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Butterfly bonanza

By Linda Dolata
Long Lane Pastures, a relic of ancient meadow opposite the Fire Station on Long Lane, is an amazing piece of surviving biodiversity. It provides a perfect home for butterflies because it has lots of flowering plants to supply nectar for the newly emerged adults, as well as a huge range of indigenous plants on which to lay their eggs to ensure the next generation.

More than 50 local residents turned up for the Butterfly Bonanza day earlier in the summer, some of whom remembered the pasture when it was a cut through, when horses grazed on it or when there were allotments on part of it during the war.

A new pond draws in dragonflies and damselflies to add to the increasing list of butterflies and moths. Spotted during the day were Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Ringlets and Skippers, Large Whites, small numbers of Speckled Wood, Peacocks and a solitary Comma.

Then there were the wide range of smallish moths which turned up in the overnight moth trap; a six-spot Burnet Moth, which is a day-flying species, suggested that there will soon be others. There is ragwort so Cinnebars will surely turn up.

Insect identifiers needed

The thistles and bramble flowers attract lots of bumblebees, honeybees, mining bees, hoverflies, long-horn beetles and pollen beetles, none of which has been properly identified. If anybody would enjoy doing that, please come along: we have all the literature that you might need to help you.

In the pond there are lots of newts, and a whole ecosystem evidenced by the easily seen predacious water boatmen and pond skaters.

The real attraction of the Pastures, however, is just to wander around it and relax. Long Lane Pastures is awaiting a lease before it can be opened on a more regular basis. Meanwhile, come along any Saturday from 10am until 12 noon. You can join the volunteers in caring for the Pasture, or just enjoy the site as it is.

Can you help us with distribution?

The Archer needs volunteer distributors for The Grange. Each round takes approx 30-45 mins to deliver each month. For details please call 020 8883 0433 or email the-archer@lineone.net

When is a Ka not a car?

By Sheila Armstrong

It was good to talk to young Chelsea Art School graduate Janak Odedra at the latest exhibition at the Noble Sage Gallery in Fortis Green. Having a dialogue with an artist provides a clearer idea of the art object and its purpose: witness the East Finchley Open event back in July.

Janak was very happy to discuss his deconstructed Ka car at the private view and was surrounded by interested viewers. In his time at Chelsea he took apart fridges and washing machines, and he spoke very positively about his tutors there.

Dad's Ka

This particular machine for journeying in was his, now deceased, father's car. And touchingly there is, for those who cared to look on the edge of the sculpture, the word 'Dad' spelled out in nuts and bolts. The sculpture occupies the same footprint as a Ford Ka. The large parts, like the seats, form the base and the smaller ones, like the headlights and ashtrays, are used to build up the sculpture. All the nuts and bolts are placed on the floor defining the edge of the work.

So when is a car not a car? Janak assured me that



was when it could no longer take you on a journey: when it is just a set of car parts. And it was quite fascinating to see the various parts on display. Initial assembly was seven hours, only taking two or three hours to reassemble in the gallery.

In a similar tradition, some may remember Cesar Baldaccini, a prominent French artist whose speciality was not deconstructed but crushed cars, achieving some success in Paris in the 1960s and 1970s. He found even greater fame in 1976 when he designed the French equivalent of the Oscar - the Cesar.



Are you entitled to a free passport?

Every Briton born on or before 2 September 1929 is eligible for free travel documentation.

This scheme was launched in 2004 to coincide with D-Day commemorations and to honour the contribution made to the war effort by people over the age of 75. Since then, more than 500,000 people have made use of it.

As there had to be a cut off point, it was decided that only those who were aged 16 or over at the end of World War II would be eligible, as they would have given two years of work or more during the conflict. Home Office Minister Lord West said that about 2.5 million eligible people have not yet taken advantage of the scheme, which exempts them from application or renewal fees for passports, currently costing £72.

Double take

As well as having the cover on top, this bus stop on Fortis Green also had a notice on the side which read: "This bus stop is not in use. Please use the temporary stop nearby." How near can you get?



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