



LONG LANE PASTURE NEWSLETTER *Lite* No. 34 December 2016

Festive Greetings, and welcome to this special edition of the Long Lane Pasture Newsletter. We publish several editions a year which are sent to our members by email to save paper, cut costs and it enables the reader to



increase font size and see the photographs in excellent detail. Sign up today with an email address to receive the latest 10 page edition; or alternatively, visit our Website to see all our previous newsletters.

Brief History of the Pasture

Long Lane Pasture was purchased by the Finchley Urban District Council for public enjoyment and recreation on 22 February 1912. On 22 February 2012 the then Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Lisa Rutter, planted an oak tree on the embankment area to commemorate this Centenary. It's a 2 acre remnant of the original historic Finchley Common.

April 1977



The Pasture has changed little in over 100 years, except it is no longer grazed by horses. In 1999 after years of neglect, the local Council decided the land was surplus to requirements and proposed to dispose of it for housing development. This galvanised a public campaign to keep the Pasture as green space.

Following a change of council in 2002 the housing plan was dropped and in 2006 the land was designated for community use. Many traditional wildflowers on the

restored damp meadowland are now thriving again, and although there is no public footpath leading to a long gone footbridge across the railway, there is a network of paths for visitors to meander along to enjoy the changing features. The Pasture was granted a long lease in 2009.



Older Finchley residents can still recall the varied leisure activities that took place here. It was even at one time a home ground for the local football team 'Squires United.' Many people enjoyed family picnics; children used to fly kites, & classes from local schools came for nature study. It is proving as popular today as it was during the 20th century. The Pasture has outlived many threats, and although today it is only half its original size, it continues as a delightful greenspace for both people and wildlife.

Winner of Awards

It's been a good year for Long Lane Pasture. We've been awarded a Green Flag as one of the best community green spaces in the country and London in Bloom has again placed us in its 'outstanding'



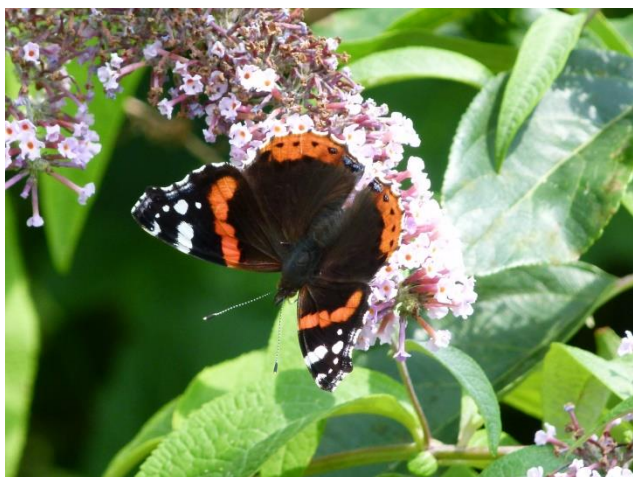
category. A donation from the Panton Trust helped us replace worn-out hand tools and buy new equipment as well as plan for future projects. In September we had visits of young volunteers from the National Citizen Service, GoodGym and the 1st Finchley Scouts to assist in our hay making. Long Lane Pasture depends entirely on grants, donations and the work of volunteers. If you live nearby and

would like to be involved in our interesting work,
drop in on Saturday mornings (10 a.m. to midday)
where you can boost our small band of regular
volunteers to make the Pasture even better in 2017.
Don Lyven, Chair, Long Lane Pasture Committee



Pasture Wildlife

2016 was not a good year for butterflies on the Pasture. All our regular species were seen but numbers were greatly down due the weather, with a late spring and lacklustre summer. But it was not all bad. During July the signature grassland species of the Pasture appeared. Large, small and Essex skippers were soon followed by meadow browns, ringlets and many dainty gatekeepers, As always, small & large white butterflies were seen. 18 butterfly species were noted at the Pasture during 2016.



Features of the Pasture

Long Lane Pasture has several interesting features. There are half a dozen ponds; the main one is visited by waterfowl where Moorhens and Mallards have raised young. Dragonflies and damselflies breed in every pond along with newts, frogs and toads. Aquatic beetles and Mayflies are active in the warmer months and birds and bees also visit the ponds to drink.

On the south corner near the Northern Line there is a high bank where a Vista sign shows what the buildings are along the Finchley skyline. The Pasture also now has its own Geocache hidden somewhere!

There is a fenced off paddock area where nothing is done; that is home to many bugs & grasses completely undisturbed by human activity.



There are wildflowers, fruit trees & swathes of brambles that prove popular with visitors in late summer, picking delicious blackberries before depositing money for them in the donations box.

There are bird feeders and nest boxes, foxes, field mice, bank voles, slowworms and even the occasional hedgehog seen! Please come along and discover all that the Pasture has to offer.

The Pasture Calendar 2017

The ever-popular Long Lane Pasture Calendar for 2017 is available now! With all new photographs taken during the past 11 months, it gives an insight into the views and wildlife that can be seen at the Pasture during the year. **Only 200** of these exclusive calendars are printed and at



£5 with envelope they are an absolute bargain. They will be available to buy every Saturday morning at the Pasture, or here at the Martin School Christmas Fair!

Finally, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all!

You can now monitor Pasture activity on Twitter. Please follow: **@LLPasture** Please visit our website:

www.longlanepasture.org

Email: longlanepasture@gmail.com

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This Newsletter is issued by the Long Lane Pasture Trust:
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