

FRIENDS *of* LONG LANE PASTURE

NEWSLETTER

No. 21 June 2012

EXTENDED OPENING

Pasture now open all day Thursday, plus weekends and bank holidays from 10am – dusk.

Celebrating our Centenary

We are inviting all our Friends to celebrate the centenary of the Pasture's acquisition as an open space (by Finchley Urban District Council in 1912) on **Sunday 15th July from 5pm**. Come along to enjoy the Pasture at its best in good company! There will be refreshments, special guests and guided tours.

A Centenary Appeal has been launched (see enclosed) to help raise money we urgently need to continue to care for and protect this special greenspace. We have no regular income so rely on donations to meet essential expenditure such as mowing the grassland, insurance, tools and equipment. If you could sign up to make a regular payment this would be enormously appreciated. But we are grateful for any donation you might be able to make. We are able to reclaim tax on sums given to us – please consider signing up to this because it makes your gift go so much further at no extra cost to you.

2012 News

On the morning of 14th April wildflower seed was sown in front of a 'specially invited audience'. We couldn't expect the real royals to turn up, so had the next best thing – local visitors playing an important part in our Jubilee event. The dedicated area, encircled by Union Jack bunting, is where soil had been put following excavation of a small pond and is next to the main seating area. On 13th July the Pasture will be judged for Britain in Bloom.



On 9th and 10th June the Pasture took part in the annual London Open Gardens and Squares weekend welcoming visitors from all over the capital. We have had visits from children at Manorside and Akiva Schools and from the The Old Barn Pre-School Group. Some visits have had to be postponed because of the exceptionally wet weather. This has led to extensive flooding and a waterlogged butterfly border, enjoyed by slugs and snails – just one plant had 32 snails munching away! The nature trail signs are now all in place to guide and inform as you walk around., and all the seats have been cleaned.

Don't Forget our Photo and Art Competition

This is a reminder to all artists and photographers to enter our Centenary Competition with the aim of creating a visual record of the Pasture through the seasons. The Competition is open to everyone but must be photographs, painting or drawings of Long Lane Pasture in 2012. Entries will be displayed in an exhibition at the Arts Depot, North Finchley, during October 2012. Entry form is on our website.

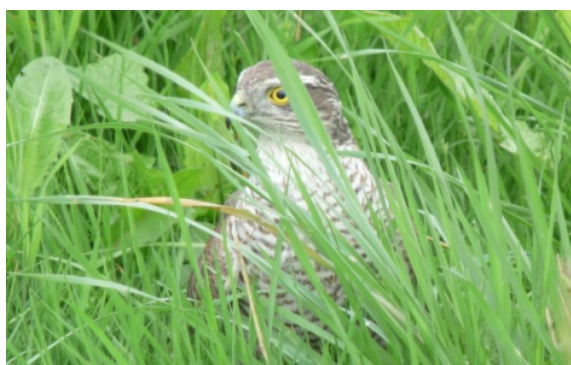
If you have changed your e-mail address, now wish to receive this Newsletter electronically or would like to volunteer, please get in touch: enquiries@longlanepasture.org

We'd love to hear from you

Flowers Survive on the Pasture

We have been given a list of wild flowers dating from 1920 collected by children from the local primary school (on Squires Lane) for their nature table. In a few short weeks on their way to school, they gathered 57 species as they flowered in local lanes, fields, hedges, banks and ditches. The pupils who did this were named. Maybe someone reading this is a descendant of Kitty Saunders, Fred Barker, Doris Wright, Doreen Mellor, George Stanford, Eva Robinson, Harry Pike, D Embleton, Stanley Sharpe, Mabel Sag, Nellie Selves, Lily Beadle, Sybil Cook, Irene Spear, and Gladys Cul? The children would be about 100 years old now. We have checked through the plants collected and we have most of them on the Pasture: honeysuckle, knapweed, primroses, cowslips, Queen Anne's lace, lungwort, Jack-by-the-hedge, ladies smock and so on. One plant we have lost is the 'early orchid'. Some of them, such as cowslips, we have re-introduced to the Pasture and they are doing well where they grew many years ago. The Pasture is full of flowers in June and early July – come and see for yourself!

Wildlife Report



This sparrowhawk (*photo left*) was spotted on 14th April hiding in the long grass with its prey – a starling. A moorhen is nesting on the large pond, but as yet there are no ducklings this year. Whitethroats are again nesting in the brambles. It is good to note that slowworms are still present having emerged from hibernation; our first slowworm appears to have been eaten by our fox. In springtime there were plenty of orange tip and holly blue butterflies on the wing. Ferns are doing well by the embankment seat- they appreciate the wet weather!

EVENTS FOR 2012

July 14th

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 forms to record what you see which will enable us build up our sightings list.

August 4th

Saturday

10am – 5pm

Blackberry Pick Begins with Wild Food Event

The Pasture will be open for harvesting blackberries from now until early September. We ask for a donation in return for any blackberries picked. Bring your own container.

September 8th

Saturday

10am – 5pm

Spiders, Bees and Bugs

The Pasture is by now alive with grasshoppers, spiders and other creatures. This is a chance to find out more about these small animals, to observe the beautiful wasp spiders and find out how our resident bees are getting on.

December 1st

Saturday

10am-12noon

Tree Day

We will be planting, weeding and tending our trees during National Tree Planting Week. Everything provided, but we need volunteers to make it all happen. Please don't bring any trees of your own for planting.

Visit our website: www.longlanepasture.org

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

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