

Friends of Lordship Rec – Monthly meeting Jan 4th 2026

Present: Dave (Chair), Sally (Orchard group), Nina (Noticeboards), Joan (Secretary), Sara (Minutes), Caroline (Treasurer + River volunteers), Catherine (Woodland group) Apologies: Rajiv (Park Run), Alyson, Liam (Woodland group), Mike (Orchard group)

Minutes of last meeting – approved.

River report

- Volunteering Session in the channel on Dec 20th was well attended.
- Still waiting on Thames 21 to finalise arrangements for some small, funded interventions in the channel to aid biodiversity.
- Thames Water may have put a boom behind the inflow. Now the water seems to be less clear than before. This needs to be investigated.
- Mis-directed domestic connections: Even new builds are sometimes still being mis-connected so that wastewater flows into the channel. Haringey has taken action in the past. Brent residents have been recently hassling their MPs about this, and the issue has been taken up by the Environment Agency. It seems that Building regulation officers are not hot on the issue and inspections are not being effective. Beatrice, from Hornsey West, has submitted an FI request to Haringey Council about it. An article about the Moselle River was published by London Centric and then shared on Haringey Online. The article is useful for raising awareness about the issue of mis-directed waste water. However, unfortunately, it focusses on negatives and makes no mention of the positive results that have been achieved by all the work done so far.

Lake Report Xime (of our Pond Squad) is away. Nothing to report this time.

Woodland report (from Liam's written summary report) + Spinney:

- Last month's session focussed on repairing the dead hedges in the Woodland using material from the coppicing session with TCV. The repaired hedges look great. Thorough litterpick completed too so thanks to those who came along. This month's session is Saturday 10th Jan at 11-1pm
- Coppicing session with TCV was held on 2nd December. They had a full sign-up and had to reject some registrations - but lots of no shows so there were only 4 of us on the day. We were able to cover a few larger trees and tidy up a section near the stream. (Liam is planning to map where we worked for future records)
- Liam has spotted daffodils coming up around the edges (where a combo of us / TCV removed ivy earlier in the year) - hopefully they make it!
- Liam is still looking in a tree-felling session with TCV for late Jan / early Feb but will need to get an invoice from them to use our People Need Parks Funding grant.
- TCV are in Lordship Rec again on Thurs 8th and Sun 11th Jan to work in the Spinney

Path from the Picnic area to the woodland

- It's in a poor state – overgrown and in need of wood chip on the path. Can we request that parks staff have a cutting session there? Also some of us could do some.
- Joan suggested that we do a Facebook callout for a one-off, big volunteer woodchip laying session.

Litter picking report – All fine with the regular volunteering sessions. Dave plans to show the award-winning video about our Litter-pickers group at a London Friends Groups event next week.

Orchard report

- Our annual Wassail event in the Hub and orchard is coming up - 11th Jan, 2 – 5.45pm. Lots of preparation and publicity. *Update: It was great! Over 200 attended, and a great atmosphere.*
- Two young trees have been badly damaged by dogs. Sally recommends more bramblefying. Also building more fencing around young trees. Coppiced wood from the woods can be used for stakes. Sally to collect.
- 15th Feb – Winter pruning date. Sally will ask Pru for an extra day to focus on fencing.

General Park / Friends leaflet Joan and Dave are working on a leaflet to cover basic info for the next few years.

Friends Website – review and progress. After Caroline did a review/snagging exercise Joan re-arranged several tabs so that priorities are easier to find. Text and pictures can now be updated. Caroline suggests asking people to check their own subsections and to pass their suggested amendments on to Joan.

Playground update Originally there were 3 companies bidding to take on the job. People were going to be asked to choose between their 3 different design proposals. However, 2 bids pulled out, and the Council will seek feedback from the public and us on the one remaining design. Work must start before end of March. The council say that the very popular metal climbing frame in the Model Traffic Area does not conform to current safety standards and to upgrade it would be too expensive. They propose to remove it altogether. Joan has done what she can to alert users to this situation.

Path maintenance Rajiv (Parkrun) has volunteered to do a photo survey of all the paths in the park. Dave will liaise.

Dry Garden Mike is in touch with Simone about the details for our agreed new dry garden idea where the old cable slide was. There is a beautiful dry garden in Markfield Park – may be worth looking at for inspiration – maybe they can advise/help. It's made by Wild City Studio – possibly based in Tottenham.

Friends Appeal for Money Now that the £7k funding appeal target for the Hub has been reached, we can go ahead with raising the £1k funds we urgently need for the Friends and the park. Insurance is due – and costs have risen again – a lot. Caroline is still researching options to see if a good cheaper option is available. Caroline has drafted some text for a flyer to publicise the appeal. Joan and Caroline will finalise it before printing and circulating online.

July 25th Proposed Main Field Commercial Event. We have sent in a strong objection (to an array of officers and Councillors) to the unacceptable and damaging plan for a very large commercial pay-to-enter gig in the main field on July 25th, which would mean the field fenced off for up to 10 days. Initially Annie, from the council, said that she could show us the proposed details for the event. However, now she says she cannot share them with 'external parties'. We are not an external party – we co-manage the park – so all relevant info needs to be shared with us. Then we can continue to object in an informed way. A previously proposed similar event had to be cancelled/withdrawn following our objections. If allowed to happen the Council is likely to want to repeat it and try to turn our lovely park into a 'cash cow' each summer. This would be a gross violation of our partnership agreement, and of the Council's 'co-production' key policy.

July 25th Main Field Community Picnic Event We're planning a community picnic on the main field on July 25th.

- To celebrate the beginning of the school holidays / national Love Parks Week / 25 years of community involvement in the beautiful transformation of Lordship Rec / and the Friends being selected as Haringey's current Volunteer Group of the Year.
- To encourage more community use on that part of the field
- To be a positive alternative to the commercial event.

Annie, in the Council's events team, responded positively to the idea, and asked that we apply to book it in officially. The meeting agreed Dave will book the date with the council [*Update: Done*]. We're just inviting people to come along self-organised, with their own food to enjoy the shared space & company – no structures, or food for sale etc.

April 18th National Day of Local Activities for Nature

- The Community Planning Alliance have called for a UK Day of Local Activities to celebrate and protect nature on Saturday April 18th so raise issues in the lead up to the May 7th local elections around the UK. The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces has agreed to support it.
- The plan is to focus on local activities up and down the country. We agreed to back it.
- Joan has been writing to both Steve Reed, the secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and her own MP. She's writing about the crucial role of public green space and the urgent need to allocate enough government funds to maintain these spaces. She has received no response.
- She is suggesting that we need to do more than local events – there needs to be national protests.

National Survey of Friends of Parks groups An amazing 938 groups (including us, by Joan) responded to the detailed survey circulated by the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces!! It was agreed Dave could provide a Case Study on Lordship Rec, if needed.

Tottenham Flower and Produce Festival 2026. Sat Sept 12th. Open planning meeting on Jan 23rd.

Hub social event on Xmas day. Went really well. Big thanks to the volunteers who organised it.

Annual Plan for the Friends Caroline suggests that we need a plan for the year – laid out on a calendar. Everyone agrees that it's a good idea and that it will require a special, dedicated meeting.