

# LONG LANE PASTURE TRUST

*Restoring a green space for the local community  
and protecting a haven for wildlife*

Registered Charity: 1122236  
1 Princes Avenue, Finchley, London N3 2DA.

## **ANNUAL REPORT: 1 January – 31 December 2008**

### **Key Objectives**

1. To conserve the environment and in particular Long Lane Pasture in Finchley for the benefit of the public; and,
2. To educate the public in the principles and practice of environmental conservation.

Protection and conservation of the Pasture is being implemented through a Management Plan, agreed with London Borough of Barnet (freehold owner of the land).

The main aims of this Plan are:

- To re-open Long Lane Pasture for public recreation and enjoyment
- To create an environmental resource for local schools
- To encourage children of all ages to visit and benefit from the site
- To clean up the land by removing dumped debris and rubbish
- To restore, enhance and protect the site's wildlife value
- To involve the community and volunteers in management
- To obtain resources to implement the Management Plan.

The charity is wholly run by volunteers and has no paid staff.

### **Achievements**

#### **Re-opening of the Pasture**

By the end of the year the wording for a 25-year lease with London Borough of Barnet had finally been agreed. We anticipate this document being formally signed in the first half of 2009. Without this tenure of the land, we have not yet been able to fully develop public access and put in place the intended programmes for community involvement and environmental education.

However, in anticipation of re-opening the Pasture to the public, paths have been levelled and surfaces improved, and additional seats are now in place (including one dedicated to the memory of Trustee and volunteer Frank Derrett who died in March 2008). A signboard has been purchased and is ready for erection at the entrance gate. The Pasture has been kept free of rubbish, and cleared of litter on a regular basis along the public footpath boundary. Graffiti has been promptly removed from the gate and adjacent fencing.

#### **Involving the Community**

The site has been opened to Friends of the Pasture every Saturday morning, when work parties are in progress. In addition, Friends have been invited to a number of events including an Annual Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April, Wildlife Day on 7<sup>th</sup> June, Butterfly Day on 26<sup>th</sup> July, Blackberry Pick on 16<sup>th</sup> August and Tree Planting Day 29<sup>th</sup> November.



November 2008: Tree Planting Day.



Friends visiting the Pasture on Wildlife Day, June 2008.

The number of registered Friends, nearly all of whom live locally, has risen from 90 to 145 addresses during the year, now representing 245 individuals. Four Newsletters have been issued.

Thirty-two volunteers have worked on the Pasture during the year clocking up over 500 work hours. This effort included two students from Queen Elizabeth's School Barnet on voluntary work placements. The Trust has registered with the national organisation 'V' in an effort to publicise its need for additional local help. In May we showed the local fire station officers (from across the road in Long Lane) around the Pasture, and throughout 2008 welcomed support from The Finchley Society and Barnet Federation of Allotments and Horticultural Societies.



Volunteers have a well-earned coffee break, October 2008

### **Protecting, Restoring, and Enhancing the Wildlife**

Restoration of the meadow grassland has continued with further areas of invasive bramble cleared, and re-growth cut back. Most of the Pasture was flail mown in the autumn and the large amounts of resulting hay hand raked into several big habitat piles. A defined circle of rough grassland remains deliberately uncut as a wildlife refuge. An increase in flowering plants throughout the Pasture is becoming evident after several years of regular grass cutting.

A new hedgerow is being established across the centre of the site. A wide selection of native shrubs has been planted here to provide feeding and nesting sites for birds. A number of trees have been planted in key focal places to increase shelter and cover for wildlife and to enhance the landscape.

Work continued establishing a 'butterfly' border along the walled boundary of the Pasture. A lot of buried rubbish and glass has been removed and plants particularly favoured by insects, bees, moths and butterflies introduced.

The large pond created in 2007 is becoming established and has attracted Canada geese, mallard, wagtails and a heron. Further planting around the margins was undertaken and the embankment landscaped and strengthened. Bridges were built over the ditch feeding into the pond, and the ditch kept clear of vegetation.

Birds at the Pasture are recorded on a regular basis. Goldcrests were observed in 2008 for the first time. It was a poor year for butterflies, but 13 moths were added to our site list. A buttercup survey was conducted, the results of which might indicate if the Pasture is an ancient meadow. A fox family continues to live on the land in a den adjacent to the Northern Line railway, and frogs, toads, newts and dragonflies benefit from our pond management.

### **Financial Review**

Friends of the Pasture have again been very generous in their support for the work of the Trust which is much appreciated. Nearly one thousand pounds was donated during the year, one third of this for a memorial to Frank Derrett (plaques for seat and oak tree). In addition, a grant towards running costs over the next three years was received from the North West London Community Foundation ('Grassroots' fund) for which we are very grateful. Balances remaining from previous year's grant awards were expended during 2008 on fencing, trees, entrance noticeboard and on the purchase of a lifebuoy to be sited near the main pond.

A healthy balance of funds is in hand at the year end. Unrestricted funds include designation of £1,000 including the legal fees we expect to pay to London Borough of Barnet to secure the lease.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Long Lane Pasture Trust is governed by a Trust deed. It became a registered charity with the Charity Commission in January 2008. The Trust is governed by its board of Trustees, who appoint members to it and manage the charity.

One of our Trustees, Frank Derrett, sadly died in March 2008. The remaining Trustees are: Wayne Armsby (appointed May 2006, Treasurer), Ann Brown (Chairman, appointed May 2006), Janett Durrant (appointed April 2008), and Dennis Pepper (appointed November 2007, Vice Chairman).

A Management Committee meets monthly to run day to day activities including the Pasture's detailed work programme and activities. Jan Andersson, Linda Dolata, Maureen Delandro, and Derek Warren are members of this Committee, in addition to the Trustees. A Site Risk Assessment and Emergency Action Plan was approved in October 2008.

The Long Lane Pasture Trust subscribes to BTCV as an associated group and is a member of Barnet Voluntary Service Council.

### **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Report for 2008.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_