

Friends of Lordship Rec: Notes of Monthly Meeting, Sunday 8th January 2023

Attending: Dave Morris, Sally Haywill, Nina P., Joan Curtis, Pamela (Trove Market) **Apologies:** Catherine Collingborn, Daniel B, Caroline Jepson, Alyson B.

Report of Last Meeting held in December: No mins. Attended by Joan, Alyson, Nina, Caroline & Helen S. These minutes (below) incorporate various extra updates.

Rocky Rocky, the coordinator of the Rockford Bike Hub at the front of the park, tragically passed away in December. A number of us attended the commemoration gathering at the Bike Hub (over 60 people), and it was clear he was widely loved and appreciated throughout our community. As the Friends we sent our condolences. We note that the Bike Hub has aimed but struggled to stay open 2 days a week since then. The meeting agreed Dave will contact them to ask how they are doing (and their Brakethru Club too), offer support, and suggest a joint effort to create a small children's play area in or near the front entrance dedicated to Rocky (as previously discussed with him over the years but not so far realised).

Ken Floyd Our former member has been awarded an MBE for services to BMXing. A long time champion for our BMX facilities, he then moved to Lambeth where he has continued to promote BMXing. Well done Ken!

Friends Projects and Activities - Updates

Lake: The Friends' funding application to The London Mayor's Grow Back Greener fund for £38K for lake area improvements was unsuccessful. Joan then applied for a Thames Water Community Fund grant for replacing the dipping platform. The in-flow water pipe to the lake needs repair – it was given to Alex G who will alert Chris Poore.

Moselle River: The third Haringey Water Squad volunteer session (supported by the Friends and supervised by Thames 21) was held in December. This was followed by an onsite meeting between the Friends (Caroline and Dave), Thames 21, Haringey Rivers Forum and Haringey Council (Chris Patterson). A new contract for Ebsford is being considered, Haringey Conservation Volunteers (TCV) will undertake a survey of the self-seeded willows as the first step in formalising a willow management plan, the potential for volunteering efforts was discussed, as were possible improvements to the silt pond.

Woodland group: Things ticking over with our volunteers continuing to be on the case!

Orchard field: Sally reported that orchard ongoing maintenance work by volunteers continues. They have organised a Wassail event in the Hub and orchard on January 14th. She is looking into potential funding for future coppicing and pruning sessions. (Possibly the North London Waste Authority Community Fund?)

Water dispenser Joan, Caroline and Dave to meet up urgently to finalise the details of what we want, any further funding needed (there is £2,600 saved for this) and liaison with the Council over installation (probably at the same time as the Council installs the new 'Changing Places' facility by the Hub).

Luke Howard 250th Anniversary Celebrations. The November events in the Hub and park (and elsewhere) were brilliant. Lordship Rec was officially declared the world's first 'Cloud Appreciation Park' (by the founder of the Cloud Appreciation Society, supported by a rep from the Met Office – see the video on our new Youtube Lordship Rec Channel). Our 'Cloud Gazing in the Rec' interpretation board was installed at the top of the park (thanks Joan!). The new Luke Howard Weather Station was installed in the Hub (see the live data screen in the foyer – a big thanks to Danny, backed by Tim). Background info here: <https://lordshiprec.org.uk/luke-howard-weather-station/> The Tottenham Clouds working group for the anniversary events has decided to continue to be active throughout the year. The Friends will stay connected, albeit taking more of a back seat in 2023.

Tottenham Flower and Produce Show 2023. Joan is intending to start planning early but is really hoping that she can engage some additional people to help and ultimately take over. We urge people to let her know if they can help! Meanwhile Joan will call a planning meeting. She will be seeking funding too.

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation Status (SINC). Lordship Rec has been officially recommended to move from a SINC of local importance to one of higher level Borough wide importance. Dave had noticed that in the report recommending the upgrade there had been a mistake in the documents, indicating that the upgrade would be to the lower level. Dave has written to Annabel Foskett pointing this out, which she has acknowledged.

Mayor's Rewilding Fund specifically for SINCS. The Rewilding Fund is specifically to expand and strengthen the management of SINCS and valuable habitat. Dave put in a funding bid for a Co-ordinator for a year to strengthen our activities and volunteering related to the SINC upgrade and the new Conservation Action Plan. It includes funding for a Bioblitz at key sites in the Rec (eg orchard), and interpretation boards (with hopefully some match funding from the Council for the boards – Dave wrote to them about that). We hope to know by the end of Jan if the bid is successful.

Other user groups' activities we are supporting

Trove Market - Pamela reported on a successful year of the monthly markets/activities she coordinates. The last one was in December and coincided with the Hub Xmas Fair, which worked very well. The markets will restart in March.

Parkrun. Going very well since its launch. Dave contacted them asking them to promote the Friends to parkrunners (via their facebook page). We have also asked if they would like to help us get our planned water dispenser installed.

Shell Performing Arts Collective Dan unfortunately was unable to attend to update us on SPAC since its successful repainting of the Shell and its re-launch event. The Shell has been graffiti-free for months but now some graffiti has appeared (which Dan says he'll chase up).

Lordship Rec Skatepark whatsapp group People involved would like the skatepark to be resurfaced with a more user-friendly surface. The details would need to be discussed, approved and the project fundraised for.

Walking Groups As previously discussed last year, we want to promote walking and Rec walking groups/activities, as we have done regarding cycling (see our 'Our Bike Park' leaflet). We agreed to look into this further in the spring.

Lordship Sports and Activities Consortium Recent activities held in the BWF Community Centre.

Lordship Hub Lots of activities as always. Office has had a bit of a clear up, and some Friends materials/archives have been re-located to Dave's house. For an example we now have rediscovered an excellent detailed review of the condition of the whole Rec, with photos, in 2003 – it was suggested this should be put on our website. (Dave to try to do)

Other Issues

LRUF / Maintenance and Management of the Rec: There was a very productive Lordship Rec Users Forum meeting on 8th November, with reps from the Friends, and Chris Poore and Alex Goodyear from Haringey Parks Service, and others, to discuss maintenance and management issues. See latest LRUF repairs bulletin. Note: The lampposts in the Rec are all to have replacement LED lighting, with bat-friendly shields on the relevant lamps near to important bat routes (from Downhills entrance northwards to the lake and also along the river channel – thanks Beewan, for this info!). The Council is also planning a 'spotlight' walkabout in the Rec with members of the Friends, Council officers, Councillors and others. Its scheduled for 26th January, 10am (to be confirmed). We agreed to ensure that the LRUF repairs bulletin (and these minutes) is handed to all present so they are all up to speed on the key issues. Dave to print out.

Friends coordination and publicity We now have a new **Lordship Rec Channel** on youtube (thanks, Bob!). Dave managed to find 15-20 relevant videos going back decades, which are also on our website in chronological order: <https://lordshiprec.org.uk/gallery/>. Our **website** is full of useful info. Joan and Dave update it. Our **facebook** page is very lively and has over 1500 followers. We need to work out how to get **more people and new faces** actively involved! Lots are involved in our various working groups / practical activities, but we need to improve attendance and involvement at our core meetings. We call on all Friends working groups, and **all park user groups**, to publicise the Friends meetings etc.

Visits to the Rec/Friends from afar One or more academic students from Korea will be visiting to discuss Lordship Rec achievements and national issues to do with UK parks and the Friends Groups' movement. Dave will show around on Thursday 12th Jan. And, as recommended by senior Lottery officers, people from **Cranford Park Friends** (Hillingdon) will be visiting the Rec to view and learn from (and maybe emulate) the regeneration effort here, particularly the Lordship Hub. On the morning (11am) of the next Friends meeting, 5th Feb. Dave will coordinate, others welcome.

Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 5th February.