

## Our Finances

Our financial accounts cover the period 1st April 2024 to the 31st March 2025. We are extremely grateful for the generous funding we received in this financial year from the National Lottery Community Fund, Tottenham Grammar School Foundation, Growing in Haringey, and Haringey's People Need Parks fund which enabled us to deliver two successful special events (the Flower and Produce Festival in September 2024 and the Wassail in January 2025), run practical skills training for orchard volunteers, buy bulbs for the woodland, restock litterpicking equipment and buy a range of protective gloves. Other funding bids were made for new projects but were unsuccessful, due the large volume of applications received by funders.

As ever, how to fund core costs such as insurance, and miscellaneous materials for small tasks not related to specific funded projects, is a continuing problem.

At the start of the financial year we had unallocated reserves of £967.31, but by the end this reserve was down to £512.98. (See our Financial Report from our treasurer). Raising £800-900 for core costs would be sufficient and we are looking at ways to increase donations from individual park users, by making it easier for donations to be made through apps such as Collectiv and running more fundraising events such as batwalks.

**Caroline Jepson**, Treasurer

## Getting Involved

All those who want to see the park improved, and a wide range of community activities, are encouraged to join.

**Membership:** Around 1,400 park users are on our email membership list.

**Volunteers:** Around 60-70 people are involved in our various working groups, special events, and coordination. Each Working Group has its own email list and/or whatsapp group

**Officers and reps:** there are 7-8 of us who have positions of responsibility/coordination ensuring everything goes smoothly (we hope!). Our reps have their own Whatsapp Group to help coordinate things.

## Haringey, London and beyond....

We liaise with 65 local Friends groups throughout Haringey via the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum. We have strong links with the London Friends of Green Spaces Network (1,000 groups). Our Chair (Dave) chairs the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces, the voice of the movement of 7,000 local Friends groups



Trees on the main field



River Bed

## Lordship Rec Users Forum (LRUF) and partnership with the Council

- We have an important role encouraging groups in the park to link up and work together. We work with the Council's parks staff around maintenance, management and proposed Rec improvements. Recent issues include lighting, benches, hedges, leaks... and an exciting new development, the revamp of the children's playground. The Friends were able to promote the Council's consultation with parents on the design of the new playground and have had several meetings with the project manager. The park could soon be upgraded to a borough-wide Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

## Looking ahead

In the year ahead our priorities will be on finalising a new general leaflet about Lordship Rec, reviewing how we attract and maintain volunteers, improving the website and improving our financial

position from donations. We will work closely with Haringey council on their funding bids to maintain infrastructure in the Rec and to deal with the challenge presented by climate change on green and blue spaces.

## Friends Special Events over the last 12 months

- Wassail is organised by the Orchard working group annually in January. The 2025 celebration in the orchard field, parading with lanterns and ivy crowns, singing to and dressing the trees, attracted 300 people, 100 more than last year!



- Tottenham Flower and Produce Festival in September 2025, run jointly with a variety of community partners, celebrated home food growing, cooking and crafts, highlighting climate issues, sustainability, conservation and health. It was held in the park and the Hub. In its 20th year, it was hailed as the "best ever", with an estimate of 1,000 attending throughout the day, despite heavy downpours.



The festival was generously funded by the National Lottery's Community Fund as part of a wider Rooted in Tottenham project, covering food growing workshops and practical skills training from June 2025 through to February 2026

# ANNUAL REPORT Oct 24 - Oct 25 Friends of Lordship Rec

November 2025

## Report from the Chair - November 2025

Yet another amazing year for the Friends and our lovely park! The Friends were set up in 2001, and in the last 25 years the formerly run-down and neglected park has been utterly transformed into the great site it now is. This has been due to continuous community organisation, action and empowerment - and good collaboration with Haringey Council's Parks Service. We now have a park that the people of Tottenham can be proud of. Long may that continue! But to ensure that does continue - nothing stays still - we all need to keep organising, volunteering, publicising, speaking up and strengthening our activities, our partnerships and our influence. This is more important than ever as Council resources to parks generally, and to Lordship Rec in particular, have declined alarmingly in terms of staffing, maintenance, repairs and improvements.

**Dave**, Chair of Friends of Lordship Rec

[www.lordshiprec.org.uk](http://www.lordshiprec.org.uk)



## Friends Working Groups

The Friends' very active working groups, continued to run volunteering sessions – around 6 sessions per month - throughout the year, whatever the weather, maintaining and managing the most habitat rich green and blue spaces in the Rec, to improve their amenity value for park users and improve biodiversity. Our volunteers have contributed hundreds of hours of practical conservation work, chopping, pruning, pulling, clearing, coppicing, watering - so much watering - scything and woodchipping their way around these areas making the park better for people and wildlife and many more hours have been spent in a variety of meetings. More than 40 people have contributed to sessions in the last year, but more volunteers are always needed and we continually invite people to get involved by publicising our groups on Facebook, our online sign-up form (22 people completed it in the last year) and lately the old fashioned method of a poster seems to be doing the trick.

### Our groups are:-



Workshop in the orchard

spread skills (2 coppicing and 3 pruning workshops in 2025).

**WOODLAND group:** At monthly sessions the group maintain the woodchip path, the trees, sightlines and the tiny stream/ponds. In the autumn of 2024, a variety of spring bulbs were planted, funded through Haringey People Need Parks. Again the Friends were awarded a 2025 Community Green Flag in national recognition of our efforts in this area. The group is grateful for the support they receive from Haringey Trust for Conservation volunteers who also bring volunteers to this popular woodland



Digging a pond in the woodland

**ORCHARD FIELD group:** Manages the trees in the orchard field, encourages families to maintain trees they have planted, and organises training events to develop an appreciation of fruit growing and to



Lordship litterpickers and the results of their hard work.

**LORDSHIP LITTERPICKERS:** twice every month (230 hours of effort in the past year) volunteers scour areas of the park to find and remove litter, undaunted by undergrowth or the nature of the rubbish. They are unshockable! The work is mucky but the reward is the many "thank you"s that they get.

**LAKE group:** The 'Pond Squad' has had a very successful year, establishing a dedicated group who love clearing rubbish and debris from the lake, keeping the paths and benches clear of vegetation and litter.



Cleaning the lake

**RIVER CHANNEL group:** The Friends work closely with the Haringey Water Squad who run the monthly volunteer clean-ups in the Moselle channel, managing vegetation and litter to ensure the water keeps flowing through the site. We provide information to local people about the problem of maintaining urban rivers and channel them to volunteering with HWS. The look of the Moselle has improved greatly over the past year and park users now give positive feedback which was unheard of a few years ago. One example is an unsolicited, "I never thought it was possible for it to look like this".



Clearing the river channel

## Working Groups and Biodiversity Monitoring

Lordship Rec has a 5 year Conservation Plan (2022-2027) setting out the practical tasks which our working groups follow. One of the Plan's targets is to increase monitoring and surveying of the Rec's varied habitats. In the past year the Orchard Working Group have brought in experts to survey pollinators and worms in their patch; the Lordship Birders have completed their first year of monthly surveys finding more species than expected and 70 people enjoyed two bat walks with a local expert which revealed that bats were very active around the Lake and the Moselle channel.

### Working Groups and Climate Change

The past year has been another one of extremes - a very wet Autumn and the hot dry Spring and Summer. This has presented challenges for our practical work, from the ground being too wet to plant or too hard to work, extra time needed for watering and mulching of trees, concerns for the welfare of volunteers, and sorting out damage caused by fires.



Orange Tip Butterfly

### A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!!!

Our members and officers spend up to 3000 hours a year volunteering, liaising with the Council, organising and promoting our events.

Overall we are trying hard to encourage new people, and a more diverse range of

people, to get involved (especially younger adults, and more people from ethnic minority backgrounds). We are very pleased to say that new volunteers joining us in the past year has definitely brought down the average age of our working groups.

### Keeping in touch

**Email list:** we use our membership list - 1,400 people - for sending regular updates and notifications. People joining the email list are sent a welcome email, including information on our monthly meetings, and how to volunteer.

**Noticeboards:** We manage these and try to ensure they are informative and up to date

**Facebook:** 2,600 park users are on this, and this results in a range of park info, publicity for events, interesting photos of the Rec etc

**Hub info table:** lots of info about the Friends, the park and the Hub, and community events there.

**Website:** [www.lordshiprec.org.uk](http://www.lordshiprec.org.uk) is regularly updated with current events and developments in the park, but the structure of the website and some of the older information is in need of improvement.

## Other User Groups

We are the organisation for all the individuals who care about the park but there are also around 20 other specialist groups organising a wide range of activities like football, cycling activities, regular walks and fitness sessions, specialist events and so on. We support all these. In particular we have supported and publicised:

• **The Hub Co-operative:** They run the park's fantastic community centre and café in the middle of the park – and many public events, eg at easter, halloween and xmas. It is our base and some members volunteer there.

• **The Friends of Harmony Gardens:** Twice-weekly sessions continue + sessions on the last Sunday of the month. Worked with corporate volunteers + Kew Gardens 'Grow Wild' to restore their children's garden. Raised beds were revamped, and an apple-juicing session was run with the Broadwater Centre café.

• **parkrun:** launched 3 years ago with the support of the Friends, with over 150 people attending every Saturday.

• **Junior parkrun:** launched two years ago with the support of Friends, and attracting 30-50 every Sunday.

• **Shell Performing Arts Collective:** 500 attended 'Open Shell' 2024 'wheels' event with music and food. Great Blockorama event too.

• **Wheelytots:** run weekly family bike riding sessions in the Rec and attend our Festival

• **Rockstone Bike Hut:** hire out bikes in the Rec, teach and do bike maintenance and attend our Festival

• **Broadwater Farm Community Centre:** now run by the Council. Our rep has attended Users meetings.