



# Long Lane Pastures breakthrough

By Linda Dolata

Long Lane Pastures is a tract of ancient hay meadow which survives opposite the Fire Station on Long Lane. Those who have visited in the past will be glad to hear that the long-awaited signing of a long-term lease is imminent, so this beautiful place will continue to be a reservoir of diverse and increasingly rare organisms.

Careful management over the past few years means that there is something to see on every visit. A wide range of indigenous flowering plants, and a good mix of shrubs and trees, has led to creatures of many kinds becoming established.

### It's wild in the water

For example, in May the large pond had marsh marigolds and yellow flags in bright colour to match the buttercups. The water was brimming with oxygenating weeds, with silent newts slinking their way to the surface, and water boatmen, back swimmers, water beetles, and other surface breathers powering to the depths, where lurk rapidly growing dragonfly nymphs and other predators. No wonder the thousands of tadpoles that hatched from this year's frogspawn have dispersed so readily.

The butterfly border welcomes speckled wood, brimstone, tortoiseshell,

comma and various white butterflies, with all the grass meadow types to come. The honeybee, bumblebee, mason bee, and hoverfly numbers are building up in anticipation of the nectar, which the numerous flower buds promise.

### Thriving foxes

The trees, which so many people turned up to plant in November, have virtually all taken. The resident fox is now a proud father of five cubs, and near their earth the grass is completely flattened by their romping games.

Long Lane Pastures is open every Saturday from 10am until noon, and all are welcome. If you wish to do a bit of conservation work then all the better. The entrance is on the path opposite the Fire Station.

Add these dates to your diaries: 27 June, Wild Flower Day; 25 July, Butterfly Day; 15 August, Wildlife Day when the blackberry picking season begins.



John Scott controls the fictional city of Barchester. Photo by Lois Lawrence.

# Golden age of steam lives on

By David Melsome

**As boss of cars and courier firm GLH, John Scott has a day job that is all about roads. But when he gets home, he can transport himself back to the golden age of steam railways.**

John has designed a model railway that recreates the railway he remembers from his childhood in the West Country in the 1950s.

The 16ft x 8ft layout has lines from the Great Western and Southern Railway compa-

nies and is set in the fictional cathedral city of Barchester, complete with shops, cinema and John's original Dinky cars and vans.

"I was born in Exeter a week before the war," says John, "and as a child there were two things of great interest: the cathedral and the railway. I wanted to invent a small town for myself with both the Great Western and Southern lines in it."

### Barchester tracks

John's father was a doctor and built a railway layout for him on an examination couch

that could be wheeled out of sight. John's new railway is rather more permanent with a double mainline track, a branch line, 17 engines and more than 20 carriages.

John designed the layout and bought all the rolling stock. The construction was carried out by Brian Taylor, of Old Barn Model Craftsmen, based in West Sussex.

John is officially retired but still works at GLH. He's delighted with his new toy but adds: "I just wish I wasn't working so hard so that I could play with it more often."

# Extended hours for nursery children

By Charlie Ashley

Holy Trinity has been chosen as a Pathfinder school as part of a new government scheme which will see it increase its free nursery provision for children from 12.5 to 15 hours a week. The change will take place from September 2009 when the doors will be open for three hours a day to each pupil.

The nursery hours will be from 8.50am to 11.50am and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Nursery children can also attend breakfast club and after-school club for a fee. For example, afternoon nursery combined with after-school club will provide parents with 25 hours of childcare a week from 12.30pm to 5.30pm for £37.50.

Holy Trinity is a church school with a Christian ethos but warmly welcomes children from all faiths and those who have none. Nursery children are included in daily assembly on Thursday and Friday mornings, perform their own class assembly and join in all the school concerts and festivals.

If you would like a place for your child, the closing date for admissions for children turning three between 1 Sept 2009 and 31 August 2010 is Monday 15 June, 2009. A waiting list operates for older years in the nursery and throughout the

school.

To apply, pick up an application form from the school office or look at the school website at [www.holytrinityceschool.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityceschool.org.uk). The website also includes a prospectus and full details of the admissions policy. If you missed the Open Day on 3 June, head teacher Tim Bowden runs regular tours of the school and would be happy to talk to you. Please call the school office to arrange a time on 020 8883 1824.

### Counselling and Psychotherapy - Space for Thinking

Experienced NHS Practitioner - supervised  
Provides confidential therapy dealing with depression, anxiety, trauma, abuse, relationship issues and many more...

Offers short and long term therapy.

Free initial consultation and competitive rates.

[dragana\\_savcic@hotmail.com](mailto:dragana_savcic@hotmail.com) tel: 020 8292 9480 mob: 077 3955 8155



### Run for Children with Cerebral Palsy

British 10k London Run 2009 - Sun 12th July  
Raise £100 and entry is FREE

adidas Women's 5K Challenge - Sun 6th Sept  
Raise £50 and entry is FREE

To join our running team contact Sarah on:  
[sarah@bobathlondon.co.uk](mailto:sarah@bobathlondon.co.uk) or 020 8442 2275

BOBATH CENTRE  
FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

[www.bobath.org.uk](http://www.bobath.org.uk) Registered Charity 229663  
The Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, London N2 8AU

**Acupuncture & Shiatsu**

Pain, Musculoskeletal & Stress related problems

Appointments  
**07795 203107**  
at Utopia  
1A LEICESTER MEWS  
LEICESTER RD, N2

**Fiona Hurlock** MACS MRSS  
[www.fionahurlock.com](http://www.fionahurlock.com)

**Sharp Cuts Barbers**

We welcome you to come and join our loyalty scheme to receive your **free haircut**

**Special offer**  
£5.00 haircut for all readers  
Simply cut out the coupon to claim your offer

5 Church Lane, East Finchley N2 8DX  
Tel: 07500 463 785

**Midhurst Butchers**

Certified organic meat at reasonable prices

Free-range poultry  
Home-made sausages (including Boerwors)

2 Midhurst Parade,  
Fortis Green, London N10  
Tel. 020 8883 5303

**CASH FOR TRASH**

Do you want to sell your old stuff on eBay and turn it into cash?  
Are you mystified or worried?  
Let me help you whether it's a car (we usually get better than dealer prices) unwanted items such as cameras, computers, jewellery, furniture or even designer clothes.  
I work on a no sell no fee basis.  
Why not email or call me for a free chat.  
Tony Joseph  
07957 494573 - 0208 883 7296  
e:- [tonyjoseph99@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyjoseph99@yahoo.co.uk)