

Friends of Lordship Rec: Monthly meeting, by Zoom – 11th April 2021

Who was there: Dave Morris (Chair) , Caroline Jepson (Minutes) Alyson Bradley, Catherine Collingborn, Colette J, Lily Labonte, Louise Orton, Nina Prieto, Sally Haywill, Storm Moncur and 3 new members.

All were welcomed to the meeting – especially those who had not attended a meeting before.

1. FRIENDS' PROJECTS UPDATES:

Woodland Group. Catherine reported on workday with TCV volunteers when a new pond was created and the previous pond returned back to being part of the stream. There have been problems getting woodchip to renew the path, as usual suppliers are not responding to requests.

Orchard Group. Sally reported that volunteers are extremely busy in the orchard, building guards around trees by recycling the coppiced hazels and managing the grassland using only scything. The area is looking fantastic with spring blossom.

Harmony Gardens – Louise reported that Friends of HG is thriving with a very good team of volunteers being kept busy currently sowing seeds but more volunteers are always needed. HG is working with Joan and others on developing a gardening project for residents in Broadwater Farm. The project will be starting soon on the terraces of Croydon and Debden blocks – as originally planned, then suspended by the Council, now back on again!

Spinney. Looking good after TCV volunteers had worked on this area rebuilding dead hedges and maintaining paths.

Lake and River: No work currently, but the number of terrapins in Lake is growing so we need to seek advice on whether they need to be relocated. No work schedules for River but we will continue to press for more regular clearing of and disposal of build up around eastern grille.

Litterpicking Group. Caroline reported that this regular Friends activity is very popular and successful. Unusually, a needle was found, (this is the first time) deep in a hedge. Caroline liaised with Alex re. disposal as he keeps a Sharps box at the staff Depot. Dealing with needles is included in the litterpicking risk assessment.

Kids arts: Joan and Nina ran a very successful session by the Hub during the Easter holidays.

2. NEW DEVELOPMENTS/ACTIVITIES

Forest School: The Friends have been approached by a group setting up a Forest School Collective who will be operating as a Community Interest Company (which includes our member, Angie) and who are interested in running sessions in the Rec. A broad proposal had been submitted and circulated before the meeting. This is something we support in principle, as long as the details can be worked out. In the discussion it was agreed that a site meeting was need with the group to discuss what areas of the Rec might or might not be suitable for activities which come under the heading of Forest School. Concerns were expressed about how much land might be needed (The wilder areas of the Rec are not extensive and are currently very well used) ; that land could not be sealed off to other park users; that nothing should be created that would need maintaining . And sustainability was essential, so it might continue

after any grants obtained run out. It was agreed that Joan and Colette J would liaise with Linda from the Forest School to have a site meeting.

Bats: A small group of us have met up a couple of times by the lake and now have two recent recordings of bat activity in the Rec, through the use of bat detectors. This is great news that we have established that bats are still living here and we have also have contact with two separate people who are willing to help identify the species. This preliminary work should lead to a public walk later in the Summer.

Bio-diversity Site visit on 21st April with Haringey Conservation Officer.

We aim to raise the status of Lordship Rec from a Site of Local Interest for Nature Conservation to a Site of Borough wide interest. A visit with the Haringey Conservation Officer, Annabel Foskett, is scheduled for 21st to show her around the site, and how the range of habitats has increased substantially since the last Conservation Action Plan was written.

Sally will be attending a Haringey Climate Action meeting on Bio-diversity on May 17th to talk about the Rec and how her management of the orchard and meadows has led to greater bio-diversity, and as an example of community action enhancing bio-diversity. Dave will draft out some bullet points to help with the overall context.

Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) – we have supplied them with every nature survey done in the Rec for the last 15 years that we can find. They will supply us with a report about the Rec.

'People Need Parks' Programme – running for 10 weeks from 28th June in various Haringey parks.

Lily Labonte, Haringey Physical Activities officer, reported on this programme which will put on a range of free activities designed to attract people who are not currently active into parks. There will be a Big launch of PNP in Lordship Rec on 26th June. The 26th June launch will be combined with **celebrations of the Friends 20th anniversary**. Lily is providing £250 for the Friends for the 26th June day, which we will be using on a petting zoo.

PNP free activities will be run at Lordship Rec on Thursdays from 10.00 to 6.00 from 1st July to 2nd Sept. Joan and Caroline have agreed to run a one hour walk around the woods, meadows, orchard areas as part of the programme.

Lily needs to arrange a site visit to prepare for the Big Launch on the 26th June to which all the user groups will be invited. Lily will be organising publicity for PNP, but Joan may do a separate leaflet as well as general publicity about the Friends 20th anniversary celebrations.

Lily is also organising women and girls activities running on afternoons and evenings in Broadwater Farm and in Lordship Rec under the title These Girls Do.

Dave reported that he had met with two keen women rollerskaters to discuss how the freestyle area could be better maintained for rollerskating. Dave will link Lily up with these contacts.

New film - Downhills Shelter Disaster: A local resident has made a short powerful documentary about the World War II bombing of the air-raid shelter, which has been publicised on the Friends website and Facebook. The link is [Lie in The Dark and Listen - YouTube](#). The film references the work of the Friends, especially the late Ray Swain, in researching and commemorating this tragedy over the last 10 years.

3. PARKS MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Unlawful gates into the Rec: We have been raising this issue over the last 2-3 years. Jeffrey Lennon, the Parks Project Officer, has an official letter to deliver to all homes backing onto the Rec, and would be visiting the specific addresses later in the week. Caroline and Alyson will do a walk-around to provide him with a definitive list.

Lordship Lane Front entrance. The area by the flats attracts a lot of people, but also unfortunately anti-social behaviour, which has been extending into the evening now the days are longer. A site visit had been called by the Council, and included the Friends and other community groups operating in the Rec, parks staff, Council officers and residents. A list of fourteen possible actions to improve the situation had been drawn up and these would be discussed at the next Lordship Rec Users Forum meeting.

Lordship Rec Users Forum Practical coordination meetings of the Friends, Council and others continue monthly to co-manage the park re maintenance, repairs and other management issues.

4. FUNDRAISING AND FINANCE:

Friends Lottery application: Joan had submitted an application for £10K for Friends programme of activities starting from September – ie Flower and Produce show, Apple Day, Wassail. We should know in a month's time if it is successful or not [Update: Unsuccessful]. She is also applying from another fund for £1K.

The Parks Community UK project: – Caroline reported that after 2.5 years this Lottery-funded national project run by us - promoting Green Space Community Empowerment - came to a successful conclusion as at 31 March and all monies have now been spent. The management of the Parks Community UK website, www.parkscommunity.org.uk , a new resource for Friends groups throughout the country, will now be maintained by the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Storm reported that she is starting **walks** again on Mondays, meeting at 9.20am at Downhills Road gate, walking for about 40 minutes around the Rec and Downhills. All welcome.

Pigeons making a mess of benches between the Hub and the Lake is becoming an issue, so we need to consider whether a solution can be found.

Noticeboards. It was agreed that Nina, who manages the noticeboards, can remove any notices stuck to the outside of the noticeboards and any on the gates at her discretion. Lily reported that the Council are also taking signs off gates. Lily also asked to be told about any organised activities that are being advertised in the Rec, as the Council does not necessarily know about them.

Lily reported that all the funding has now come through for the **resurfacing of the Bike Track** and the work will hopefully go ahead this Summer. A big thanks to Paul from the Tottenham Bike Club who has lobbied and fundraised for this for the last 2 years.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Sunday 9th May, 2.00 pm