

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. www.longlanepasture.org

ANNUAL REPORT: 1 January – 31 December 2010

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 the 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

Public Opening of the Pasture

The Pasture was open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from the 3 April 2010. Earlier in the year access was restricted to Saturday mornings because capital works were being completed and, after heavy rain, the land was flooded in many places. Altogether an estimated 1,350 visits were made to the Pasture in 2010. A second pedestrian entrance gate was installed next to the railway bridge and new fencing completed. Two additional seats were provided, one on the embankment where a wide view of the Pasture is ideal for bird watching, and a second donated in memory of Eileen Thomas near the small pond. We welcomed Barnet Councillors to an informal reception on 19 June to mark the first anniversary of our leasehold of the land.



Involving the Community

We were delighted to host 58 children on two visits from Akiva School in June. A number of events were organised: a popular Pond Day on 17 April, a Bird Walk on 1 May, a Wildflower Day on 19 June, and Tree Planting Day on 27 November. The Blackberry Pick, held over several weekends from 14th August, was once again well supported by local residents.

The number of registered Friends, nearly all of whom live locally now stands at 265 addresses, representing over 600 individuals. The continued support of The Finchley Society and the Barnet

Federation of Allotments and Horticultural Societies was much appreciated. Two Newsletters and an events programme have been issued. Our website has been updated with latest news and photographs. We distributed 5,000 leaflets to the surrounding neighbourhood.

Despite snow in January and December, sixty seven volunteers have worked on the Pasture during the year clocking up over 646 work hours. This effort included a volunteer working for her Duke of Edinburgh's Award, five volunteers from Queen Elizabeth's School Barnet, and 36 volunteers from the New North London Synagogue who worked with us on 21 November for Mitzvah Day. We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has given up their time to help with both regular and special projects in 2010.

Protecting, Restoring and Enhancing the Wildlife

Further small areas of bramble were cleared back on the grassland, and major patches cleared from the embankment. The effort to prevent extensive re-growth continued. Most of the Pasture was flail mown in October and resulting hay hand raked into habitat piles. Grass paths were regularly cut during the spring and summer. Wildflowers cover the grassland in early summer; grasshoppers and spiders are plentiful in late summer. Over 20 wasp spiders were recorded. Work continued establishing the 'butterfly border'



along the walled boundary with Long Lane, with further areas planted to attract butterflies and varied insects. A beehive has been set up. Snowdrops, bluebells and shrubs have been planted on the embankment, rare wildflower seed sown, and further hedgerow trees introduced. Encroaching bulrushes and waterweed were cleared using two donated canoes. A new bird feeding station was established after destruction of the previous bird table by vandals. A floating island refuge in the middle of the large pond was launched in February (particularly for ducks to escape the attention of foxes). Moorhens bred on the pond for the first time. Litter was cleared on a regular basis.

Financial Review

Friends of the Pasture and visitors have again been very generous in their support which is much appreciated. We rely on such donations to protect and manage the Pasture. We were particularly grateful to The City Bridge Trust for their funding of the new fencing and to North London Community Foundation for supporting our running costs with a Grassroots grant. We also wish to thank those who donated canoes, plants, seeds, and shrubs, and a new seat.

A healthy balance of funds is in hand at the year end, though some of this is ear-marked for special projects. We wish to continue to build up a contingency fund (currently standing at £2,500, but aiming for £5,000) to meet unexpected or emergency expenditure which may arise from time to time.

Structure, Governance and Management

Long Lane Pasture Trust is governed by a Trust deed. It is a registered charity with a Board of Trustees, who appoint members to it and manage the charity. Trustees in 2010 were Ann Brown (Chairman), Dennis Pepper (Vice Chairman), Wayne Armsby (Treasurer), Janett Durrant, and Maureen Delandro. Janett Durrant resigned in January when we welcomed Maureen Delandro to replace her.

A Management Committee meets monthly to run day to day activities including the Pasture's detailed work programme and activities. In addition to the Trustees, Jan Andersson, Linda Dolata, Donald Lyven and Derek Warren served on this during 2010. Derek resigned in April and was replaced by Donald.

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 2010.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Name Ann Brown Signature ABrown

Position Chairman Date 17 March 2011