



**FRIENDS of
LONG LANE PASTURE**



NEWSLETTER

No 46. Late Summer 2021

Welcome! And here we are again, back at the East Finchley Festival - the Late Summer Social! We were last here in June 2019; that's 27 months ago! And all caused by the devastating Covid-19 pandemic, & we trust everyone is still taking adequate precautions to avoid transmission of what still persists.

What a year we've had on the Pasture! After an early welcome show of snowdrops during the mild winter, there was the most extensive covering of snow in January allowing some excellent snowscapes to be taken. Then in February we had rain & more rain with



unworkable mud & standing water everywhere, with the main pond as full as we've ever seen it! Then we also had periods of drought in May and June where the clay soil cracked. But back in March we had UK Power Network come in and dig a massive trench where oily pond used to be. It turns out there are four main electrical cables traversing the Pasture each carrying 33kV feeding the whole of East Finchley! One



of them unfortunately had sprung a leak in a joint which was seeping insulating oil into the soil. Despite the disruption of the excavation, and the sea of mud caused by removing the contaminated soil during yet more wet weather, by the summer there was little sign of the destruction caused. Nature is good at healing.



The new vigorous grass seeds they'd sown masked everything, restoring the path and has given us a new expanse of wild flower meadow where once dense bramble reigned. The oily mystery was finally solved!

Also completed during the winter months was the installation of a new metal shed, constructed near the gazebo to keep our tools in. At the western end a new curved path was cut through the bramble between



Bee Circle and Foxy Corner. This took many hours of cutting and clearing by our volunteers and they finally broke through on Boxing Day! Finally, a Wigloo has been constructed using willow whips planted in a



circle and bent & interweaved to form a crude shelter. This is a living structure & has been a popular feature and talking point on the Pasture, & will grow taller and stronger over the coming years. Hopefully another will be planned & grown soon. Why not come & volunteer?

Wildlife Seen

Because of the dry spring and relatively cool summer, we believe this has resulted in fewer butterflies being



noted on the Pasture this year. While we have seen all twenty of our regular species, it was mostly just a single sighting, & it's the first year we can remember of not seeing any attractive day-flying burnet moths. Dragonflies and damselflies were also scarcer than previous summers, but several species were recorded.

Bird sightings fared better, with all the usual garden birds visiting with their hungry youngsters in tow,



including greenfinch, song thrush, house sparrows & coal tits. In May a noisy reed warbler was seen for several days by the big pond, and at the end of that month on a Saturday afternoon, a nightingale was seen and heard up on the bank by the north circular! A buzzard passed over in June, & the usual woodland birds like, magpies, woodpigeon, jays & carrion crows were ever-present, as were a small flock of starlings.

Moorhen chicks were seen again in the spring & frogs successfully filled our ponds with tadpoles. Newts were seen too, and as usual found sheltering under strategically placed sheets of corrugated iron where bank voles and beetles are regularly discovered.



Pasture 2022 Calendar now available!

Our new 2022 calendar is now available to buy, and can be purchased from our stall at the East Finchley Festival, Sunday, 5th September, or on any Saturday morning from the Pasture from 10am to noon. Each cost £5 and comes in a carded envelope, suitable for posting. Featuring views and wildlife seen at or around the Pasture, it is the twelfth edition we've produced & only 200 have been printed. Demand is high so it's first come first served! That's all until next time, bye!

Long Lane Pasture
Calendar 2022 (12th edition)
Long Lane, Finchley, N3 - opposite Finchley Fire Station (A39)



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

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

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