

## Friends of Lordship Rec - general meeting, Sunday 7th November @ The Hub

**Present:** Dave (facilitated), Louise, Nina, Sally, Daniel J, Joan, Linda, Dan (took minutes) **Apologies:** Caroline, Alyson, Catherine

### A. Reports of the various Friends and volunteer activities

**Halloween** was a success, 60 kids turned up in the Hub to make lanterns – Joan and Nina and other volunteers were at a stretch as they had only catered for 25! Mr Squash conducted a ‘scary walk’. Generally good all round.

**Fireworks** was great, a mild evening attracted 500 local people to the top of the hill in the Rec to view the Ally Pally show. Hub sold out of food and refreshments early.

**Friends of West Ham Park (Newham) Visit** – At their request, Dave had arranged a visit on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct for 2 hrs. 4 of our group (Dan, Nina, Alyson and Dave), and 5 of theirs, attended and talked through our mutual park issues. After tea and biscuits in the Hub we showed them around. They admired what we had achieved in the park and Hub. They were considering what improvements to seek after some years of focusing just on activities. They will investigate Wolves lane as a potential model for them regarding possible lobbying to reclaim their own derelict nursery, which is facing potential sell off for housing.

**Lake** Some trees on island are dead or dying and some limbs have blown off. Dave and Joan have written to the Council’s tree officer, Alex, who has agreed to come and visit to check re safety. Will borrow our wading gear.

**Woodland** – We, FLR, got our annual Green Flag Award for managing our woodland, and an excellent written report from the GFA judge. There were two volunteering sessions in October and will be two in November. Aurora has enquired about possibility of Forest school activities there - potential collaboration consisting of 6 or more sessions. Dave had explained to her that we supported initiatives that were practical and appropriate for the Rec, and that she would need to liaise with Catherine and the Forest School collective we are already in partnership with (ie Linda and co). Outcome - Linda, Catherine and Aurora to discuss after Dave introduces them to each other.

**Harmony Gardens** – Still awaiting progress with the new lease. More volunteers needed generally – open sessions are on Tuesdays and Fridays. We agreed to publicise once we receive the full details. Linda is coordinating the renewal and re-launch of the Children’s Garden area at the side of the Centre, and a special session is planned for Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 10am – 4.30pm to recruit some volunteers for that area, with a range of practical activities and cob oven. A general Open Day will be held in future. Ruth and Louise will send us full info for Joan to add to our facebook page.

**Orchard:** Sessions often on Tuesdays and Sundays, 9-11am, eg mulching, woodchipping and potentially pruning in January. 4 new trees have been planted, the children from the Nursery are planting crocus bulbs etc next week [*Update – over 40 kids planted 100 bulbs*]. Sue and Sally to arrange coppicing session. No Apple Day activities planned this year due to covid, but will probably plan a wassail in January as usual - Sally to consider and give more info when available. The group will back her decision.

**Trees generally** Jonty, guided by Sally, planted a commemorative tree. Dave explained the Council is working with Trees For Streets in a scheme for tree planting across the borough – mainly in streets but also some in parks. Also Tottenham Hotspur Foundation want to plant acacia trees around Tottenham and the Council’s tree officer has asked us what we thought about the north-west part of the main field – we have written back with some concerns re tree species, site and ongoing maintenance. Meanwhile we are still awaiting news from Trees for Cities about their next corporate volunteering session with us to help maintain trees in the Rec – the one planned for October having been cancelled due to covid.

**Moselle:** No update

**Shell Theatre and Freestyle area:** Dan reported that the Shell Performing Arts Collective is being re-launched. The group are working on social media presence and have started to plan a series of events for next year and working out an infrastructure for the group. A local mural artist has offered to coordinate a new mural and will work up a design for people to discuss. Meanwhile a whatsapp communications group has been set up for users of the freestyle area. Dan has been chatting to the regular users.

**Park Run:** A weekly public non-competitive run on Saturday mornings has been proposed for Lordship Rec as part of the existing and growing 'Park Run' movement of over 700 UK sites so far. 500 runners of all ages and abilities attend weekly in Finsbury Park, although we would expect much less in the Rec (maybe 100 people?). Daniel, a regular at the Finsbury Park Run, presented his action plan for us to look through, setting out some of the key actions needed before it could be launched (including raising money to register with Park Run, establishing a core volunteer team of at least 10 people, doing a risk assessment, and Daniel himself being fully trained as the coordinator): we noted that there are some distance markers embedded in the paths around the park, and that many people already run and jog around the park. All agreed to support. Dave and Daniel to approach the Council for permission. Ongoing discussions to be had regarding how we can support. (Any core volunteers contact us). Potential start Spring 2022.

**Our social media and comms** Joan doing a great job managing our lively facebook page – now over 1,100 people on it. Dave and Joan are updating the website home page. Nina keeping the park's noticeboards tidy and up to date. Dave adding new sign ups to our email membership list (over 1400 members).

## **B. Other issues**

**Conservation Action Plan:** Helena of TCV has done a first draft of this new Plan, based on our efforts in various parts of the Rec over the last 15 years. Following previous onsite meeting with Helena, the Friends members who coordinate our Rec area work (Sally, Ruth, Catherine, Joan and Caroline) sent in info to Helena, then most of us met up with her on zoom to discuss the draft. She minuted that meeting, and we are currently replying with any further thoughts. Helena to meet us again in January (between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Jan) to finalise the Plan. Harmony Gardens people want their site to be included – which we brought up with Helena and she agreed (Ruth to send in info).

**Site of Importance for Nature Conservation** Dave contacted MKA Ecology, consultants reviewing all 59 such sites in the borough, including Lordship Rec. We expect Lordship Rec to be upgraded from a SINC of local to borough-wide importance as it seems to clearly fulfil the criteria for this. Dave asked them (by phone and email) to ensure they read all the reports about the Rec which we sent earlier this year to Annabel, the borough's conservation officer.

**General Maintenance:** *Loop track* has been resurfaced, Lime has been added and will be needed again in 3-5 years (with annual top ups in various patches). **Oak Moth:** We've been told the nest has been removed from the millennium circle. The fences are still there, and Dave has contacted park managers for update. **Gate counters:** Batteries run out on the counters a while ago, and the council was asked to get new batteries a number of times. We agreed we're not that bothered, but if unused maybe the 'click' posts should be removed. **Orchard paths:** The paths have become boggy. If mulched then they are less boggy but can't be mown. Group decided to mulch just the main path from Freedom Road into the orchard. **Flooding across main path near woodland:** The water crossing the path is a safety hazard and unsightly. Thames water say they cant find evidence the water is their fault/responsibility, but have agreed to do a geo-survey. Needs to be chased up. **Project Officer:** Jeffrey is leaving his job – a big blow as he had been very conscientious and effective (despite time and resource constraints) in progressing repairs and hiring/liasing with contractors in the Rec, and keeping us fully engaged and informed as key partners. We agreed to send him our best wishes for the future.

**Hub:** 20+ people attended the **Hub Co-op AGM**, as part of a Hub Day of taster sessions and a film show about the Rec. Hub producing **monthly programmes** again, and gradually returning to normal. **Christmas crafts/gifts fair** is on 11th December, there will be a santa grotto and it will be £10 to hire a stall. Joan and volunteers aim to open the Hub on **Christmas Day** for a collective lunchtime meal/socialising as for each year. **Hub as an environmental centre:** The Hub held discussions (involving Pamela of eN10ergy) regarding highlighting, enhancing and promoting the Passivhaus design, solar energy generation and sustainability of the building. Looking into potential extra solar panels, and possibly a weather station to be added (as first discussed 4-5 years back). Also links to food production in the Rec and Harmony Gardens. Environmentalism and good practice to be communicated to the wider community.

**AOB.** A local student has published a **research document** on usage of Tottenham's green spaces focused on Lordship, Downhills and Chesnuts, and in particular the usage by often under-represented sections of the community (eg teenagers, people from BAME backgrounds etc). She interviewed Joan and Dave (Lordship Rec), Clare (Downhills) and Paul Ely (for the Council) among others. A very interesting report which we have a copy of.