

**FRIENDS of  
LONG LANE PASTURE**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
No 25. Late Autumn 2013

Hello, and welcome to another edition of our Newsletter, with new editor Donald Lyven. As autumn slips away and winter begins to bite, it's time to look back on another excellent year for Long Lane Pasture. But first, here is a message from our **Chairman**:

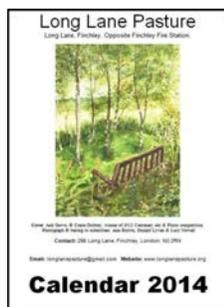
*At one time Barnet displayed large maps proudly showing its green spaces. One of these puzzled local resident Ann Brown, so she investigated. What she found - an abandoned, overgrown field with plenty of dumped rubbish - is the reason why you are reading this Newsletter.*

*An articulate and determined campaigner for wildlife, she helped to establish the London Wildlife Trust and chaired the Barnet Group for several years. Here in Finchley was an opportunity not to be missed. She and her husband Andrew, gathered together a group of like-minded local residents, some of whom worked on the neighbouring allotments, and saw off an attempt to build flats on the site; then persuaded Barnet Council to give them first a licence, then a lease to establish what is now Long Lane Pasture.*

*Ann & Andrew have moved out of London to a village in Leicestershire. They leave the Pasture in good shape. We rely, as always, on the strength of local support for what we are doing. Volunteers do the work and donations and grants provide the funding. Long Lane Pasture continues to flourish.*

**Dennis Pepper**

Indeed, the people of Finchley owe them both a great deal for their dogged determination to save the Pasture, and they leave behind a beautiful and necessary restful green space in Finchley for the enjoyment of its residents. Important tasks done by Ann have been distributed amongst other members of the Committee, while the breadth of habitat and species discovered increases with each year. The Long Lane



Pasture Calendar for 2014, with 48 photographs, is almost like a check-list for the variety of creatures that may be noted over the seasons. Out soon, £5.

***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

**Recent works.**

When the original large pond was dug, much of the spoil was placed to the west of the excavation. Whilst this was not a problem for most walkers, to get to the rest of the pasture, the main path sloped up before dropping down to the main body of the Pasture.



Elsewhere, the low path immediately to the west of the main gate near Long Lane, used to disappear under a seasonal lake if autumn & winter were very

wet. After much deliberation and mathematical calculation, it was decided to rectify these two areas by moving soil from the raised area to the flood prone one.

The work was carried out late summer in a day using a digger & dumper truck. As with any major ground works, it looked



terrible and both areas are muddy and slippery when wet; so please be careful. However, once the soil has



settled, the grass grows, the paths re-established, and the plants return, we hope by next summer to make it easier for buggies

and wheelchairs to access the Pasture, and the flooding problem to have disappeared.

**Bees on the Pasture**

Many of you will be aware of the various difficulties there are these days for the bee species, and especially the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). With such a long and severe winter it was a tense time waiting to see whether the bee colonies on the Pasture had survived ó and fortunately they had. This spring, though late, the bees had managed to build up their numbers to coincide with the blossoms and they feasted on willow and blackberry and foraged busily on the allotments. The result was that in late July about 75lbs of delicious honey was extracted. A limited amount will be for sale on our stall at the **East Finchley Winter Festival on Saturday 7 December. Harriet Copperman**



## Featured Plant – Guelder Rose



This shrub is native to the UK and grows throughout Europe. Its name comes from the Dutch province of Gelderland. It is deciduous; the leaves turning a wonderful red in autumn. When in bloom, it has a ring of outer

sterile flowers surrounding a centre of fertile flowers; these are pollinated by insects. The shiny bright red fruit is much loved by birds, but very acidic and mildly toxic to humans. It grows in hedgerows, preferring moist clay soils. We have a patch of this colourful plant on the east side of the large pond.



## Our New Vista Sign

It was a glorious summer's afternoon on Sunday 30 June, our annual Reception Day when we also publicly unveiled the panoramic vista sign; designed by Chris Brown and paid for with a grant from Awards for All

(The Big Lottery). We thank Mike Freer MP for coming to do the honours, and everyone enjoyed the wine, tasty nibbles and meeting many Friends of the Pasture.



The work to install the sign was all done by volunteers. It was placed on the highest point of the Pasture on what is named Octavia Hill, after the great social reformer and founder of the National Trust. Octavia once lived in the area and may have played on the Pasture as a child.

## Green Flag Award

We are proud to announce that for a second year running, Long Lane Pasture has gained a prestigious Community Green Flag Award - a national award for well managed, high quality green spaces by voluntary and community groups. Long Lane Pasture was also classed as Outstanding in the RHS London in Bloom competition in the Champions of It's Your Neighbourhood criteria. Well done to everyone for your hard work.

## Oily Pond

Visitors to the Pasture will know about the oily pond. This was a patch of ground that suffered repeated dumping of sump oil during the years the pasture was neglected. After much digging out in repeated attempts to remove the polluted soil and water, a pond liner has been laid down to isolate any remaining contamination from the surrounding ground. The new round pond created will be deep enough to survive even hot summers, unlike some of the smaller ponds

dotted about that naturally dry up each year. Like any new feature, it will take several seasons before it looks its best, and the committee thanks Wayne for his sterling efforts over the years to remedy this previous blot on the landscape.



## Special Thanks

We wish to thank the following for their help and donations without which the Pasture would not be the special place it is: **Panton Trust, Jeremy Leaf, Waitrose Community Matters, Manorside School, Talbot Plastics, Gloucester Organic Gardening Group, & Rowse Honey.** Also, **Olivia Melling, J E (Betty) Burgess, P S Snook, M J Hiller, the Brenner family, the Nevill family, the Stacey family, Bart Van Haesebroeck, Brian Stewart, the Pickering family, the Daniels family, the Sayers family, the Satterthwaite family, Sue Gutteridge, and the many visitors who made a donation on site in the collection box, and at Finchley festivals.**

## Why Not Volunteer?

Have you thought about helping at the Pasture? Please come along on any Saturday between 10am & noon to meet other volunteers. There are always many tasks to be done whatever the season - we supply the tools, gloves and coffee - then apart from fresh air & exercise, you'll get to see all sorts of wildlife. Last September everyone was surprised to see a Heron fly over & land in a tree! Despite lots of people around, the heron was unconcerned, allowing some good photographs to be taken. Hope to see you soon, and bring a camera!



## Coming Up....

### November 30<sup>th</sup> Tree Day

On Saturday we will be planting, weeding and tending our trees as part of National Tree Week. 10am-noon, tools provided, but we need volunteers to make it all happen. Please join us, bring gloves, a snack and sensible footwear. No trees please.

Please visit our website: [www.longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org)  
Email: [longlanepasture@gmail.com](mailto:longlanepasture@gmail.com)

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