

LORDSHIP HUB CO-OPERATIVE

- *community building in every sense* -

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 22nd April 2023, 2pm-3pm

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Looking back over the last year (Chair's Report below + other contributions)
- Financial report
- Amendments to the Constitution (None)
- Election of Board Members
- Looking forward to the coming year (Discussion)
- Any other business

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR It's true that every year is amazing at the Hub. But this, the first full year after the covid era, has seen many achievements and challenges in our continuing efforts to serve park users and our local communities.

RESTORATION OF FULL RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES It's no mean feat to once again provide our daily café, and to support and coordinate those hiring the rooms for a wide range of exciting regular classes, community activities and private birthday parties. We have also arranged monthly art exhibitions and a full programme of special events for all ages, such as our annual Community Day, easter egg hunt, halloween lantern-making, xmas fair and occasional special film shows. At the same time of course we have continued to support groups and activities in the park itself, such as those organised by the Friends of Lordship Rec (like their annual Flower and Produce Show), the monthly Trove Market, the new Parkrun every Saturday (for which we open up early), and a range of other great activities.

MAGNIFICENT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS This has only been possible due to the incredible talent and dedication of our staff, who have continued to collectively run the day to day operations through their fortnightly meetings. They are backed up by our dozens of local volunteers who help with all aspects of the daily activities and services - in the café, in the office, helping with events and publicity, and so on. We, the volunteers on the Board, meet at least monthly to deal with strategic matters and behind-the-scenes decision-making to ensure that the Hub is well-run, financially secure and achieving our objectives of 'community building in every sense'. Massive thanks are due to all those actively involved in any way.

RECENT PROJECTS

Community Thursdays - this year we have developed Thursdays as a special day for community groups and activities, including giving away free meals and food supplies.

Environmental sustainability - The Hub was built as a carbon-neutral environmentally-friendly 'passivhaus' building. This year, especially in the light of the need for us all to take action to reverse the global climate and biodiversity crisis, we have realised that we could be doing much more to promote environmental good practice. We have supported the Friends of Lordship Rec who have worked hard to massively improve the biodiversity in the park - as a result the park has now been designated a Site of Borough-wide Importance for Nature Conservation. For ourselves, we launched a local Carbon Champions project, installed new solar panels on our roof, and set up the educational Luke Howard Weather Station – in November Lordship Rec was officially declared the world's first Cloud Appreciation Park.

SOME CHALLENGES OVER THE LAST YEAR

- We have had to replace some key members of staff and also reorganise aspects of our administration.
- We have needed more volunteers, especially at weekends and during holiday periods when things are busy.
- We have sought new Board members, especially seeking people with useful specialist skills
- As always, financial sustainability is a real ongoing challenge and the money we raise through hiring and café sales (which we try to keep affordable) needs to be backed up by fundraising and obtaining grants.
- We have finally succeeded in amending our Constitution (it's a long story!) so it better fits what we are trying to achieve. Most importantly we can now re-launch our membership and start to really involve our members and supporters in the running of things here.

THE REGENERATION JOURNEY CONTINUES The Hub has a vital role in ensuring Lordship Rec continues to be the fantastic park Tottenham's communities deserve. Last month we hosted a special event for the park's user groups and the Council to celebrate 20 years of successful partnership-working to rescue and regenerate what had previously been a run-down and poorly used park. This success story is recognised beyond Tottenham and many people come to visit, from around London and the UK (and even from abroad) to see what has been achieved and how. However, the continued chronic underfunding of public services in general, and parks in particular, means that we have to keep our eyes on the ball over the coming months and years...

THE COMING 12 MONTHS – HOW CAN WE CONSOLIDATE, DEVELOP AND IMPROVE?

Key challenges in the coming year include:

- increase the number of volunteers
- stabilise our staffing and daily operations
- improve financial security and fundraising
- better involve our membership
- improve our support for our communities and community empowerment, and our promotion of environmental sustainability

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO VISITS, USES AND SUPPORTS THE HUB!