

# LONG LANE PASTURE TRUST

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

Registered Charity: 1122236

1 Princes Avenue, Finchley, London N3 2DA.

[www.longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org)

## ANNUAL REPORT: 1 January – 31 December 2009

### 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 re-open 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 the Management Plan.

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

### Achievements

#### Re-Opening of the Pasture



After years of negotiation with London Borough of Barnet a 25 year lease on the Pasture was agreed and issued to the Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009, expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2034. We are enormously grateful to all our Friends who donated funds to meet the considerable legal costs involved in obtaining this tenure of the land. The Mayor of Barnet, Cllr Brian Coleman, officially re-opened the Pasture to the Public on 19 June 2009, an event funded by a grant from Big Lottery/BBC Breathing Places scheme which was attended by 85 local people and representatives of supporting organisations.

The dilapidated footpath boundary fence was removed and by the end of the year a new secure palisade fence completed along the whole length, with a new pedestrian gate installed at the railway bridge end. A new pathway down to the Pasture from the gate was created and the existing hard standing path from the main gate has been re-surfaced. All seats now have anchors securing them firmly to the ground.



The Pasture was opened to Friends of the Pasture every Saturday morning up to 19 June 2009, when work parties were in progress. Since then the site has been opened from 10am – 5pm every Saturday and Sunday, excepting in December when the land was flooded and construction work was in progress.

### **Involving the Community**

In July students from Bishop Douglas School undertook project work at the Pasture, and 29 five year olds from Manorside School visited in May. In August we were very pleased to welcome a party of members from the Octavia Hill Society. Altogether an estimated 1,200 visits were made to the Pasture in 2009. A number of events were held: Butterfly Day on 25

July, Wildflower Day on 27 June, Blackberry Pick over several weekends from 14<sup>th</sup> August, and Tree Planting Day on 28<sup>th</sup> November. To support our educational work specialist items of equipment were purchased including our own moth trap.

The number of registered Friends, nearly all of whom live locally, has risen from 145 to 258 addresses during the year, now representing 510 individuals. The continued support of The Finchley Society and the Barnet Federation of Allotments and Horticultural Societies was much appreciated. Three Newsletters have been issued. A website was set up and went live in October. We had a stall at the Finchley Community Festival to promote our opening and at the end of the year produced 10,000 site leaflets for local distribution.

Thirty eight volunteers have worked on the Pasture during the year clocking up over 600 work hours. This effort included two Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme participants for several months, and 25 children from the Finchley Reformed Synagogue on 15 November for Mitzvah Day when they planted many bluebell bulbs and raked up cut hay. A first aid video was purchased for the benefit of Committee members. Our tools stock was increased and improvements made to our tool store. We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has given up their time to help us with both regular and special projects during 2009.

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

Restoration of the meadow grassland has continued with further areas of invasive bramble cleared, and re-growth cut back. A large grass circle was created in the dense bumble adjacent to the railway. Most of the Pasture was flail mown in the autumn and resulting hay hand raked into habitat piles. The Pasture is now at its best in June and July when it has extensive areas covered in wildflowers. Work continued establishing the 'butterfly border' along the walled boundary with Long Lane. Large areas have been cleared and replanted and it is beginning to attract many and varied insects. A large area of teasels here was particularly impressive through the summer and autumn months. The hedgerow around the site was extended with new native planting and a Princeton Elm (resistant to Dutch Elm Disease) was purchased in the hope that it might one day support a colony of white-letter hairstreak butterflies.



The large pond, created in 2007, is maturing and now supports good numbers of dragonflies, damselflies, newts and frogs. Mallard, wagtails and herons have all been seen here. Some waterweed was removed to maintain areas of open water. A small overflow pond was dug out to take excess water in times of flood and a new pond established in an old pit near the embankment. Mesh was laid over the long pond edge to reinforce the bank.



Birds are recorded on a regular basis. Whitethroat, green woodpecker, a flock of 25 redwings, grey wagtail and over 220 starlings were interesting to note from 2009. A bird feeding station was set up and maintained throughout the year for the enjoyment of visitors and feathered friends alike. It was a good year for butterflies, recording the white-letter hairstreak for the first time and, as elsewhere, many painted lady butterflies were seen. A moth trap was operated on three occasions – the total number of species recorded now stands at 80 with 7 new records in 2009.

### **Financial Review**

Friends of the Pasture have again been very generous in their support which is much appreciated. Donors are now able to make contributions on a regular basis by bankers order and register for Gift Aid. During the year we moved our bank account from Nationwide Building Society to CAF Bank. We were particularly grateful to the City Bridge Trust for their funding of the new fencing, to the Big Lottery/Breathing Places for supporting publicity and education costs, and to the Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust for hand tool purchases.

A healthy balance of funds is in hand at the year end, but a majority of this is ear-marked for special projects. We intend to increase our general funds to provide a stable financial base to meet ongoing costs and as a contingency fund to meet unexpected expenditure which may arise from time to time.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

Long Lane Pasture Trust is governed by a Trust deed. It is a registered charity governed by a board of Trustees, who appoint members to it and manage the charity. Trustees in 2009 were Ann Brown (Chairman), Dennis Pepper (Vice Chairman), Wayne Armsby (Treasurer), and Janett Durrant.

A Management Committee meets monthly to run day to day activities including the Pasture's detailed work programme and activities. In addition to the Trustees, Jan Andersson, Linda Dolata, and Derek Warren served on this during 2009. A Site Risk Assessment and Emergency Action Plan is in place and monitored by the Trustees.

The Long Lane Pasture Trust subscribes to BTCV as an associated group and is a member of Barnet Voluntary Service Council.

### **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Report for 2009.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Name Ann Brown Signature ABrown  
Position Chairman Date 17th September 2010