

Friends of Lordship Rec: Monthly meeting - 4th February 2024

Attending: Joan Curtis, Catherine Collingborn, Mike Downes, Sally Haywill, Caroline Jepson, Dave Morris, Nina Prieto, **Apologies:** Rita

Minutes of last meeting on 7th January: Agreed as accurate

1. Project Updates

Lake: Still awaiting news on **funding bid to the Environment Agency**. However, some Lake funds are available, as Haringey had unexpectedly paid for the new interpretation board. Caroline and Joan will meet to plan using funds for some lake activities, possibly to coincide with the Hub Community Day on 27th April. Mike and John A. had pulled out a **stolen motorbike** and delivered it back to the owner, known to John!. Caroline had organised an ad hoc session on 31st January with the **litter-pickers** to remove litter and wood from the water. Unfortunately, one of the waders has a leak, so only a couple of good pairs are left. Another **Lake volunteer day** needs to be organised to concentrate on dead growth, willow pruning on sides and floating islands, and weeding. When we next go into the Lake with waders the little houses will be removed.

Moselle Brook: Caroline and John Miles had a **positive meeting with Haringey officers** to discuss the Tree strategy to manage the self-seeded willows. Caroline and John will be meeting with the Haringey tree officers onsite, once they have drawn up a list of specific works on individual trees over the Brook, which we wish Haringey to undertake. We have proposed that a special day be organised to deal with the lines of willows in the overflow channel combining the efforts of Haringey staff and volunteers, possibly corporate, because John's experience at the wetland in Broomfield Park, Enfield, showed this approach could be effective. We still need to agree funding for the **monthly volunteer sessions** with Haringey from April.

Orchard. The **Wassail on 14th January** had been very popular with 200 people attending and £237 in donations collected for Hackney Migrant Centre. **Two Coppicing workshops** run on 27th and 28th January had also gone well, attracting local potential volunteers resulting in lots of work on the hazel hedge. These were run jointly with TCV. The **Fruit Tree Pruning workshops** will take place on 24/25 February and Mike was putting out the advertisements well in advance. The first of the **new orchard sessions** on the 1st Saturday of the month had been held the previous day. Mike was very pleased that 3 new volunteers had come. The Orchard group, with Myrtle leading, would like to build a higher fence around the **circular bed at the Higham Road entrance** and replant it. This was agreed.

Meadows/Grasslands. Each year, Sally liaises with Haringey staff regarding the mowing regime to be undertaken in March and August to achieve the best biodiversity outcomes. This year she wants to make changes so that more areas dominated by thistles are mown and to ensure that Area 11 is not mown through the middle. Dave reported that there was a new Haringey officer, Rob Lis, who is the manager of Alex and Theo who normally do the cutting. Sally and Caroline would get Rob's details and provide him with a map showing the numbered areas and which should be mown or left unmown.

Lordship Wood. We ran a **volunteer session** on January 13th and **Haringey TCV** came in on the 23rd and, despite awful weather, did terrific work, taking down a fallen silver birch, coppicing and creating a dead hedge. Catherine reported to Alex Goodyear that a **tree** had come down and fallen through a boundary fence. The Haringey Tree team dealt with the tree but there is now a big gap in the boundary fence. Another householder has built a **very high fence**, which is very visible in the woodland, but as any height fence is legal in this location (Catherine has checked), there is nothing to be done. Unfortunately, the **water** has now come back and is once again running through the wood and across the path, so investigations to find the source will have to continue. We are still waiting to hear if Haringey will provide the lengths of wood needed to continue **edging the path** - Glynis at the recent spotlight meeting said she will pursue this. The woodland **interpretation board** needs repairing or renewing as the damage has been noted by Green Flag judges for the last two years. Joan would also like to meet with Catherine towards the end of March to review the artwork. On 23rd February Catherine would be attending the

Londonwide launch of a **Woodland Self-Assessment Tool**, which is being held in the Hub. She and Colette helped pilot the tool.

Flower and Produce Show 2024. This is being developed as an event around green issues and Joan is preparing a funding application to the Lottery. A bigger group of people to plan and organise before the event, is required. A meeting will be organised at 6.30 on 27th March and an email widely circulated to establish a planning team.

2. General Volunteering Matters

Special Volunteering Day for Civic group on 3rd March. Mike, Catherine, Colette and Caroline are liaising with Nadya K. to bring a group of volunteers from a local mosque. This will be run in the morning of Sunday 3rd March and we will organise work in the Orchard and Lordship Wood.

Tool inventory and lock-up security. As tools have gone missing Sally requested that a new lock is installed (about £70 for a squire lock) and that a clear list is kept of who has the keys. This was agreed once the tool inventory has been reviewed and then we can draw up a list of tools to be purchased.

Volunteering Calendar: This has been drawn and updated by Dave and is now on the website. It needs to be both on the blog section and in the Getting Involved section. The Haringey TCV sessions will also be included.

3. Maintenance, repairs, new facilities etc.

LRUF Spotlight meeting. This took place on 2nd February and Friends met with Parks Officers to consider the list of repairs and maintenance issues and go on a walkabout. Glynis has taken away several issues to process.

Water bottle filler. We have purchased the appliance but are waiting for the Changing Places development to get it fitted. As there is no clear date and we do not want to wait too long, Glynis is going to investigate options.

Rough sleepers update. The camp at the top of the hill in the hazels was cleared by Alex Goodyear and the Clean Team before the coppicing workshops took place. There was a great deal of material to be cleared and tidying up had to be done by the Orchard volunteers. Currently there are two camps in the Rec - one in the central corridor and one in Lordship wood. Streetlink are or have been involved and both camps are being followed up by Haringey.

4. Finance. We are committed to getting a **cardreader** as this will really help with donations at events, workshops, etc. Dave and Caroline have really been trying via Zettle which is now managed by Paypal. Joan suggested other options such as SumUp, which Caroline will look into. **Update:** Our application was unsuccessful to Wild London (London Mayor's fund) for nature volunteering and community engagement support.

5. New Forthcoming Events

Lordship Rec User Groups catch up session on Wed 28th Feb, 6pm at the Hub. **Sat 30th March.** Dave will be celebrating his 70th birthday (yes, really) at the Hub, at an event designed as a fun retrospective of his life and activism. The Friends will be supporting this event and attendees will be invited to make a donation to the Friends. Those who know Dave well are invited! **3rd October** Benjamin Zephaniah - celebration of his life and works. Benjamin had connections with Lordship Rec – he knew Clasford well as a young man and filmed with Dave's son. This will be an opportunity to appreciate him.

6. Any Other Business

Catherine reported that **Peter Corley**, who had been very supportive of the Friends since its launch and active in our practical volunteering had sadly died - the funeral would be held on 21st February. The Friends would send a card.

7. Date of Next Meeting: **Sunday 3rd March**