## FRIENDS of LONG LANE PASTURE

# NEWSLETTER

No. 22. October 2012

The Pasture is open every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday: 10am - dusk, and bank holidays, but may be closed if flooded or snow - anytime from December - February.

Visit our Centenary Exhibition: at the ArtsDepot to 31st October 2012

#### 2013 Calendar

The **Long Lane Pasture 2013 Calendar** featuring 13 colour photographs of Pasture life and landscape through the seasons, is now available. This year the Calendar includes winning entries from our Photograph & Art Competition. It costs £5 and is now for sale at the Pasture every Saturday morning, 10am-12noon. To order by post (cost £6 including post and packing) please complete the Calendar Order Form and send with payment (*payable to Long Lane Pasture Trust*) to 1 Princes Avenue, Finchley, London N3 2DA. Don't delay your order – stocks are limited!

## East Finchley Festival

To replace the summer Festival in Cherry Tree Woods, which was cancelled due to very wet weather, an **East Finchley Christmas Festival** is to be held along the East Finchley High Road on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December** (a date for the diary). Long Lane Pasture will be having a stall here - please come along to support us. There will be our 2013 Calendars, Pasture pictures, jams and preserves for sale plus other seasonal goodies.

## London in Bloom / It's Your Neighbourhood Award

This is a regional competition, part of 'Britain in Bloom', a national initiative now run by the **Royal Horticultural Society**. It recognises accomplishments in three core areas:



horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation. Of the 73 London entries this year, Long Lane Pasture was the only one in Barnet. We were delighted to be given a certificate in the top category as 'Outstanding'.

Areas of achievement receiving a special mention included: a good example of an urban nature reserve, range and quality of interpretation methods, the range of habitats maintained (ponds, hedges, butterfly border,

meadow areas), good communication with local residents, good range of seating, and the feeling of a peaceful place in 'such a hostile urban environment'.

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

## Birds of Prey



Three birds of prey have been seen over the Pasture this year. Each one has a different type of food supply.

The kestrel has been seen over the Pasture several times lately, having been absent for a few years. It is known for its hovering flight, having long narrow wings, and will swoop down on rats, mice and insects. Proof that the Pasture supports a healthy food chain!

Kestrel over the Pasture. Donald Lyven

Another bird of prey seen more often is the **sparrow hawk** which has short rounded wings and a long tail. Sadly a dead one was found recently on the Pasture. There was no obvious



reason why it died. It did not appear to have been injured by a fox - it could have been poison or perhaps just old age. This bird mainly feeds on small birds, including sparrows. It was seen in the summer with a starling and has been known to catch a woodpigeon. It will fly fast and can weave in and out of the trees. It likes to fly low along one side of a hedge and then swoop over to the other side taking birds by surprise. Young birds can misjudge their dive and crash land.

The dead sparrowhawk. Jan Andersson

A bird that is spreading around London, having been introduced into the Chilterns some years ago, is the **red kite** and this feeds on carrion. It has been seen over Finchley on several occasions and flying fairly low over the Pasture. *From Derek Warren* 

#### **Thanks**

## A very *big thank you* to the following who have generously supported us during 2012:

Akiva School	Mary Derrett	S Mackay	Probus Club	B Vanhasesebroeck
Harriet Copperman	Glen Garage	Mrs P Marsh	Jael Reece	Denis Vigay
C & R Cooper	D Fleming	Guy Nevill	R Satherthwaite	Derek Warren
E G Cooper	Ilana Isserow	Old Barn Pre-School	W E B Soutar	Mrs Marian Werner
Justin Daniels	S D Knowles	Peter Pickering	Graham Stacy	R & C White
Empress Plumbing	S V Leith	Magrith Pike	Talbot Designs	J T Wittenburg

and to everybody who put money in our on-site collection box. Unfortunately this has been vandalised and one day's donations were stolen. We are investigating a more secure solution. Any ideas?

# **COMING EVENTS**

#### **December 1st** Tree Day

**Saturday**We will be planting a few new shrubs, including hazel and blackthorn to strengthen the **10am – 12 noon**allotments boundary. We will also be making a big effort to look after trees planted in previous years. Come along and do your bit for National Tree Week.

#### **Please Note:**

The annual mow will take place **in October** when grass and bramble re-growth will be cut back to improve the meadow flora. Volunteers are urgently needed **after that** to help with the hay raking!

#### Visit our website: www.longlanepasture.org