

Friends of Lordship Rec Meeting - Notes of monthly meeting on 6th August 2023

Who attended: Catherine Collingborn, Joan Curtis, Chuku, Caroline Jepson, Sally Haywill, Nina P, Emma from Junior ParkRun

Apologies: Dave Morris

Junior Park run: Emma, organiser of Junior ParkRun, the latest addition to the regular events in Lordship Rec, updated the meeting on how well the first few sessions had gone. Junior ParkRun is a free weekly 2K event for juniors from 4 to 14 taking place at 9.00 am on Sundays in the Rec. The average number of junior runners finishing each week is more than 30. Numbers have dropped off during the school holidays but this will rise again in September.

Emma is committed to including juniors with special needs and ensuring all children are welcome and is networking with local schools and organisations to emphasise this. Joan suggested Emma does a write up to go on the Friends Facebook about inclusion.

Lots of volunteers are needed for these events, and so far Emma has managed to have enough volunteers but because turnover is always high she has lots of ideas on where to recruit more including young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards. Young people can do some of the volunteer roles and in other roles they work alongside adults. Junior ParkRun has a Safeguarding policy and follows correct procedures for volunteers and staging the runs.

Joan suggested Emma liaises with the Hub Cafe to ensure they continue to keep opening early for this event.

FRIENDS PROJECT UPDATES

Woodland group: Due to the hard work of the volunteers, we received a favourable report from the judge and have been awarded a Green Flag for another year. The monthly work session took place on 21st July, which focused on cutting back vegetation at the northern end of the wood, maintaining the path to the picnic area and litterpicking.

As Thames Water have finally fixed leaks in Downhills Park Road, the stream has dried up. There is still some water in the south east corner of the wood, probably due to a high water table and this is feeding the pond in that section. It is hoped that winter rainfall will allow the group to maintain the lower pond as an ephemeral one.

Haringey TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) will be renewing the edging boards on the path on 22nd and 29th August. Catherine will be speaking to Haringey to ensure these are two extra days in addition to the three days of TCV support that are normally allocated to the Woodland.

Forest school sessions for under 5s have been running on Friday morning in the summer term and will take place in the wood on some days in the summer holidays. Catherine has agreed with the organiser, Aurora, that a maximum of 8 children can attend the sessions. Anybody or organisation wanting to run sessions in areas of the Rec managed by the Friends, such as the Woodland and the Spinney need to liaise with both Haringey Council and the Friends

beforehand. Surprisingly another organisation has been running sessions in the Spinney and the Woodland recently without the knowledge of the Friends. Aurora found items left in the Woodland by this organisation, who have now apologised. Leaving no trace is a requirement of any use of an area of the Rec.

Orchard and Main Field grassland edges The number of regular volunteers have declined at the moment but a core group are still working weekly on Thursday mornings. There is a good crop of some fruits such as apples, greengages and white mulberries. Plums have been picked to avoid damage to the trees. Work is focussed on cutting back the brambles and allowing the oak seedlings to grow which will help the water table. Sally has been heartened to see how many insects are around and how much more biodiverse the area is becoming. Sally is liaising with Cassandra from TCV about organising more coppicing workshops to coppice the next 5-7 hazels.

Main Field. Of the young trees planted in the field, Sally has found a person to look after all of them and she feels it is vital to find people to adopt any new trees we plant in the Rec. Sally has been offered a small walnut tree from the garden of Roger Deakin, a well known author and environmentalist. If it is agreed with Alex Fraser, Haringey Tree Officer, that it can be planted in the Rec we will need to find people to adopt the tree. It will probably be planted on the West side of the Rec. Joan will post a request on the Friends Facebook asking for adopters.

Caroline observed that the creeping thistle in the grassland edges that are regularly mown seem to have been noticeably weakened this year. In the areas on the eastern side of the Rec that are not mown the creeping thistle has a stronghold and is dominant.

Sally has liaised with Andy about the need to cut again before too long. He didn't mow in Spring this year, so we should ensure he does it twice next year.

Lake Haringey TCV have been delayed in completing the dipping platform, as they have been waiting to have the gate delivered. Joan has successfully asked Glynis from Haringey Parks Department to fund the new interpretation board, so this will leave some funds for other improvements around the Lake.

Litterpicking Eddie has been stepping in for Caroline recently to run the twice monthly sessions. The increase in rough sleeping in the Rec has had some impact on the group's activities as it does limit access to some areas. Most of the rough sleeper camps do not generate litter, but sometimes abandoned areas have been cleared by the litterpickers. Streetlink has designated the Rec as a "hotspot" for rough sleepers and have told the Friends they are trying to contact and gain the confidence of individuals to help them move into accommodation, but this takes time.

Moselle Brook The monthly volunteer channel clearing sessions organised by Haringey Water Squad and supervised by Thames21, and currently financed by Haringey for the next year, have concentrated on clearing the abundant summer vegetation. As they work their way down the channel volunteers are learning more about the micro habitats being formed in the Brook and

how the water behaves. Because oxygen levels are low, few species can live in the water except for water scorpions which are being found every session.

Caroline and John Miles of the Haringey Rivers Forum have met with Thames 21, Haringey Parks Dept and Ebsford the contractors, to start working up a proposal on how to improve the Silt Pond. The initial thinking is that sticking plaster measures will not be sufficient and that more radical solutions may be needed that will involve re-engineering the Silt Pond and the channel. Bigger plans may have a greater chance of being funded. The plan is to submit an application to the Environment Agency in Summer 2024. Any draft proposals will be widely consulted upon.

Friends' Tools Some tools have disappeared recently and an inventory of the tools in the lock up and the plant room is due. Caroline will make an application to the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association for any tools we require.

Flower and Produce Show: Saturday 9th September. Joan is organising the event on a smaller budget than usual, although Tottenham Grammer School Foundation has been generous with funds for the children's workshops before the event. Caroline will write to the Secretary and Chair of the TGSF inviting them to a tour of the Rec, while the F & P Show is taking place, or whenever convenient to them. One new initiative at the Show is to include two visits to the gardening projects developed on the Broadwater Farm terraces overlooking the Rec. Help is required with distributing publicity and application forms.

To avoid a clash with the Show, Catherine will reschedule Woodland Group to another date in September.

Installation of Water Bottle Filler: The Friends are now holding all the funds, so we will order the water dispenser. There is no news on when the Changing Spaces improvements will happen. Emma said that the ParkRun participants had been asking what was happening, so Joan will put out an update.

Green Group for Central Tottenham Dave Morris had distributed information on the launch of this new group, to take place at the Hub on 24th September, and asked for the Friends to ratify its support. It was decided to defer this until Dave was able to attend a Friends meeting in person so that he could clarify any questions on the group's purpose.

MAINTENANCE/GENERAL

Bat Survey: Sally was unable to include a survey during the June Bioblitz. She will try and organise a bat evening soon.

Higham Road Flowerbed Circle: This is now being managed by volunteers. Any ideas as to what to plant in the winter would be welcome.

Oak Processionary Moth: No moth has been seen in the Oak Circle, although it is still present on a small oak in the main field (area 11). Outbreaks are no longer being treated by Haringey, as it is likely to be ineffective.

Access to Yard behind Shell. Joan will check what the current Key system is and inform those who need access.

New Lighting: This has been installed by the Highways Department and the old lights will be taken away soon.

Waterlogged ground by Lordship Lane entrance. This has been widely reported for repair and is likely to be a broken underground pipe.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Sunday 3rd September.