

LONG LANE PASTURE TRUST

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

ANNUAL REPORT: 1 January – 31 December 2013

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 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 the site and benefit from it
- To clean up the land by removing dumped debris and rubbish
- To restore, enhance and protect the site's wildlife
- To involve the community and volunteers in the management of the site
- To obtain the resources needed to implement the Management Plan.

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

Achievements

Long Lane Pasture has continued to thrive and develop during the year. Except in the winter months it is now open to the public every day of the week from 10.00 a.m. until dusk. In the winter, when it is frequently flooded, it is open on Saturday mornings for the Management Committee and volunteers to do essential maintenance work and prepare for the coming year.

In June Mike Freer, M.P. for Finchley and Golders Green, officially unveiled our new panoramic Vista sign. Designed by Chris Brown, it is located at the highest point in the Pasture, and clearly shows Pentland Lakeside, the Artsdepot at Tally Ho! and the Finchley Memorial Hospital among other notable Finchley landmarks. The sign was paid for by a grant from Awards for All (The Big Lottery) and installed by volunteers.



For the second year running Long Lane Pasture has received the prestigious Community Green Flag Award for achieving the highest possible standards in well-maintained community spaces. We also entered the RHS's London in Bloom scheme and again obtained level 5 (Outstanding) in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category, the only site in Barnet to receive this award.

Involving the Community



bees and bugs. New discoveries lead to much curiosity and excitement.

The Management Committee organized stalls at the East Finchley Community Festival held in Cherry Tree Woods in June and the Christmas Festival in December. They attracted considerable interest and we sold plants, honey, books and calendars as appropriate and distributed Newsletters and information leaflets gaining several new Friends and a respectable increase to our funds in the process.



Protecting and enhancing wildlife

The Pasture was exceptionally wet during the winter with overflowing ponds flooding footpaths and much of the Butterfly Border. At other times snow and ice made maintenance work difficult: hay cut in October was not finally gathered in until mid February.

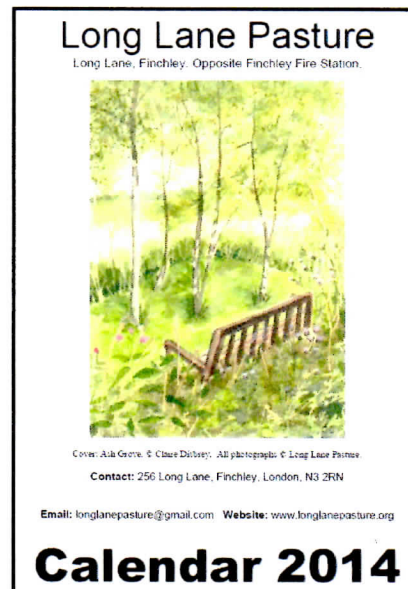
On a cold 25 January we recorded twelve species for the Big Garden Birdwatch. Though this was an improvement on the previous year's nine birds and did include a fieldfare, we were disappointed by the modest number. However, by late spring it was clear that bird life on the Pasture continues to flourish: breeding birds include blackbird, dunnock, greenfinch, robin, song thrush and long-tailed tit. For the first time moorhens established their right to the big pond, though not all their chicks survived.



Financial Review

Donations from Friends were slightly down on last year but we also received donations from Rowse's Honey and Waitrose's Community Matters. A grant from the Panton Trust enabled us to build up our reserves. Sales of the 2014 Calendar and a remarkably large amount of honey from the hardworking bees in the apiary were welcome additions.

We ended the year with a cash balance of £4903, a considerable improvement on 2012 and only slightly short of the £5000 target we had set ourselves.



Structure, Governance and Management

Long Lane Pasture is governed by Trust Deed. It is a registered charity with a Board of Trustees who appoint members to it and manage the charity. Day to day oversight of the Pasture is provided by the Management Committee, which includes trustees.

In August Ann Brown resigned as Chairman of the Trust because she and her husband were moving to a village in Leicestershire. It was largely due to her energy and commitment that Long Lane Pasture was 'rescued' from a proposed housing development and obtained first a licence then a lease from the London Borough of Barnet and established itself as a charitable trust.

In the subsequent re-allocation of responsibilities Dennis Pepper was appointed Chairman, Harriet Copperman Vice-Chairman, Wayne Armsby Treasurer, Maureen Delandro Minuting Secretary and Donald Lyven Publicity.

Declaration

The Trustees have declared that they have approved the report for 2013

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Name Dennis Pepper Signature [Handwritten Signature]

Position Chairman Date 20.3.2014