



# New fence and new fox at Long Lane Pasture

**The Friends of Long Lane Pasture are reporting great progress on a number of major projects and the arrival of even more wildlife.**

Firstly, the dilapidated footpath fence alongside the pasture has been replaced with a new 100-metre fence, which is strong and secure and provides a second gate onto the pasture at the railway bridge end. The fence was purchased with the aid of a grant from the City Bridge Trust.

This new gate leads on to an area at the top of the embankment with a splendid view over Finchley and there are plans to provide a vista sign here pointing out local landmarks.

The existing hard-standing path at the Long Lane end of the Pasture has been resurfaced, making it much smoother and easier for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

## Bluebells and birdfeeders

One thousand native English bluebells have been planted next to the main entrance gate near the Fire Station. During the planting, an old horse harness was unearthed, a relic from days when horses and ponies grazed on the land.

The pasture had its annual mow, with the cut grass piles providing a good habitat for many creatures, including small mammals. Resident fox Foxy Boy is no longer around but another very shy fox with a distinguishing pale tail may have taken over his territory.

Many visitors have seen a heron in or next to the large pond. Lots of goldfinches have feasted on the teasel seeds and a bird feeding station has been set

up, which is proving very popular with blue tits and robins.

## Helpers welcome

Poor weather has forced the trustees to close the pasture to visitors until March. Work parties, however, will continue to take place on Saturday mornings

from 10am to 12 noon and more helpers of any age and ability (with waterproof footwear) are very welcome.

For more information, including a photo gallery of the pasture through the seasons, visit [www.longlanepasture.org](http://www.longlanepasture.org).

## Don't miss out on your Freedom Pass

**Barnet's over-60 and disabled residents who are eligible for a Freedom Pass are being urged to renew their passes before the deadline of 31 March 2010 to claim free travel on the capital's bus, train, tube and tram networks.**

This year, new-style photo passes, valid for five years rather than the current two, are being issued to increase security. Application forms are available from the Post Office or online at [www.freedompass.org](http://www.freedompass.org). Over-60s should return the form along with a photo of themselves to the Post Office. Before you do, read Diana Cormack's cautionary tale below.

## Does your Freedom Pass face fit?

By Diana Cormack

**"We've had more than 20,000 queries about the new Freedom Pass," said the lady at Transport for London, "but yours is unique." Maybe I should have felt flattered, but I don't believe the credit belongs to me. Take a bow, East Finchley Post Office!**

On presenting my correctly filled-in renewal form along with a passport-sized photo, I was amazed when the counter assistant said it wasn't acceptable because my ears weren't showing. I argued that I have the same hairstyle on my new passport photo, also used on a travel visa, but she insisted. I asked why the renewal form didn't specify that ears be shown and was told that Barnet had sent an explanatory letter to all applicants (nobody in my house

received one).

After managing to find a phone number for the Post Office, I eventually spoke to a man in "Complaints" who told me that the counter staff had been instructed not to accept such photos in keeping with Freedom Pass guidelines.

When I phoned TfL, they agreed there had been a misinterpretation of the guidance about how the photo should conform to government travel card standards: "It should include the whole head and not have any of the chin, top of head or ears missing" (the first six words convey the meaning). TfL phoned East Finchley to set the matter straight and advised me to wait a few days until the message "filters through".

THE ARCHER later spoke to staff at the Viceroy Parade Post Office and it seems that the wording of the ruling confused staff in other branches, too.

What bothers me is this: because of the misinterpretation, did any over-60s pay for new passport photos, change their hairstyles or offer to shave off their beards? Even Vincent Van Gogh would have had problems with this one.



Photo by Adam Justice-Mills.

## Reflections on Lincoln Parade

**In our last issue, we asked for your memories of the now-demolished Lincoln Parade. Photographic artist Adam Justice-Mills sent us this picture of the Lincoln Road shops standing empty before the demolition crews moved in.**

It will be one of the images to be shown at the TransForm art show in March, the first purely photographic show to be staged by the East Finchley Open group. Adam says: "I'm interested in how the vacant shop windows work as mirrors, contrasting the empty potential of the shops with the bustle of the High Road."

## Two shops remembered

Steve Oxtoby, who was landlord of the Five Bells pub in East End Road from 1985 to 1991, now lives and works in Leeds but remembers very well the Lincoln Parade pet shop run by Peggy and Bill. Read Steve's letter on page 11, alongside one from Ian Cormack describing Gus the barber's special style.

Vasco D'Gama, of Chandos Road, has lived in East Finchley for 50 years and remembers both shops, too.

He writes: "As a child I can remember going into the pet shop to see the tropical fish and the small animals. Peggy and Bill were always

happy to let the local children come into the shop, and sometimes let them feed the tropical fish. I am pleased to say that I bought the last cat when the shop closed a few years back. We still have Cyclops and he is going strong.

"The gents' barber shop was run by two brothers. Unfortunately I cannot remember their names, but as a teenager I always had my hair cut there. After the cut you would have your hair singed by candle, and then they would always ask if you wanted something for the weekend. It is a shame that the parade has now gone, but that's progress."

## 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

## TELEPHONE FAULTS REPAIRED

50% CHEAPER THAN BT \* the POST OFFICE \* TALK TALK etc  
HOME \* OFFICE \* FACTORY  
LINES \* EXTENSIONS \* EQUIPMENT - TESTED & REPAIRED

Call RON COLLINS 0208 883 9325 \* 07748 278728  
email: [roncallsaver@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roncallsaver@yahoo.co.uk)

## 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

## BOBATH CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

### Virgin London Marathon

If you have your own place in this year's Virgin London Marathon, we would love to have you on our team. Please contact Sarah on:

020 8444 2275

or

[sarah@bobathlondon.co.uk](mailto:sarah@bobathlondon.co.uk)



[www.bobath.org.uk](http://www.bobath.org.uk)

Registered Charity 229863

The Bobath Centre, 250 East End Road, London N2 8AU

## 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)