

Friends of Lordship Rec
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2022-2023
Lordship Hub, 2pm April 2nd 2023

Present: Dave Morris, Louise O, Louise R, Chuku, Sue P, Joan Curtis, Eddie D, George K, James S, Caroline Jepson, Liz P, Geoff A, Mike D, Sally Haywill, Cathy P, John H, Sarah W, Nino Prieto, Ruth Green, Catherine Collinborn, Dante M, Friedrich E, Alyson B, Colette K, Ken F **Apologies:** Dan B and quite a few others

Minutes of Last AGM Agreed

Annual Report Given by Chair, Dave Morris. Distributed to those present. See full report at end, Appendix 1. The Friends continue to be very active and effective, achieving a lot through our working groups, volunteering sessions, projects, publicity, partnership-working with the Parks Service, and liaison with other user groups.

As well as our now annual programme of events (eg wassail, apple day, Flower and Produce Show etc), we worked with Tottenham Clouds and others to celebrate the 250th anniversary of local resident Luke Howard (the 'namer of clouds'), resulting in Lordship Rec being officially designated as the world's first 'Cloud Appreciation Park'. We also worked with Haringey Water Squad to do regular vegetation-clearing sessions in the river channel for the first time. We've also continued our series of occasional film shows/discussions.

We supported the launch of the popular weekly Parkrun, the continuing Trove Market events, and the Shell Mural and re-launch.

We worked with TCV to draft and publish a 2022-2027 Conservation Action Plan for the Rec, which will rely almost entirely on our activities and efforts – the Rec itself was officially recommended to be designated a Site of borough-wide Importance for Nature Conservation.

The chair recommended we develop a strategy for inclusion to broaden the range of people by age, ethnicity, disability and range of interests participating in our organisation. Suggested we could elect a diversity champion. Special thanks were given to all our volunteers, some of whom are involved in more than one group.

Financial Report

Given by Treasurer, Caroline Jepson. Distributed to those present. We have raised a lot of money for specific activities but currently we really do not generate enough in unrestricted funds that are needed for regular group expenses like Public Liability Insurance, hospitality etc.

Tottenham Grammar School Foundation have been really supportive and generous to the Friends over the years and it was agreed that we invite them to the Rec to meet some of us see the work we are doing with their money.

We have submitted 2 large funding bids (for support for volunteering, and for improvements to the lake area), that were both refused but we have had a few smaller amounts for various activities in the orchard and have received a small grant (thanks Joan) to rebuild the dipping platform on the lake with the support of TCV and to install a new information board.

We discussed the relative efficacy of Crowdfunding. It has to be for something that people are definitely enthused by and it is quite time consuming to do a good job of keeping up the momentum.

It was suggested that could ask for donations to support the park in terms of a memorial for people who had a large part to play in the rec or who loved the rec.

Harmony Gardens has had 2 benches installed to commemorate 2 well respected volunteers, paid for by the Council.

Elections This year we have defined the officer roles more clearly and distributed them. We are very aware that the 3 same people have held these roles since the creation of the Friends and it would be good if their skills could be passed on in a more systematic way to make sure that this can change in future. **Chair** Dave Morris, **Treasurer** Caroline Jepson, **Secretary** Joan Curtis were all re elected unanimously. Liz Pine offered to help with some secretarial duties including minute taking. Chuku expressed interest in general support for the officers.

General discussion

Communications We talked about our public communications and it was noted that our website was very useful for placing and storing info (some of which needs updating) rather than being very vibrant and attractive. James Straffon offered to advise about a redesign. Our facebook page (1500 people) is pretty lively and relevant. We also need to make sure we have our own twitter and instagram account and not just depend on Hub accounts. A group will be formed to look into reviving our social media which at present depends on our successful facebook group. James, Chuku and Joan volunteered to help with this revamp.

Group WhatsApps

Some of our regular volunteer groups in the Rec have their own WhatsApp group. Our officers have one. New volunteers can fill in a volunteering form on our website identifying what activities they would like to be part of, and if they'd like to be on the core email list as well. The names are then passed to the relevant group coordinators who then contact them and add them to their lists. People can also add their name to the Friends list on the table in the foyer of the Hub so that they can be added to the Friends email membership list (1400 members) and receive all the information about Friends activities. Caroline sends a special welcome email to all new people too.

Next 12 months

- The regular volunteering sessions in the Woodland, the Orchard, the River and the Litter picking group will be ongoing. The friends will continue to hold regular open meetings on the first Sunday of each month (except for certain holidays).
- Volunteers can get involved in helping TCV with rebuilding the lake dipping platform, probably in June.
- Volunteers can help TCV replacing the wooden edging of the woodland path that was destroyed by contractors driving through it. Date to be confirmed.
- We want volunteers to help organise our regular Tottenham Flower and Produce Show, Sat Sept 9th. Joan and Paulette will arrange and advertise a meeting soon to bring any people together.
- We will continue our regular walkabouts with the Council and our Lordship Rec Users Forum meetings where we keep our rolling list of maintenance issues on the agenda. Some get done and some don't but we keep them on our list.
- On May 28th we will be holding an afternoon of films talks and discussion on local rivers with Thames 21 and the Haringey Rivers Forum at the Hub from 2pm
- Volunteers will be needed to help run the Bioblitz over June 9th and 10th when experts will be doing surveys of flora and fauna in the Rec, logging insects, plants etc.
- There will be a Cloud Appreciation event on Sept 16th.

Any other business

- We are continuing to look into funding to do work on the Lake Island which is looking really drab, with dead trees, and is disintegrating.
- There is global event with 200 cities across the world involved in a "City Nature Challenge" from 28th April to 1st May using the app iNaturalist which hopes to log all insects, plants, etc in London and can be fed into a wider world context. We are not sure if there will be organised activity in Lordship Rec but it can be searched for.
- Harmony Gardens will be having more weekend sessions now it is spring/summer in addition to their regular Tuesday and Friday sessions and welcome more volunteers.
- Resurrected an idea we had before Covid to arrange a walkabout day to visit each area where we do volunteering so that park users can find out what volunteering is on offer and talk to the people

who are active in each area. Suggestion to make a film which takes people around the rec to the different volunteering sites. We will try to find someone who is willing to take on this task.

- Suggested that we should ask Colin (park staff in the depot) if there is any way we can support him more now that there are less grounds staff working in the Rec.

APPENDIX 1 – ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023 (as adopted at the AGM)

Another amazing year for the Friends and our lovely park! The Friends were set up in 2001, and in the last 22 years the formerly run-down and neglected park has been utterly transformed into the great site it now is. This has been due to community organisation, action and empowerment - and good collaboration with Haringey Council's Parks Service. We now have a park that the people of Tottenham can be proud of. Long may that continue! But to ensure that does continue - nothing stays still - we all need to keep organising, volunteering, publicising, speaking up and strengthening our activities, our partnerships and our influence.

1. The Friends' special events this year

- **Apple Day and Wassail:** the orchard working group organised an Apple Day in October in the Hub, and a very well-attended 'Wassail' in January in the orchard field.
- **Flower and Produce Show:** As usual in September we organised in the park and Hub this annual event / competition / celebration of food growing and local crafts, attended by hundreds of local people.
- **Luke Howard 250th anniversary, and Weather Station:** Last November was the 250th anniversary of the local resident who 'named the clouds' with their internationally-recognised latin names. To celebrate we partnered with Tottenham Clouds and others to organise a range of activities in November. This included a kids kite-flying event in the park, a day of presentations and discussions in the Hub about weather and climate change, the installation of a new Weather Station in the Hub, and designing and installing a new 'Cloud Gazing in the Rec' interpretation board at the top of the park – accompanied by a ceremony there in which Lordship Rec was officially declared the world's first 'Cloud Appreciation Park'.
- **Film Shows at the Hub:** We've started a series of occasional film shows on matters of local relevance. Including 'Hostile', 'McLibel' and 'Age of Stupid'. A particularly successful and inspiring event was a 1988 major documentary about Broadwater Farm Youth Association activists. A key activist, who led an inspiring talk and discussion at the end of the showing, was our very own Clasford Stirling, still managing the Broadwater United FC youth football teams 34 years on!

And we actively encouraged and supported some other major events organised by other groups. For example:

- **Parkrun:** launched last autumn and now attended by over 150 people every Saturday
- **Shell Theatre:** the Shell Performing Arts Collective arranged and painted a new and dramatic mural on the Shell, and a re-launch event last July.
- **the Trove Market:** stalls and activities on the first Saturday of each month.
- **People Need Parks annual event:** Organised by the Council and the Lordship Sports and Activities Consortium

We paid tribute to **Rocky** who coordinated the Bike shop/hub at the front of the Rec, who tragically passed away last winter. 60 people attended a wake in his memory at the shop. He was much loved and had put years of effort into making the shop a success and befriending hundreds of customers who used the shop and the park. We are pleased to report that the shop has now reopened.

2. The Friends' regular working groups and volunteering sessions

The Friends have some very active working groups, holding regular volunteering sessions and helping to maintain and manage various areas of the park. More people are invited to get involved! (see our sign up form). This includes groups for:

- **the Orchard field:** this group manages the trees in the field, encourages families to maintain trees they have planted, and organises events to spread skills, awareness and appreciation for fruit-growing. The group is currently seeking funding for a special nature-appreciation 'bioblitz' event.
- **the Woodland:** this group regularly maintain the woodchip path, the trees, sightlines and the tiny stream/ponds. They get occasional support from Haringey Conservation Volunteers.
- **the River channel:** there are now regular clean ups in the river, supported by Haringey Water Squad, and meetings with the Council and contractors to manage and improve the channel and water quality etc.
- **Lordship Litterpickers:** twice every month volunteers scour areas of the park to find and remove litter.
- **Occasional art and craft sessions for families:** these are usually in the Hub, eg making masks or lanterns at Halloween

3. People involved in the Friends

All those who want to improve the park, and its range of community activities, are encouraged to join us.

- **membership:** Around 1,400 park users are on our email membership list
- **volunteers:** Around 60 people are involved in our various activities and sessions. Each working group has its own email list and/or whatsapp group
- **core coordination group:** around 30 people have signed up to be more involved
- **officers and reps:** there are 7-8 of us who have positions of responsibility ensuring everything goes smoothly (we hope!). See the document setting out these roles – we are seeking to maybe expand these roles and also invite others to assist.

Overall we are trying hard to encourage new people, and a more diverse range of people, to get involved (especially younger adults, and more people from ethnic minority backgrounds). To this end there is a draft strategy (see document) and a proposal to seek Friends of Lordship Rec ‘diversity champions’ and active partnerships for our events and activities.

4. Our Finances

We have limited funds. (See our Financial Report from our treasurer). Substantial activities require us to apply for grants - many of our bids are unsuccessful due to the large number of groups applying. Occasionally we do crowdfunding, but this takes a lot of publicising (like our current efforts to raise enough for a water dispenser outside the Hub – around £500 so far towards a £2,000 target). Help raising money would be appreciated!

5. Promoting the park and community activities

- **Email list:** we use our membership list for sending occasional updates.
- **Noticeboards:** We manage these and try to ensure they are informative and up to date
- **Facebook:** 1,500 park users are on this, and this results in quite a range of park info, publicity for events, interesting photos of the Rec etc
- **Hub info table:** lots of info about the Friends, the park and the Hub, and community events there.
- **www.lordshiprec.org.uk** Our website is regularly updated. It also now has a Video Gallery of all our films!

6. Other User Groups in the Rec

Whilst we are the organisation for all the individuals who care about the park, there are also nearly 20 other specialist groups organising a wide range of activities - eg groups organising football, cycling activities, regular walks and fitness sessions, managing the buildings, the Harmony Gardens, specialist events and so on. We support all these, and in particular we support the Hub Co-operative in running the park’s fantastic community centre and café in the middle of the park.

7. Lordship Rec Users Forum and partnership with the Council

We have an important role of encouraging groups in the park to link up and work together. We also need to ensure good collaboration between the community and the Council’s parks service staff, especially around maintenance, management and any proposed improvements to the Rec. To help achieve this we convene regular meetings of the Lordship Rec Users Forum – which this year is celebrating 20 years of co-management and good partnership-working for the regeneration of the Rec. In collaboration with The Conservation Volunteers and the Council’s Conservation Officer, the Friends produced a detailed **Conservation Action Plan** for the Rec, which guides all nature-related volunteering (mainly by us) over the next 5 years. Lordship Rec often gets **visits** from people (students, academics, other Friends Groups etc) wanting to hear about our success story and see for themselves. We are very proud of our successes and happy to host such visits!.

8. Haringey, London and beyond.....

We liaise with 60 local Friends groups throughout Haringey via the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum. We have strong links with the London Friends of Spaces Network (900 groups) and the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (the voice of the movement of over 7,000 groups) – our Chair (Dave) chairs the NFPGS.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!!!

Approved at Friends of Lordship Rec AGM 2.4.2023