

# FRIENDS OF LORDSHIP REC

## REPORT OF MONTHLY MEETING 14th August 2022

**ATTENDING:** Caroline Jepson; Dave Morris, Rita G, Louise R. Aurora B. Stella S;

**APOLOGIES:** Dan Batters, Joan Curtis, Catherine Collingborn, Sally Haywill

**Minutes of meeting held on 3rd July 2022:** These were agreed as a true record

### Project Group updates

#### **Woodland Group:**

- At the session on 6th July, the bridge was repaired, the vegetation cut back, the stream cleared and litter picked up. The Woodland group have been awarded a Community Green Flag for 2022 and Caroline and Veronica attended the Award Ceremony in Lambeth. Dave has asked for an update from Chris Poore as to whether Thames Water have fixed the leak under houses in Downhills Park Road, that was creating the extra water down the stream and over the path - he is waiting to hear.

- Aurora B, a local resident and Forest school leader at Belmont School, introduced herself to the meeting. Having obtained permission of Haringey and the Friends, Aurora had just successfully run a 4 day holiday club for up to 10 children across Lordship Wood and Downhills Park. Aurora had inspected the Woodland with Catherine and Colette as part of the planning process to identify suitable areas to use that would have minimal impact. She is considering whether to run a regular monthly session once a month and more holiday clubs. These would always be small groups and booking would be required.

#### **Lake:**

- This is one of the areas of the Rec which is substantially strategically managed by the Friends, having raised most of the money for the physical and habitat improvements over the years. The Friends are working with Haringey's Nature Conservation Officer (NCO) to develop further projects. The NCO commissioned a survey to establish how much silt was in the lake to use for habitat creation but there was not as much as anticipated. The Friends and the NCO are considering applying for a grant from the Grow Back Greener fund. We are going to work up the project to create shade and build more habitat, and upgrade the dipping platform. It is worth a try to see if we can get the money.

#### **Shell Theatre:**

- Has been repainted through the Shell Performing Arts Collective and they are working on getting the space used a great deal more. The Shell and SPAC successfully hosted the Haringey Fringe all-day event on July 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Formal launch of the space on 17th September and SPAC will aim to facilitate a wide range of organisations to book and use the Shell in the future. There is a great deal of interest, including from the Bernie Grant Centre who are looking for an outside space.

- There are concerns about the quality of some of the recent repairs to the skatepark surface and in the long term it needs to be upgraded with a less gritty surface.

**Orchard:**

- Sally and a small band of volunteers have put in 100s hours of labour to keep watering the trees in the Orchard and the South West of the main field, using a hose from the allotments and watering cans on a wheelbarrow. With these efforts, supported by families involved in planting trees, and despite the very bad drought, most trees have survived. Droughts may become a way of life, so the question was asked whether there is anywhere to install water butts. Perhaps there was a potential for water butts to be installed around the Hub.

**Moselle:**

- The first practical volunteering session, run by Haringey Rivers Forum (as the Haringey Water Squad) and Thames 21, in conjunction with the Friends is taking place on 20th August. It will enable us to get a lot more familiar with the way the water and the habitat works in different stretches of the Brook and to learn more about how to manage it. The intention is to run practical volunteering on a regular basis.

**Litterpicking:**

- All working well with new people joining regularly. There is never a shortage of litter to pick up, although the group has made a big impact over the last two years in reducing the build up of litter in the Rec.

**Harmony Gardens:**

- This area is not managed by the Friends, but by the Friends of Harmony Gardens. Negotiations have been ongoing to regularise the lease between the Friends and Fusion so that it will be easier for FofHG to get grant funding. A draft lease has now been issued and it is hoped that the lease will be agreed soon.

**Forthcoming events and New Developments****Tottenham Flower and Produce Show:**

- Preceding our annual major event Joan and Paulette have drawn up a fascinating programme of workshops for adults and children which are being advertised and will take place before the main Show which will be on 10th September. The entry form has been distributed. Encourage your friends to enter!

**ParkRun:**

- This will definitely be starting soon, every Saturday morning. There was some concern about the proposed route as it will go past the Hub but in fact observations have established that this area is quiet early on Saturday mornings and the main body of the run will be over by 9.30. Participants have to give way to the public, so the Friends have withdrawn any concerns we might have had. The Hub is aiming to open earlier on Saturdays to provide water and toilets because of ParkRun.

**Water fountain:**

- In the past the Friends and the Hub did some work on getting water fountains installed in the Rec, but it stalled because of logistical and technical issues. Because of ParkRun being held in the Rec we have resurrected the issue and the need for water fountains. Dave and Joan are looking into old quotes and plans and establishing how much was already raised towards the

cost. The Friends hold £1040 from an Environmental Impact Grant in our account which is earmarked for a water fountain. Similarly, the Hub holds some funds raised for this purpose.

#### **Upgrade to the Rec's Nature Conservation Status:**

- We are still waiting on an official announcement that the Rec will move from being a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) to one of Borough-wide importance. The recommendation has been made in a draft report on the status of Haringey's SINCs, but it has to be confirmed by an outside body. When it is official, we plan to make the most of celebrating and publicising it and seeing if any fundraising is possible on the back of the move.

#### **Weather station in the Hub.**

- Dave announced that the Hub has been successful in fundraising £3.4K to install a weather station. This is part of the project around the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of local scientist Luke Howard (the Namer of Clouds) which will culminate with a weekend of celebrations in November. Joan has set up a Crowdfunder for the project which has raised £800 to date. It was suggested that the crowdfunder should be more widely advertised in the Hub with a display, or asking people to contribute at the till (although this is logistically very complicated). Dave explained that there would be a wider fundraising appeal going out through a wider net of groups, as well as the online crowdfunder, so it was hopeful that this would raise sufficient funds.

#### **Maintenance issues**

**Forthcoming hosepipe ban:** Caroline would make enquiries about whether the Friends would still be able to top up the Lake if there is a hosepipe ban. (Update Note: Glynis Kirkwood confirmed that we would be able to do this is necessary, because of the captive fish in the Lake)

**Oak Circle:** Earlier in the year, this was out of bounds, because of the presence of Oak Processionary Moth, which can cause irritation to humans and animals. The tape has disintegrated and not been replaced, so it is unclear whether the area is now open for use. Caroline would ask Chris Poore for clarification.

#### **Any Other Business**

**Dogs and the Lake:** Sometimes, dogs off the lead do enter the water or habitat areas to chase the wildlife. There are no notices asking people to keep dogs on the lead. Caroline would enquire what the current policy is in Haringey parks.

**Livestock/hens - potential in the Rec?:** The question was raised as to whether there was any scope for livestock such as hens, but it was explained that although a Farm was considered as part of the restoration of the Rec, the reality is that the cost, maintenance infrastructure and safety issues, makes this largely impractical.

**Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 3rd September, 2pm**