

# Friends of Lordship Rec: Annual Report 2022- 2023

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 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Weather Station:** Last November was the 250<sup>th</sup> 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 Claford 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](http://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*