

# FRIENDS *of* LONG LANE PASTURE

## NEWSLETTER

No. 17 March 2011

*Pasture now open every Saturday and Sunday: 10am – 5pm, and bank holidays*

### *New Grant from the Lottery*

Great News! The Pasture has recently been awarded an ‘**Awards for All**’ grant (a fund of the Big Lottery) of nearly **£10,000** which will enable us to complete most of the capital works outlined in the Management Plan. We can now put up a noticeboard and a panoramic sign interpreting the extensive view over Finchley at the new pedestrian gate by the railway bridge, remove an area polluted by dumped oil which is seeping down a main path killing the grass, install visitor counters, and buy more wildlife plants for the butterfly border and embankment.

### *Winter Wildlife*

The new bird feeding station is proving very popular with many small birds including **robins, blue and great tits, chaffinches, and house sparrows**. Winter visitors have included **redwings** and several flocks of **waxwings**. A **snipe** flew up from the grass in January – a first for the Pasture. A pair of ducks (**mallard**) are now on the pond nearly every day seriously investigating the floating island as a suitable nesting site. A **sparrowhawk** and **green woodpecker** are seen on a regular basis. **Hazel** and **willow** catkins are blooming. **Frogspawn** has now appeared in ditches and ponds – you can find out more about the Pasture’s pond life on 16<sup>th</sup> April (see over for all **2011 special events**).



*Snowdrops on the embankment*

### *Winning at Waitrose*

Long Lane Pasture is one of three charities to benefit from the Community Matters scheme at **Waitrose, Ballards Lane, North Finchley** during **March 2011**. Customers at the store are given tokens at the checkout (make sure to ask for these if not offered) and can then choose which of three charities to support. In proportion to the tokens allocated during the month, £1,000 is donated to the good causes. Please support us by taking part in this great fundraising opportunity.

### *Up the Workers!*

The autumn and winter months are when we undertake a lot of management work on the Pasture. The **grass has been flail mowed** then hay removed to keep down brambles, new areas of bramble have been **cleared from the embankment**, more **trees and shrubs planted** and existing plants **weeded and mulched**. **Bulrushes** were thinned from the pond. **Flowering plants** have been added to the Butterfly Border. **A huge thank you to everyone who has helped**. But, we do need more help – it’s not just physical work.

*If you have changed your e-mail address, now wish to receive this Newsletter electronically or are willing to volunteer, please get in touch: [enquiries@longlanepasture.org](mailto:enquiries@longlanepasture.org)*

**For our Report on 2010 visit our website: [www.longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org)**

# LONG LANE PASTURE EVENTS FOR 2011

**April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday**  
10am – 5pm

## **Pond Life**

There should be plenty of tadpoles, plus newts, water beetles, pond skaters, and all sorts of other pond life to discover. We may even find a few sticklebacks. Pond trays, nets and help with identification will be on hand.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday**  
10am – 5pm

## **Wildflower Day**

The Pasture will be full of wildflowers and looking at its best. This is a brilliant time to visit! Come and enjoy the meadow trail which will wind around the site and lead you to plants of particular interest.

**June 11 & 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday &  
Sunday**  
10am – 5pm

## **London Open Garden Squares Weekend**

We are the only site in Barnet taking part in this event where gardens, squares and hidden spaces in all parts of London are open to the public. We will be providing information, guided walks, a display, and refreshments. Visitors will be asked to purchase a ticket, which gives access to all places taking part and helps support the London Parks and Gardens Trust and Long Lane Pasture Trust.

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Saturday**  
10am – 5pm

## **Butterfly Day in National Butterfly Week**

This is a special event focusing on the Pasture's butterflies. We may have caterpillars and moths to show you too! There will be help on hand to help with identification and record what you see and to help build up our sightings list.

**August +**

**Saturdays &  
Sundays**  
10am – 5pm

## **Blackberry Pick**

A chance to pick your own local blackberries. We have a huge crop to harvest, and still leave plenty for the birds and beasts. Bring your own containers and baskets, if possible, – though we have a few available for you if not. A donation in return for your pickings is appreciated.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday**  
10am – 12 noon

## **Moths**

We are taking part in European Moth Night, looking at moths from our moth trap run overnight. We have 80 different moths on our site list and are looking to increase our records. This event will be postponed in the event of bad weather.

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday**  
10am – 5pm

## **Spiders, Bees and Bugs**

In the early autumn the Pasture is alive with grasshoppers, spiders and other creatures living in the long grass. This is a chance to find out more about these small creatures, to observe the beautiful wasp spiders and how our resident bees are getting on.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Saturday**  
10am – 12 noon

## **Tree Planting**

We will be planting shrubs, trees and bulbs on the embankment as part of National Tree Planting Week. Everything provided, but we need volunteers to make it all happen – come along and help.

*Visit our website: [www.longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org)*

This Newsletter is issued by the Long Lane Pasture Trust, 1 Princes Avenue, Finchley, N3 2DA  
Registered Charity No: 1122236