

LONG LANE PASTURE TRUST

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

Registered Charity Number 1122236

1 Princes Avenue, Finchley, London N3 2DA. www.longlanepasture.org

ANNUAL REPORT: 1 January – 31 December 2012

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



2012 was a special year – it is 100 years since this land was purchased by Finchley Urban District Council for public recreation and enjoyment. On the very date of the centenary, a cold blustery 22 February, Barnet's Mayor planted a commemorative oak tree on the Pasture in the presence of 36 Friends and supporters. The tree also remembered Octavia Hill (1838-1912), a founder of the National Trust, who lived nearby for much of her childhood. A representative of the National Trust, who spoke at the event, thought it likely that she found life-long inspiration from the Pasture and its neighbouring fields.

The Pasture was open to the public nearly every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday and this year we extended opening to Thursdays during the summer months. There were some occasions when it was closed due to snow or heavy rain. The very wet weather through late spring and summer meant fewer people were inclined to visit or pick blackberries, but we are pleased to report that 1,510 visits were made in 2012. On 9 and 10 June we once again took part in the London Open Gardens Weekend.

For the first time Long Lane Pasture gained a prestigious Community Green Flag Award - the national award for well-managed, high quality green spaces. The Pasture was one of 43 community green flags awarded across London, and this year the only one in London Borough of Barnet. We also entered the RHS London in Bloom Campaign and obtained a Level 5 (Outstanding) 'It's Your Neighbourhood Award'.

Involving the Community



We welcomed visits from Akiva, Manorside and Tudor Schools and the Old Barn Pre-School. Altogether 318 schoolchildren came to the Pasture in 2012 – an increase on 2011, despite some cancellations due to wet weather. A number of special events were organised: Pond Day on 14th April, combined with sowing wildflowers to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee (*see left*), a Spiders, Bees and Bugs Day on 8 September and a Tree Day on 1 December. Blackberry pickers were welcomed throughout August and September

The number of registered Friends now stands at 348 addresses, representing approximately 550 individuals. We received a boost in support from our stand at the East Finchley Christmas Festival. Three newsletters and an events programme have been issued. Our website has been regularly updated. A new sign was made by Talbots of Long Lane to encourage passers-by to visit, and a sandwich board with leaflets now stands on the footpath by the main gate when the Pasture is open.



To celebrate the Pasture's centenary, an Art & Photographic Competition was organised. Over 100 entries were submitted featuring the Pasture through the seasons in this special year. In October an exhibition of these was held at the Finchley Arts Depot. This proved to be a popular event at which we sold many of the pictures to benefit the Pasture. Our thanks go to everyone who participated to make it such a success.

Thirty three volunteers have worked for us during the year clocking up over 678 work hours. We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has given up their time to help us in 2012.

Protecting, Restoring and Enhancing the Wildlife

Patches of bramble have been cleared from the embankment where shrubs and trees have been weeded and mulched. We planted more snowdrops here – those already established put on a fine display. Brambles have also been cut back to prevent their spread into the main grassland areas. Wildflowers covered the grassland in early summer and wasp spiders were again found here in late summer, along with lots of grasshoppers. Yellow rattle seed was sown to enhance meadow areas and suppress vigorous grasses. A series of information notices was again placed around the Pasture and remained there all summer long. Grass paths were regularly cut during the spring and summer and most of the Pasture was flail mown in the autumn. Hay was then raked up by hand – this took a long time. We were very appreciative of the stalwart help with this from Councillors Jim Tierney, Anne Hutton, Arjun Mittra and Alison Moore on 17 November, Mitzvah Day. Work continued improving and extending the butterfly border, with more planting to attract a variety of insects. Encroaching bulrushes and waterweed were cleared from the large pond, with ducks present there for some of the year but not staying to breed. Litter was removed and sorted for recycling on a regular basis. Foxes were observed on a regular basis. On 28 January nine different birds were counted for the Big Garden Birdwatch.

Financial Review

Friends of the Pasture and visitors have again been very supportive which is much appreciated. Donations are slightly down on 2011 largely due to the wet summer, leading to a small excess of expenditure (£384) over income at the year end. Those who are regular supporters with a Bankers Order are particularly thanked – we do need more of these generous supporters. The remaining grant from Awards for All, carried over from 2011, was spent on a splendid 'vista sign' which will be erected in 2012. Our 2013 calendar, featuring some of the competition entries, made a useful profit.

The Trust's contingency fund fell slightly to £3,346. This includes our reserve to meet unexpected or emergency expenditure which may arise from time to time. We aim to increase this to £5,000, in addition to raising the level of donations in the year ahead.

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 2012 were Ann Brown (Chairman), Dennis Pepper (Vice Chairman), Wayne Armsby (Treasurer) and Maureen Delandro. A Management Committee meets monthly to run day to day activities including the Pasture's work programme and activities. In addition to the Trustees, the following were members of the Committee in 2012: Linda Dolata, Donald Lyven, Harriet Copperman and Jan Andersson (who resigned on 19th December after 5 years' service for which we are very grateful).

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Report for 2012.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Name Ann Brown Signature A. Brown
Position Chairman Date 20 February 2013