



Morning has broken: A wren sings in the early dawn light on Long Lane Pasture. Photo Donald Lyven

When the natural world wakes up

By Donald Lyven

International Dawn Chorus Day fell on Sunday 5 May and a group of brave souls got themselves to Long Lane Pasture before sunrise to be greeted by the pleasing symphony of birdsong, with the bonus of seeing a few bats flitting about despite the temperature being 7°C.

The brightest stars were fading in the clear and lightening sky as a discernible mist hung low over the dew-laced meadow. All the usual suspects were calling: robin, blackbird, song thrush, blackcap, chaff chaff and great tit, but the wren as always, despite its diminutive size, was the loudest and most dominant in the morning soundscape.

Seen silhouetted crossing the sky were magpies, pigeons, carrion crows and gulls, flying over with a purpose only they knew. In the east, the evolving hues of yellows and pinks blazed in anticipation of the sun's rising. The blanket of mist began lifting as the first glimpse of the sun's orange disk came into view.

The lighter it became the less the birds were calling, but new sounds caught my ear:

the song of the garden warbler, the tuneful notes of the ever-present goldfinches, and the unmistakable chirping of house sparrows; late to the party but welcome nonetheless.

It had been a cold, early start at the pasture, opposite the fire station on Long Lane, N3, but the clarity of the dawn chorus before the cacophony of traffic began and the privilege of seeing the colourful sunrise on a new day made the effort worthwhile.

Summer opening at the Pasture

By David Melsome

The volunteers who run Long Lane Pasture opposite Finchley Fire Station are opening the nature reserve every day over the summer and inviting visitors to enjoy what it has to offer.

Opening hours have varied over recent months following the death of pasture trustee Wayne Armsby, who lived next door and diligently opened and closed the gates for 20 years.

But his fellow volunteers have taken on that role between them, opening the pasture from around 10am until late afternoon and later some days.

As ever, during late autumn and winter, they will revert to opening less frequently, mainly because of the risk of waterlogged ground, but will always be open approximately between 10am and midday every Saturday, unless the winter weather is unusually severe. This is the time when they work on pasture maintenance and when they welcome anyone who can lend a helping hand.

The volunteers have also issued a friendly reminder that all visitors and their children should stay on the paths, and that dogs must be kept on short leads rather than allowed to roam around, as they disturb and distress the wildlife. Also, barbecues are not permitted.

Changing times

Professor Catherine Loveday will be giving a talk on the mysteries of time on Wednesday 10 July from 7pm to 8pm, everything from why time speeds up as we get older to why the first week of a holiday always seems so much longer than the second week. It takes place at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2. To reserve a place, contact Teresa on 020 8432 1421 or email teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk



Recycled: Artist Elisa Cantarelli unveils her Brent Cross station artwork alongside London Mayor Sadiq Khan

Recycling project has plenty of bottle (tops)

By Emma Frampton

East Finchley's recycling and re-use project Bin There Donate There is still around! We are engaging with local artist Elisa Cantarelli, whose mission is to tackle the abuse of single-use plastic and other discarded materials through creative acts.

Sharing her therapeutic signature technique called dotting, she aims to engage with different communities, spreading social and educational messages about environmental issues, embracing diversity and focusing on the identity of places to enhance a sense of belonging.

Over the past five years, she has designed projects in northern Italy and London, including for the grand opening of the new Brent Cross West Station, inaugurated by the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan in December. For this project, Bin There Donate That contributed by donating white bottle tops.

Grant us success

Bin There, Donate That still collects unwanted arts materials from the Amy's hardware store in the High Road but we need your help! We have applied for two grants this year

to restart the tablet blister pack collection, sadly without luck. Grant success is partly dependent on the number of applications, skill and knowledge. Is this something you can do or can help with?

We are also looking for dedicated volunteers to help our team with organising the inbox and filing emails and setting up social media accounts. By helping with basic administrative organisation, you will play a crucial role in helping us secure the funds needed to grow our charity.

Additionally, as a small organisation, we value fresh ideas and you will have the chance to influence the future direction of Bin There Donate That. Contact us via www.bintheredonatethat.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @bintheredonatethat



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Where to donate your unwanted household items for recycling

- Batteries to EF Electricals and Sainsbury's, High Road
- Bicycle inner tubes to Bike & Run, High Road
- Cables and small electrical items to EF Electricals, High Road
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Dental products (toothbrushes and heads) to Cavendish Dental Practice, East End Road
- Electrical cables to Everything Electrical, High Road
- Ink jet cartridges to UOE, High Road
- Lightbulbs to Amy's or EF Electricals, High Road
- Make-up to Oakdale Pharmacy, High Road
- Paper, cork, ribbon, foil, wood off-cuts, buttons, stationery, sequins, carpet samples to Amy's, High Road
- Spectacles to Stewart Duncan Opticians and David Hillel Opticians, High Road