

FRIENDS *of* LONG LANE PASTURE

NEWSLETTER

No. 20 March 2012

Pasture open weekends and bank holidays from 10am – dusk.

Centenary Year Begins



On 22 February 2012 the Mayor of Barnet planted an oak tree at Long Lane Pasture to mark 100 years since the Pasture was purchased by Finchley Urban District Council. The Pasture is an ancient meadow: in the 18th and 19th centuries it supplied hay for London's horses. In 1914 it survived the threat of a new railway and in 1925 it was cut in half by the North Circular Road. In 1940 efforts were made to dig it up to grow food. In the 1980s it was closed for potential use as a builder's depot, and in 1999 it was threatened with a housing development. Despite all this, we are still able to enjoy it today for the pleasure and recreation it was originally bought for. We have a busy programme of events throughout this special year (see reverse) starting with a Volunteers Day on 31st March – see you there!

Octavia Hill Remembered

The plaque for our tree also commemorates 100 years since the death of Octavia Hill, a founder of the National Trust who lived in Finchley for part of her childhood, and was inspired by walking through country fields around her, such as the Pasture. All her life she passionately believed that London's fast-disappearing green spaces should be '*kept for the enjoyment, refreshment and rest of those who have no country house*' – in 2012 that must be nearly all of us!



Photo and Art Competition Launched

We are inviting all artists and photographers to enter our Centenary Competition with the aim of creating a visual record of the Pasture through the seasons. The Competition is open to everyone but must be photographs, painting or drawings of Long Lane Pasture in 2012. Entries will be displayed in an exhibition at the Arts Depot, North Finchley, during October 2012. Entry form and further details are on our website.

Winter Highlights, Spring Underway

Our 'new' fox has been seen sunning himself on a pile of hay. A hardy hedgehog was running around in November and in December fieldfares and redwings visited. A family of three wood mice have taken up residence by the railway. But Spring is in the air: a red admiral butterfly was seen unusually early on 1 March, ducks are back on the pond, many trees are in blossom, there has been an amazing frenzy of frogs, and there is now plenty of frogspawn.

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!

EVENTS FOR 2012

March 31st

Saturday
10am – 12 noon

Volunteers Day

There will be a special welcome for anyone dropping in to find out more about volunteering at the Pasture. Come along to find out what is involved and perhaps take part in a 'taster task', enjoy a guided tour, and some refreshments.

April 14th

Saturday
10am – 5pm

Pond Life

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 19th

Saturday
10am – 12 noon

Wildlife Trail

Our Wildlife Trail, a series of information notices around the Pasture, will now be in place to enhance your visit. There should also be a fine display of meadow flowers. We will also be recording butterflies as part of Save Our Butterflies Week.

9th -10th June

Saturday & Sunday
10am – 6pm

Open Garden Squares Weekend

The Pasture welcomes visitors taking part in this popular London Parks and Gardens Trust event.

June 23rd

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 if the weather is bad.

July 14th

Saturday
10am – 5pm

Butterfly Day in National Butterfly Week

This is a special event focusing on the Pasture's butterflies. 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 enable us build up our sightings list.

August 4th

Saturday

Blackberry Pick Begins with Wild Food Event

The Pasture will be open for harvesting blackberries from now until early September. On this first day there will be a selection wild produce for tasting and for sale. We ask for a donation in return for any blackberries picked. Bring your own container.

September 8th

Saturday
10am – 5pm

Spiders, Bees and Bugs

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

December 1st

Saturday
10am – 12 noon

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. Please don't bring any trees of your own for planting.

**Enter our Centenary Photo & Art Competition: www.longlanepasture.org/centenary
Exhibition at the Arts Depot, North Finchley, in October 2012.**

Visit our website: www.longlanepasture.org

This Newsletter is issued by the Long Lane Pasture Trust, 1 Princes Avenue, Finchley, N3 2DA. Registered Charity No: 1122236
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