



**FRIENDS of
LONG LANE PASTURE**



NEWSLETTER

No 30. Summer 2015

Welcome to this special edition of the Pasture Newsletter! This June we shall be officially opening our newly erected and grant funded gazebo, which is currently being constructed, with just the shingle roof tiles to be completed.

This wonderful structure adjacent to the main pond, will give the Pasture somewhere for people to shelter from rain on the rare occasion when the sun isn't shining!



Further details on page 2.

Along with the impressive corral fence, it was funded by Barnet Council through their Area Committee Budget grant scheme. This was introduced last year by Barnet Council to enable worthwhile community groups in each of the Borough's three parliamentary constituencies to apply for one-off grants for projects that would benefit the community in a variety of ways. We have invited The Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Cllr Mark Shooter to cut the ribbon on its ceremonial unveiling.

In the Summertime

This year's cool spring has effortlessly slipped into summer and work at the Pasture has continued apace, with maintenance to paths, ponds and a large compost heap removed.

We've been delighted to have recorded many butterflies already this season with 13 species seen. In a few days' time, if the weather holds well, we should see the emergence of



the grassland species like the skippers, meadow brown and gatekeeper that are prolific on the Pasture during the summer. In the first week of June we saw a painted lady butterfly that was attracted to our long, and purposely planted butterfly border.



It contains a wide-range of colourful and nectar producing plants favoured by butterflies & several food plants preferred by their caterpillars.

Dawn Chorus

This year's dawn chorus walk (Sunday morning May 3rd at 5am) was a bit of a damp squib. It was dark, due to the heavy cloud cover, and



yes it was raining and had been for several solid hours!

Just six brave souls turned up and sheltered under umbrellas

before trudging along the sodden paths, noting different bird song with only the odd sighting.

Thankfully the birds are made of sterner stuff and don't let a heavy downpour prevent them from announcing their presence; with wrens, robins and dunnocks much in evidence, though



none were actually seen! A local cat Charlie even came out to join us, walking along the fence, and he too was disappointed

there wasn't much to see and got very wet!

Though nothing rare or exceptional was spotted this year, I always find it reassuring the regulars are still about, with blackbird, starlings, crows & wood pigeons much in evidence. On a good day more than twenty bird species can reliably be seen either on or flying over the Pasture at

most times of the year; and as of the beginning of June, 36 species have been noted so far this year, including jackdaws, like this



fine fellow seen feeding on a sunnier day with a small flock of this gregarious crow.

Frances Loveday



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden death of one of the Long Lane Pasture volunteers, Frances Loveday. Like many who help out at the Pasture, she had an allotment on the adjoining site and

sadly died while tending her plot on June 3rd.

Frances was an avid crusader, and very much involved in the current campaign to defend Barnet library services from proposed cuts.

Frances is greatly missed by all who knew her. Her family would welcome anyone wishing to attend her service this Thursday, at Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel, 62 Hoop Lane, London NW11 7NL, June 18th at 3pm.

Restorative Justices Service

Over the past few months the Long Lane Pasture Trust has been working with Barnet Council's Restorative Justice Service, and having visits of young offenders under supervision of their Co-ordinators. This has been mutually beneficial to all three parties involved.

The Restorative Justice Service have another outlet for their programme, the youths involved get to do something worthwhile and learn new

skills with fresh air and exercise as a bonus; and the Trust gets some extra pairs of hands to assist in the necessary tasks required to



maintain the tranquil beauty of the Pasture.

Grant Well Spent

Following on from the great news in the Spring edition of the Pasture Newsletter, about the Trust acquiring a £5000 grant from Barnet Council's Area Committee Budget; we can report we've put all the money to good use in the construction of the corral fence around the undisturbed grass circle, and the magnificent

gazebo, which should be completed by July. This will give great encouragement to groups of people, work parties and school classes visiting the Pasture whatever the conditions, ending the disappointment of these events being cancelled due to uncertain weather.

When schools visit or when we have pond-dipping days, butterfly days and



volunteer working groups arrive, there will be a focal point to stand under to hear talks, discuss work plans and even eat lunch, protected from the sun or rain.

This gazebo will greatly improve the working environment for all volunteers and visitors.

Wildlife News

The moorhens have raised at least four chicks this year, and other birds have been seen



feeding their noisy new arrivals.

Slowworms, frogs & newts have been seen regularly, and the presence of voles & field mice

is evident with piles of empty hazelnut shells found under the corrugated iron sheets that many creatures find so accommodating.

Dragonflies and damselflies are making their summer appearances as have the large green rose chaffer beetles and many species of bees. Our own honey bees are as active as ever!

Enjoy the summer!

You can now monitor Pasture activity on

Twitter. Please follow: [@LLPasture](https://twitter.com/LLPasture)

Please visit our website:

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