

# LONG LANE PASTURE TRUST

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

## **ANNUAL REPORT: 1 January – 31 December 2014**

### **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:

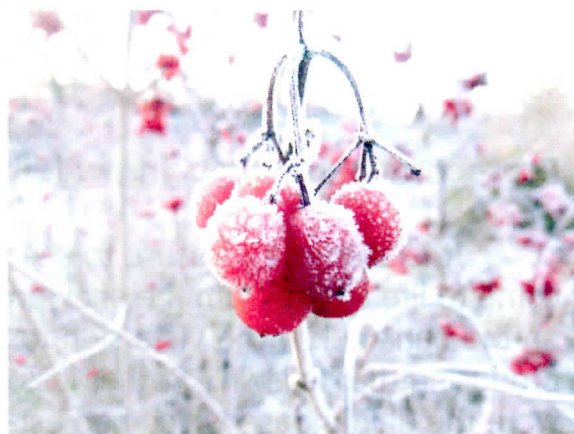
- To keep Long Lane Pasture open for public recreation and enjoyment
- To create an environmental resource for local schools
- To encourage children of all ages to visit the site and benefit from it
- To clean up the land by removing dumped debris and rubbish
- To restore, enhance and protect the site's 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**

We have continued the practice, begun last year, of opening the Pasture every day from 10.00 a.m. until dusk except during winter months when it is often flooded. This decision has led to an increase in litter and a certain amount of minor vandalism but trustees think it is worth persevering nevertheless.

The Pasture *is* open, however, on Saturday mornings in winter for the Management team and volunteers to carry out essential maintenance work and prepare the Pasture for the coming year.



Eighteen months ago we had a people counter installed to give us a better idea of the number of visitors. It didn't work, but one of our volunteers had a good look at it over the winter and got it started. It tells us that March and November, our 'worst' months, each had approximately 300 visitors. In the four summer months, June to September, over 7,000 visitors were recorded – a gratifying figure.



We have revised our publicity leaflets and are in the process of updating our website. The LLP *Newsletter* is published quarterly.



This year, as last, Long Lane Pasture received the prestigious Green Flag award for sustainability and community involvement and was again placed in level 5 (Outstanding) in the RHS 'London in Bloom' scheme. No other green space in Barnet received such awards.

### **Involving the Community**

Our regular volunteers and young people involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme were supplemented this year by volunteers from the National Citizen Service, an organization that engages 16 and 17 year olds in various forms of practical work which they can enter on their CVs. After much preliminary discussion 60 young citizens with their leaders arrived one day late in September to help in whatever way they could. This was the largest group of volunteers we had had at any one time but they fitted in well and undertook many tasks that occur at the back end: getting in the hay, cutting back brambles, clearing ditches, and so on. Five huge bags of sharp sand had been delivered at the main gates for us earlier in the week and one group undertook to move the contents by bucket and wheelbarrow to where we wanted it inside the Pasture, a task that would have taken our usual volunteers many Saturdays.



As in previous years the Management Committee arranged for stalls at the East Finchley festivals where we sold plants, seeds, books, preserves (including honey) and our annual calendar. As well as adding to our funds we also 'signed up' several new supporters.

### **Protecting and enhancing wildlife**

It is always a pleasure to see the Pasture come to life again, from the snowdrops and aconites on the bank below the Vista sign to frogs and newts producing their spawn. Rather less predictable were the field mouse which had established its new home in the bird food bin and the leeches in the big pond where the dragonflies and damselflies mate and produce their offspring. Later in the year the big pond is cleared of bulrushes to prevent them from taking over entirely and annuals in the butterfly border are cut back.





Two of our hives of bees didn't survive the harsh winter but the remaining colony is very active and has been split in two so we remain optimistic for them.

### Financial Review

This year we were delighted to receive a grant of £4,000 from the People's Postcode Lottery to enable us to buy a Ride-on Mower and trailer and a Brushcutter both with their necessary spares and extras. These will help us to keep all the many paths mowed making it easier for visitors to walk round (and children to run) and to deal more effectively with the brambles and other invasive species.



We also received a further grant of £2,000 from the Panton Trust which we plan to use to buy much needed new tools and equipment as well as continuing to build up our reserves.

We are very grateful to them, as we are to our regular donors and visitors including the bramblers in the summer who drop donations into the box by the main gate.

Donations from Friends and supporters were slightly down on 2013 but our cash balance at the end of the year was a very healthy £6,794.

### 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. Trustees in 2014 were Dennis Pepper (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 2014

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees

Name Dennis Pepper Signature [Handwritten Signature]  
Position Chairman Date 25.03.2015