before the hardy attendees were treated to a wonderful sunrise. The sparkly beads of dew on the grass gave a magical look to the Pasture as an ethereal veil of mist rose from the pond...



In June the Pasture Trust had a stall at the East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood. A fantastic day out with lots to see and do, with live music, entertainments, many stalls and a display of owls! We sold a variety of items, including jams, wildflower seeds, liquid fertilizer and notelets; talking to many people about the Pasture; and we thoroughly enjoyed the day, and thank the organisers.

The yearly blackberry harvest arrived earlier this year due to good weather & regular rain. The quality was superb and we were never short of eager visitors picking the plump sweet fruits and donating generously in the collection box by the entrance.



We were delighted during August to win a Green Flag Community Award, for 2017/18; our 7<sup>th</sup>, and gaining another London in Bloom Award for 2017 in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category, awarded 'Outstanding.' Well done to all our volunteers making this possible.

### On The Map!

During the summer we were pleasantly surprised to discover that Google Earth had updated their aerial photography of the local district! They had last renewed the images back in June 2015. We knew this as it showed the Pasture gazebo being constructed. On searching around the images, I was able to determine the aircraft must have flown over on a Saturday after 10am, simply due to the fact of where two vehicles I have access to were parked! But it would take some detective work to work out which Saturday...



Of additional interest was that the new photos showed 'YOU ARE HERE' mown in the grass on the communal area of the allotment site next door! This remarkable self-aware piece of artwork was skilfully done by our very own Wayne, who has paid for and looked after this communal area on the allotments for around 20 years, since he reclaimed it from the bramble covered abandoned patch it had become. The updated photographs show the Pasture gazebo complete and the revised picnic area better defined; but I was still curious as to which particular Saturday the aircraft criss-crossed the Pasture; and so by studying the wider locality, & by checking other photos I had taken, I was eventually able to solve this!

The images had to of been taken after April 1 as that's when the 13 bus route was extended to North Finchley and the new buses used have a distinctive black coloured rear panel. On Friday April 7 in Hendon, I photographed a dumped double mattress on the corner of Second Avenue. The previous day I photographed a large fuel tank just delivered to the new council depot in New Southgate. In addition, the white luffing crane was completed at the council office construction site in Colindale around the same time; also the newly painted road humps in Lichfield Grove were done, and the cherry blossom on my allotment had appeared. All these different things are clearly visible on the Google Earth imagery, thus pointing conclusively to Saturday April 8 as the day the aeroplane few over!

When I Tweeted this photo and a brief explanation, I was surprised to have it viewed over 2000 times within the first 24 hours, and a little pleased that the Pasture's existence, Wayne's endeavours & the YOU ARE HERE sign has since gained us a world-wide audience, and putting us truly on the map!

*Until next time; Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! Donald*

You can now follow us on Twitter: [@LLPasture](https://twitter.com/LLPasture)

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