



Long Lane Pasture 'at risk of falling into disrepair'

By David Melsome

The much-loved Long Lane Pasture on Long Lane, a green space cherished by nature lovers and the local community, is at risk of falling into disrepair without vital funds to replace its aging maintenance equipment, say the volunteers who run it.

Long Lane Pasture Trust is appealing to the public for help in raising £5,000 to replace essential tools like a ride-on mower and brush cutters, which are crucial for keeping the area safe, accessible, and welcoming. For years, Long Lane Pasture, situated opposite Finchley Fire Station, has provided a haven for local wildlife and a tranquil retreat for residents. The space supports a variety of plants and animals and serves as a peaceful, natural escape from city life.

Oliver Kane, Trustee and committee member, stressed the importance of the fundraiser:

"Without this equipment, it becomes extremely difficult to manage the pasture. The upkeep is vital not only for the beauty and accessibility of the space but also for preserving the biodiversity that thrives here. It's a place that brings so much value to the community, and we need the community's help to keep it going."

New equipment

The pasture relies on volunteers to maintain its paths, meadows, and habitats and the funds raised will go directly toward purchasing new equipment for them to do this. The



Nature's glory: Long Lane Pasture is open to all but needs cash support to keep looking its best. Photo Donald Lyven

Long Lane Pasture Trust is appealing to everyone in the community to contribute what they can.

"Whether it's a small donation or spreading the word about the campaign, every little bit helps," said Oliver. "This green space means so much to so many people. It's a place where the

community comes together, where families can connect with nature, and where we can protect the environment for future generations. Every donation makes a real difference."

Donations can be made via the fundraiser page at <https://gofund.me/bd76e611> or by using the QR code in this article.



Insect-friendly: Children from Coldfall and Eden Primary Schools plant seeds in the wildflower meadow next to Coldfall Wood

Seed planters are the bees knees

By Laura Fox

As this autumn school term started, 150 children from Coldfall Primary and Eden Primary helped the Friends of Coldfall Wood and Muswell Hill Playing Fields plant seeds in the wildflower meadow there. This is part of an ongoing project. Over the last two years, children from both schools have been involved in planting and maintaining this vital biodiverse environment.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has recognised the "exceptional work they have done to help pollinators survive and thrive" and awarded both schools Bees'

Needs Champions for 2024. Everyone involved is so proud of the children and the meaningful work we get to do with them because they are the future guardians of our meadows and woods.

Green hubs

Libraries in Muswell Hill, Highgate and Alexandra Palace have all become recycling points under a new scheme run by Haringey Council. Residents will be able to leave batteries, keys, printer cartridges and light bulbs for recycling.

Star soloists join local choir

Following North London Chorus's triumphant performance of Verdi *Missa di Requiem* in June, the local choir will be starting its 2024-25 season with two French masterpieces of the 20th century: Duruflé's *Requiem* and Poulenc's *Gloria*.

The concert takes place at St James Church, Muswell Hill on Saturday 23 November at 7.30pm and will feature two star soloists and a young organist.

The distinguished soloists both enjoy international careers on the opera stage. The *Gloria* features soprano Nadine Benjamin MBE (pictured right), who has recently starred as Mimi in *La Bohème* at English National Opera, while baritone James Cleverton (pictured above), a familiar face around Muswell Hill where he lives with his family, makes a return to St James in the demanding solo sections of the *Requiem*. The choir is also welcoming rising star George Herbert, currently assistant organist at New College, Oxford, to play the famous Harrison & Harrison organ of St James Church.

Tickets are available at www.northlondonchorus.org/tickets or on the door. Advance booking is recommended.

Singers welcome

Next March, North London Chorus will be performing Bach's magnificent *B Minor*



Mass and is keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the choir, where there are currently



vacancies in the bass section. Get in touch through northlondonchorus.org



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