



Plea to preserve pasture

By John Lawrence

The volunteers who run Long Lane Pasture have launched a centenary appeal to protect the parcel of natural land and safeguard it for future generations.

The open space was purchased for public enjoyment in 1912. Six years ago, local people saved the pasture from being built over for a housing estate and it is now managed by a charitable trust that relies on public donations. The trust receives no funding from Barnet Council, which owns the land and leases it to the trust.

Trust chairman Ann Brown said major capital works to restore the pasture over recent years are complete and grants for these have been used up.

She said: "We are now appealing for funds to keep our work going, to manage the land and keep it for us all to enjoy for years to come. It is run on a shoestring, but we need money particularly to pay for insurance, for mowers and their fuel, for repairs and for tools and equipment for volunteers. Donations, large and small, are enormously appreciated."

Supporters are encouraged to sign up to Gift Aid as this enables the trust to reclaim the tax on donations, at no extra cost

to the donor. Regular donations by banker's order are particularly welcome.

Butterflies and blackberries

The pasture, situated opposite the fire station in Long Lane, is open every weekend and bank holiday from 10am to 5pm. Its busy schedule of summer events has been slightly disrupted by the wet weather. A reception and butterfly day on 14-15 July was cancelled as much of the site was waterlogged or slippery.

Ann added: "We hope people will all be able to visit the Pasture when it has dried out a bit. There has been a good show of blackberry flowers so a good crop of blackberries to harvest should follow in August and September."

Donations can be made via the pasture's website at www.longlanepasture.org/getinvolved.html or you can get more information by emailing enquiries@longlanepasture.org



Jonathan Ross meets a young reader after officially re-opening the Hampstead Garden Suburb library. Photo courtesy of Marjorie Harris.

Ross cuts ribbon on rescued library

TV presenter and local resident Jonathan Ross cut the ribbon at the official opening of the Garden Suburb Community Library in Hill Rise at the end of June. After being threatened with closure, 45 volunteers have taken over the running of the library from Barnet Council. "A local library is particularly vital for children, people without cars and as part of a vibrant community," said Jonathan.

Recycling on the catwalk

By Daphne Chamberlain

Look at the felt top and skirt in our photo. How did Fashion Textiles degree student Edita Tuna make them out of woolly jumpers? That was my question after seeing The Institute's second annual Catwalk Show.

Tutor Tracey Lord explained: Unravel the jumpers, wet the strands with very hot water and lay them in a lattice arrangement. Roll them up tightly in a bamboo mat, then roll the mat backwards and forwards with a lot of pressure. Repeat the process, building up several latticed layers. Eventually the fibres mesh into a strong piece of fabric. Cut out pattern pieces and sew them together to make the top. Turn more wool into felt for the skirt, and then cut into squares and sew together.

This transformation of jumpers from charity shops was Edita's idea, which Tracey described as "so much a labour of love".

Edita was one of 12 students modelling their own work in the Catwalk Show at The Institute's Arts Centre at the end of June. As well as designs concocted from the recycling box, we saw a lime-green "butterfly" dress, a jacket/shorts/bow tie outfit, retro skirt suits and handbags, an asymmetric evening dress, turbans, tunics and leggings. There was something for most



Edita Tuna models the outfit she made from recycled woolen jumpers. Photo by Declan Driver.

people, but leggings and very high heels were a keynote. The show also featured a digital media presentation, with photography and music.

The Institute is immediately behind East Finchley station. Discover more about available courses at hgsl.ac.uk or on 020 8829 4141.

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