

Friends of Lordship Rec: Minutes 2nd May 2026

NOTE: OUR 25th ANNIVERSARY MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY JUNE 7th, 2pm - with a cake at 3.30pm. Feel free to bring food to share. All those who have been involved in the Friends over the last 25 yrs are invited!!

Present: Nina, Alison, Dave, Jane S, Sally, Joan, Mike **Apologies:** Liam, Sara, Caroline, Chuku, Catherine

Orchard report

- New area for climate-resilient species. Plus day lilies and strawbs planted. Many trees need watering at mo.
- Good Gym did session in Area 10 on Wednesday 8th April. Plan one for 20th May.
- Bioblitz is planned by the orchard group for June 5th – with Willow primary schoolkids. 6 experts and some volunteers. 11am set up. Starts 1pm
- Volunteering sessions continue last Sunday each month, 10-1pm. Meet Harmony Gdns.

Woodland report

- Held regular session on Sat 11th April at the usual time of 11-1pm. Repaired some path edging, cut back some ivy and did litterpick. Next one Sat 9th May.
- TCV volunteers were in the woodland on Tues 14th and did a range of tasks.

Spinney

- Following a complaint about a safety incident, the parks service tree officers did an urgent survey and planned to hire contractors to come and prune, pollard or otherwise maintain (for safety) 18 trees, 16 of which are in the spinney. They sent us full tree-by-tree details of the plans and photos. Dave shared the info with Ruth, Mike and Paul who then checked all the proposals in a walkabout. They drafted some amendments, and proposed the works be reviewed and be re-scheduled until the autumn. Dave forwarded to the tree officers, who agreed to postpone the works and review. *Update: Review site visit took place, including the borough's Nature Conservation Officer. Some less urgent tree work to be delayed.*
- DJ MC event (music and volunteering) took place on 9th and 10th April in skate area, with an idea to do mulching in the spinney if enough volunteers turned up. Mike and others helped. We publicised, but not many teenagers around. Probably needs to be part of a wider event.

Potential requests for new trees

- A few years back the Council partnered with Trees for Streets to encourage residents to 'sponsor a tree' in their street or a local park. In April a poster appeared in Lordship Rec promoting this. This has been a popular scheme. When it was initially set up, Dave, on behalf of the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum, had some discussions with the Council about how any proposed trees in parks would need careful thought and maintenance (the right species, in the right place, and the right maintenance plan). As we co-manage Lordship Rec, and lead on all tree issues, we would need to be involved in any discussions. Mike will email Alex Fraser (Tree Officer).

Litterpicking - The group continue their regular sessions.

Moselle River

- Volunteers continue to join the Water Squad sessions every month.
- Joan has linked up with GoGreen/4U2 for a Moselle-related arts project as part of their activities – for June 7th and 21st, and throughout the year.

Birders Group – The group continues their monthly bird surveys.

Pond Squad – No update

General Park Leaflet

- Our new, comprehensive leaflet about the whole park is being spread around. 100s are stored below the Hub info table – anyone can pick up a bunch for distribution (to your street/estate, or at events or a local venue), but let Dave know if so.
- We agreed to try to photocopy versions in some other key languages at some point e.g. Turkish, Somali, Polish and possibly Romanian. Joan and Dave to seek translators etc.

Flower and Produce Festival, Sept 12th - plus related programme of activities

- A core of 6 people attended the planning meeting on April 24th. Next is May 29th 3.30.
- Joan has applied for funding from Lottery, Tesco, PNP and others. We have £2,700 left over from previous festivals.
- If enough funding is secured, aim is for additional food growing related events from July 2026 to Feb 2027 (including workshops for kids, apple day, harvest event, wassail, seed swap)

Playground update

- The start date for renewal work is still not confirmed. Possibly July, for 6-8 weeks. The Friends have asked for the work to be done outside of the summer holidays, but this depends on contractor schedules etc.
- Simone, from the council, and Dave to discuss contacting the people who expressed interest in being involved with a playground users group linked to the Friends.
- A new dry garden where the old cable slide was – Mike is conferring with Simone about it.

Front area

- Natural Pay Area - £160,000 has been allocated from Pride in Place funding to establish this new play area at the front of the Rec. Council officers will liaise with us, and also do public consultation. The whole process is not expected to start until 2027.
- For a number of reasons it unfortunately looks like Rockstone will not be able to continue to run the bike shop. Dave and Clasford have had an initial chat with a relevant Council officer and have proposed a more formal meeting with key reps to discuss what the various options might be. There are quite a few legal formalities first. Dave to keep an eye on this.

25th Anniversary Celebrations

- We decided that it was better for our 25th anniversary celebration activities (picnic, exhibition etc) to be linked to our Festival in September. Joan will be arranging a month-long exhibition at the Hub that month (on the café walls).
- However, as we were actually founded on June 9th 2001 (by 50 park users at a meeting in the Broadwater Centre) we agreed to have a celebratory cake at our next Friends meeting.
- Dave has updated a previous history leaflet and circulated a link to it to all our members

Glyphosate weedkiller

- Has been used around the paddling pool and the model traffic area, and more recently on a path. The council had said that this was an error and that they aim to not do it again.

Finances

- We have reserves of £1,300 for our orchard activities.

- Caroline is planning to apply for People Need Parks funds.
- Joan applied for a 'Grassroots' fund for FLR - got £1,500 (£300 for apple day, £300 for wassail, £300 for harvest meal event, £600 for our core costs).

Funding for parks

- There was a National Day of Local Actions for Nature and Parks on 18th April to raise the profile of the importance and value of nature and green spaces in the run up to local elections on May 7th. Over 220 groups across the UK organised local activities. In Haringey reps from around 15 Friends Groups (including us) held a photoshoot by the ancient Oak tree in Bruce Castle Park with a banner (designed by Joan) calling for 'Adequate Government Funding for All Parks'. Dave sent out a press release.
- Joan wrote a long letter to her MP last year calling for effective Government action to reverse the lack of funding for parks in Haringey and across the UK. At the time she got a vague reply avoiding dealing with the issues. However recently she has been invited to meet up with him to discuss the matter.

Vandalised picnic table near the lake – we have informed the council and asked they remove it.

Hedges running long the back path:

- As agreed last month, Dave and Caroline arranged to meet up with Alex G (Parks Manager) on site to review the deterioration of the long hedge line – its gaps, bits turning into trees, hanging over the path etc. Caroline to write up the site visit outlining some of the options discussed..

Barbeques

- As previously discussed, this is a growing concern in very dry weather.
- Joan agreed to laminate A3 versions of our 'Use the park responsibly' poster – volunteers needed to put up at all entrances. Also Joan will put a note on the back of the next Hub programme.

Water bottle filler

- As the planned installation of the new Changing Places Unit has been held up by the Legal Dept, the installation of our waterbottle filler has also stalled. Joan wrote to the project team asking for an idea of cost of just installing our equipment, and if a Council contractor could do it if we raised the money. Awaiting reply.

Bat walks

- Following the success of our last one, Mike has arranged 2 new bat walks at dusk on 23rd May and 30th July. Meet 8.15pm at the Hub.

Next meeting – 7th June. With added 25th Anniversary Cake celebration at 3.30pm! All those involved over the years are invited, and people can bring food to share if they wish.