

# LONG LANE PASTURE TRUST

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

Registered Charity Number 1122236

256 Long Lane, Finchley, London N3 [www.longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org) Twitter: @LLPasture

## **ANNUAL REPORT: 1 January - 31 December 2017**

### **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.

### **The main aims of our Trust are:**

- To continue keeping 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 our objectives

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

### **Achievements**

The Pasture was open to the public most Saturday's during the past year, when the weather was dry and the Pasture not flooded, the Pasture was opened daily from Easter until late autumn; closing around sunset.

For the sixth year in a row Long Lane Pasture gained a prestigious Community Green Flag Award - the national award for well-managed, high quality green spaces. The Pasture again being the only one to obtain a Community Green Flag Awarded in the London Borough of Barnet. We also entered the RHS London in Bloom Campaign and again obtained an Outstanding 'It's Your Neighbourhood Award'.

### **Involving the Community**

We continued our involvement with the National Citizen Service and the students enjoyed their time with us and also raised some money as part of their tasks. Once again pupils from local schools have chosen the Pasture to do nature studies and some youths volunteered as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

We also welcomed visits from Barnet GoodGym, who celebrated their first anniversary with us, and we held our 'event days' on certain date's each month including: Pond Day, Dawn Chorus, Bugs & pollinators Day, Tree Day and several Butterfly counts and moth trap evenings. Blackberry pickers were welcomed throughout August and September, and left welcomed donations in the collecting post at the entrance to the Pasture.

The number of registered Friends continues to rise and our Newsletter is sent out by email to our Friends and other local groups, with a few paper copies printed for those not on-line. We received more Friends supporting us from our stands at the East Finchley Summer Festival in Cherry Tree Woods; and at the Martin School Christmas Fair, in East Finchley. We also had a stall at the locally held Fun Palace event in October, where a variety of local charities, literary, artists and science based groups disseminated knowledge, in Oak Lane, N2. Four editions of the Newsletter were published and an events list is produced at the beginning of the year. Our website has been updated, and will hopefully receive a major makeover in the New Year.

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

Bramble control continues to be carried out, with any seen growing out of the prescribed areas dug out at the roots whenever possible. The trees on the bank are annually weeded and mulched and undergrowth cleared to enable wood anemones and snowdrops to increase their presence. Those already established put on a good display in the spring.

Wild flowers appear on the main areas of grassland in spring and summer giving encouragement to bees and other pollinators. 21 species of butterfly were seen on the Pasture during the warmer months, two more than in 2016; with emphasis on several grassland species in great profusion during July and August, with 5 spot burnet and cinnabar moths also on the wing.

Moorhens again produced a clutch of chicks on the main pond, with other birds, including grey heron, mallard and grey wagtail particularly attracted to the water. The bird feeders enticed many garden species including house sparrows, greenfinch, goldfinch and chaffinch; with blue tits, great tits, and a family of long-tailed tits nesting in the brambles. Two new species seen were reed warblers, in the autumn, and a brown hawk dragonfly, that also appeared in the 8<sup>th</sup> edition LLP 2018 Calendar that was sold during December. Grass paths were regularly mown during the spring and summer, and work continues in levelling pathways by filling in the hollows. Much of the Pasture was strimmed and raked in the autumn. Hay was then raked up by hand by our stalwart volunteers and organised groups of helpers.

### **Financial Review**

Friends of the Pasture and visitors have again been supportive which is much appreciated. Direct donations from the money box by the main gate has again proved a useful income stream as well as our annual calendar sales.

We received a generous donation of £2000 from the Panton Trust during the year, which helps with enhancing the Pasture with an increasing range of indigenous flora and fauna species, and purchasing equipment.

Although we are entirely run by volunteers who liberally give their time; tool maintenance, public liability insurance, fuel and maintenance for the machinery used and bird food are continual costs, which thankfully are currently covered by donated income.

We continue to hold a useful reserve to meet any unexpected or emergency expenditure which may arise from time to time. We aim to increase this reserve gradually if able to, each year in addition to raising the level of donations in the years ahead with our increased number of Friends.

## **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 appoints members to it and manage the charity. In 2017 we welcomed Robert Callaghan as a new Trustee.

A Management Committee also meets monthly to run day-to-day activities including the Pasture's weekly work programme. The following serve on the current Committee and also volunteer most Saturdays. The Pasture is only the successful venture it has become due to the continued dedication of these members, namely: Wayne Armsby, Harriet Copperman, Maureen Delandro, Linda Dolata, Donald Lyven and Oliver Kane.

Wayne was also awarded a Civic Award from the Mayor of Barnet in March, for his dedication to the work he has done for the Pasture over nearly two decades.

## **Summary**

Long Lane Pasture continues to be enjoyed by the residents of Finchley, as an oasis of calm in a busy world, and a green lung in a city increasingly troubled by air pollution alerts. We continue to publicise our work through articles in local Newspapers (The Hendon Times and The Archer) on the Website ([longlanepasture.org](http://longlanepasture.org)) and by regular updates via our Twitter account (@LLPasture).

Our lively Newsletter also has a wide readership, containing many photographs of the activities and wildlife seen at the Pasture.

The Trustees and Committee are lucky to have dedicated members, and a growing list of Friends who want to see the success of the Pasture continue into the future. We maintain wholehearted support from the local Council, and our continued achievement of repeatedly receiving a Green Flag Award is testament to the cleanliness and well maintained character of the Pasture.

## **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Report for 2017.

Signed on behalf of the Long Lane Pasture Trustees:

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

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