

# Friends of Lordship Rec

## Notes of monthly meeting - 6th Feb 2022

**Present:** Dan, Catherine Collingborn, Joan Curtis, Benjamin, Caroline Jepson, John, Elena, Nina, Louise **Apologies:** Sally Haywill (running coppicing workshop in Orchard)

**Minutes of last meeting on 9th January** Ruth from Harmony Gardens had submitted a correction. Regarding Harmony Children's Garden, the January minutes incorrectly stated that *"a Forest school group would not be taking on the development of the garden."* Ruth has submitted the following text as a correction, *"the regeneration is being shared between Friends of Harmony Gardens and Urban Forest collective, who wish to make a decorative cob wall to protect the garden and users. Planning is at an early stage and comments are welcome"*.

## **NEW DEVELOPMENTS / PROJECTS FOR THE REC**

### **Shell Theatre and Skateboard area**

Shell Performing Arts Collective (SPAC) were congratulated for being successful in two funding applications to People Need Parks. They have been awarded £1K for the painting of the Shell Theatre in the Easter holiday weekend and £1K for a Launch Event for the revitalised area, date to be confirmed. Starting on 25th March an AfroCuban band would be using the Shell as a rehearsal space to see how it functions.

It was suggested to Dan and John that they might want to consider coinciding the SPAC Launch event with the Youth Festival being organised in the Rec on 4th June, which would also launch Haringey Council's PNP Summer programme. The Youth Festival is being organised by Lily Labonte from Haringey Sports and Leisure and Lordship Sports and Activities consortium which is a consortium of practitioners. Dan and John agreed they would definitely have a presence on 4th June Youth Festival, but would probably keep the launch of the Shell Theatre/Skateboard area as a separate event.

John Lord introduced himself and explained that he is working on forming community groups around many skateboard parks in London- 21 to date. He and Dan are working on developing ideas on improvements for the area such as seating. John and Dan got funding from Wickes for brushes, brooms etc to help keep the area safe and tidy. Dan will send Joan the photograph to put on the Friends of Lordship Rec Facebook.

Dan reported that BMX lessons and sessions are continuing on the Loop track. Paul Wheeler wants to apply for funding (from ActionSport?) to get more qualified coaches. BMX Club has a Whatsapp group.

Drainage is a major problem with the Rec's skateboard area. When Dave and Dan did a Walkabout with Chris Poore, Haringey's Zonal Officer for the Rec, they looked at the area and

the drains and discussed the urgent need for the drains to be cleared. John asked whether there is clarification of what the problem is? In truth there isn't clarity on whether the drains are blocked, broken or there is a design fault when the area was built initially and in subsequent developments. The Rec is built on a floodplain and has a wide network of drainage pipes throughout but is still subject to flooding.

Dave will keep up the pressure for immediate work on cleaning the drains around the Shell Theatre area and for regular maintenance, particularly in view of the exciting developments in 2022.

### **Luke Howard anniversary celebrations**

Dave reported that a very successful planning meeting had been held on 23 January, under the umbrella of Tottenham Clouds, to organise a weekend of events 26th-28th November to commemorate Luke Howard, "the namer of clouds". There are plenty of ideas, including involving a Met Office representative and a descendant of Luke Howard who still lives locally. The theme of clouds and climate change presents lots of possibilities including the creation of a weather station at the Hub. There is a potential tie up with EN10ergy which is going to install solar panels on the roof of the Hub (the Hub was given a £7K grant) which will include an LED display. Elena expressed an interest to be involved in Luke Howard celebrations.

### **New Walking groups**

Two more walking groups are starting up. One is a pram walk, on Tuesdays from 9.00-10.00, starting from Broadwater Farm Community Centre and on Fridays there will be a new adult walking group followed by an adult cycling group.

### **FLR PROJECT UPDATES**

**Orchard:** The skills training workshops are fully attended and going very well. Sally and Katherine asked for the meeting's approval to make an application for PNP funding for a kite-making workshop for families to be run in the Hub and in the Orchard on 9th April. This was agreed and Caroline would let Sally know so she could put in an application.

**Woodland:** Both the January and February sessions involved lots of cutting back of encroaching vegetation growth on north and west side to ensure parks staff can maintain the verges, and allow bulbs and flowers to grow, plus the usual litterpicking. The Trust for Conservation Volunteers will be working in the Woodland on 1st March and their tasks may include working on the new pond and water management.. The flowing water is an ongoing problem that may never be resolved. Joan asked for boardwalks to be considered. Caroline reported that Chris Poore had taken an engineer to look at the problem. Catherine has ordered more woodchip for path renewal. The reported fallen down tree in the north- west corner has been dealt with by Park staff.

Caroline had done some basic research on the possibility of utilising crushed concrete (as mentioned in January meeting) as a material to help deal with repairs to the path on north side of the Woodland. Unfortunately it seems it may not be suitable in areas subject to flooding. However, she will continue to look into it.

**Lake:** Joan and Caroline had met Ian Williams, new Tree Officer at Haringey, to discuss the trees on the island. He was very helpful. He did not consider major removal work was required on the trees. He suggested alders might be possible to “green” the island. On the artificial banks on the edge of the Lake he recommended continuing to coppice the self-seeded willow. Ian said he would talk to Annabel Foskett to see whether there was approval from Simon Farrow for a survey of the Lake structure, above and below the water.

**Moselle:** Caroline reported continuing frustration with no progress on maintenance between the Friends, Haringey and the contractors. However, John Miles of the Haringey Rivers Forum had written a very clear email to Thames Water, Haringey and all the other statutory bodies and stakeholders about the condition of the water in the Moselle Brooke entering the Rec and the need for joined up action on identifying where the pollution occurs. The Friends insurance had been renewed from the 23rd January and there is now a general exclusion preventing any practical work by us regarding “inland waterways”. Caroline discussed the meaning with the insurance company and it prevents us doing anything that involves learning over the water, pulling anything from the water or entering the water. This makes the tie-up with Haringey Rivers Forum even more crucial, as any future volunteering will need to be carried out under their umbrella using the insurance provided through Thames21.

**Conservation Action Plans:** A further meeting with Helena Taylor of TCV was held in January to discuss the 2nd draft. We have put in further amendments so Helena’s 3rd draft will be discussed at a final meeting on 30th March.

As reported at the last meeting, Haringey Parks had asked Dave to start working on the updating of the Management Plan (the Lordship Rec one is much bigger than for other parks as we co-wrote it and it is due to run until 2025) When Dave was subsequently contacted to say that the update had to be done more or less immediately, ( which was unrealistic for such a large document), it was agreed to delay the update for a year.

**Art and craft:** Joan and Nina will be running an activity at the Hub over half-term.

**Friends Communications:** We now have an Email list (1400 addresses); Facebook (1100); Co-ordination email list (18 names); and a Whatsapp group for those with specific activity roles (7). The volunteer questionnaire seems to be working well, with 14 forms completed. Caroline sends a welcoming email to everyone who signs up to the Friends Email list and a different email to those who complete the volunteer questionnaire. This has increased the number of active volunteers in practical activities and meetings.

John recommended that we have an “In memory” section on the website to commemorate volunteers who have died - Ray and Malcolm immediately came to mind.

**Interpretation Boards:** It is going to be very difficult to get one-off large scale funding to replace the Boards, which are in a bad state. We need to use any new development or project as a hook to fund the replacement of some boards. We need to include the cost of a board in any funding application for a project - this is how many of the boards were initially funded. Joan does have the art work for many of the current boards as she designed them.

**Harmony Gardens:** The community garden now has lots of volunteers, and with a grant from the Mayor's fund there will be lots of new developments. They had a stall at the Broadwater Farm Open Day. Joan has created a new HG leaflet which Nina will put in the noticeboards.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Next Practical Co-ordination Meeting:** A date needs to be arranged by Dave. Dave has spoken to Sahina and Alex Goodyear, Haringey staff, about the importance of these meetings and they have said they will come to the next one.

**ParkRun:** Will probably start in April. Trying to build a core group and raise funding.

**Down Lane Park:** Dave spoke at a meeting to launch the forming of a Stakeholder/Users Forum, similar to the Lordship Rec Users Forum, for Down Lane Park. There was a diverse attendance of 40 people. The Council are keen to establish this body as there will be £2 million to improve the park as part of the Tottenham Hale regeneration and they want active contribution from the community to the designs.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Date of Next meeting:** Sunday 6th March, 2pm.

**Annual General Meeting:** Sunday 3rd April

Dave will start drafting the Annual Report and Caroline will present accounts for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. A budget for £50 for food and refreshments was agreed, but people will also be asked to "bring and share".