



Registered Charity No: 1157058

Newsletter

September 2015

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

Tel: 07843 860 135

### Message from our Chairman

The spring and early summer were very busy for all the committee and this was followed by our hugely successful Jazz in the Park in July, for which we were very grateful for **Billericay & District Residents' Association** sponsorship.

Now that we are all back from holidays, we look forward to our **Open meeting and AGM**, and also our amazing **Bark in the Park** event. Those organising the event have gone to huge effort to get **The Essex Dog Display Team** to attend this year. This is the country's finest dog display team and we are so lucky to have them here in Billericay! We hope that you will encourage everyone you know to come along and enjoy this great event for the whole family!

We hope that many of you will be able to **volunteer** to help us during the coming year. Whether it is manning the Information Centre, working parties or gardening, we have plenty to offer! We very much need your help and can promise you plenty of fun and enjoyment too!

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### Bark in the Park



Bring your dog to our Fun Dog Show for all the family

**Saturday September 19th**

Registration from 10am, Classes Start 11am PROMPT

**The Essex Dog Display Team**

'Britain's Premier Display Team'

**Britannia K9 Security**

'Specialist Security Dog Training'

Show Classes and Novelty Classes

Main Ring Displays (approx 1pm)

Trade Stands, Cynophobia Assistance Dogs

Zorbing and Childrens' Rides

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### Our Open meeting with AGM



this year is on Thursday September 17th at 7.45pm at Christchurch Hall, Perry Street. We have a **brilliant speaker**, who I am sure you will find fascinating! Chelsea Flower Show Gold and Silver medallist **Harry Brickwood**, a qualified horticultural

judge and a member of the Essex Guild of Judges, is our speaker. His talk: **'The Gardening Year'** will show us many interesting gardens and will provide a great opportunity for everyone to bring their gardening questions and to get some expert advice!

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### Peace Tree

During the last year the British Isles was able to show its gratitude to those men and women who gave service to the nation in both World War I and II, including in the conflict with Japan.

The Poppy display at the Tower of London was a big reminder to us all of just how many brave service men & women were involved and gave their lives.

The members of Friends of Lake Meadows thought it would be right to remember those brave men and women with a project in the park. With this in mind and with the financial help of **Billericay Mayflower Rotary Club**, we have been able to install a Peace Tree, with a hexagonal wooden seat, in a quiet place in the garden area. The Rotary Club wished it to be linked to the **Rotary Peace Fellowship**. The tree is an olive tree and the olive branch is a symbol of peace. We plan that the tree will be dedicated at a simple ceremony soon, when you will all be welcome.

Friends of Lake Meadows hope that the people who use the park will enjoy sitting under the olive tree, in the gardens and will take time to think about why it is planted there. Our many thanks go to all those who made this project possible, especially the Rotary Club, our own volunteers and the anonymous donor who generously paid for the surrounding paving.

## Garden of the Child in the Park

Plans are in hand to refurbish the garden around the statue of the Child in the Park. The main paths will be resurfaced, additional bark chipping paths added, the nearby lake bank improved, and many additional plants added to enhance the present planting. Funding will be applied for very soon, in order to achieve this during the early winter and next spring.

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## Children's Corner



Soon it is our dog show at the park, so you might like some dog jokes!

**Q:** What is it called when a cat wins a dog show?

**A:** A CAT-HAS-TROPHY!

**Q:** Why do dogs bury bones in the ground?

**A:** Because you can't bury them in trees!

**Q:** What do you get if you cross a dog with a kangaroo?

**A:** A dog that has somewhere to put its own lead!

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**The formation of The Gardens Trust: A powerful new voice for Britain's parks and gardens.** At a recent joint AGM, the Garden

History Society and the Association of Garden Trusts voted to merge to create a new body harnessing the strengths of the two existing organisations.

See [www.gardenstrusts.org.uk](http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk)

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## Jazz in the Park

Our special jazz event in July was a great success with more families than ever joining us on a beautiful summer evening to enjoy a wide variety of music.



We are very grateful to **Billericay & District Residents' Association** for sponsoring the event this year, which enabled us to put on the event so successfully.

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## Membership

Membership of FoLM is growing steadily and we are delighted to **welcome a number of new members**. We thank you all of you for your support and hope that perhaps you will feel moved to join in some of our activities. We can always find something for you to do!

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## Flower Meadow

The meadow has once again been giving pleasure to everyone this past month or two - hopefully it will continue to give pleasure into the autumn.

Park visitors frequently remark on what pleasure the flowers have given them, along with complementing the Friends on all the other improvements we have helped make to the park.

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## In memory of Reg King

A memorial is being planned for Reg, who was park keeper for over 30 years here at Lake Meadows - details will be announced soon and it is hoped work can be completed by next Spring.

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## Working parties

Our autumn working parties will take place on the following dates:

September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, November 21<sup>st</sup>:

Details coming soon but do come along and give us a hand with various jobs such as ditch clearing fence painting and general maintenance.

We meet at the Bowls pavilion at 9.30am – old clothes are a must, generally tools are provided, but sometimes we ask you to bring additional items. See you there!

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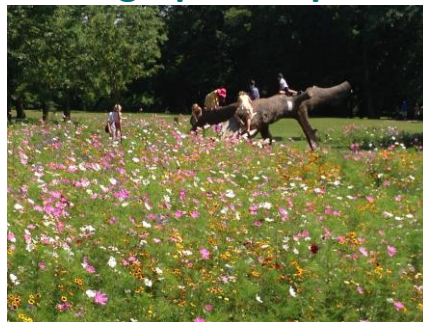
## Tree walk

Remember our Tree Walk! Sheets are available for both adults and children at the Information Centre. With autumn approaching, it will be easier to identify leaves and to see the tree labels. We hope that you enjoy it!

The special sheet for children will help them find 10 different trees, to identify the leaves and to write the tree names. The sheet is linked to the main tree walk map, so you can help them find the specimens!

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## Photograph Competition



Finalists in our annual photo competition will be on display at Billericay Library. The winners will be announced at a short gathering to be held there on

Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. **Everyone welcome!**

## Information Centre



With regular open sessions of the centre gradually growing, we find that we are reaching more people of all ages. Older people enjoy reminiscing about their childhood days in the

park, whilst children enjoy buying the storybook. As a result of being open, our membership has increased and we have received many positive comments.

We do **need more people to help** with this, so if you can spare a couple of hours a week or once a month please contact our secretary on **07843 860 135** or email [secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk)

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## Anti-social behaviour

We are aware that there has been much anti-social behaviour in the car park this year. A meeting of local residents with the Park's manager and Police took place in July. If you spot any suspicious behaviour at all, **please ring 101** and let the police know immediately. **Call 999 for real emergencies.**

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## Carols in the Park

Although it seems too early to be thinking of Christmas just yet, do make a note in your diaries of our **carol-singing event** which will take place on Saturday afternoon December 12<sup>th</sup>.

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*English Heritage compiles the **Register of Parks and Gardens** of special historic interest in England. It currently includes some 1,600 designed landscapes of many different types.*

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## Poem in the Park

This poem on a tree stump between the flower meadow and the Perry Street gate, is in memory of a son, Matthew Panting, who died young and who loved Lake Meadows park. We hope that, like his family, you will think of him when you read it.



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## Tennis coaching

One of the **perks of FoLM membership** is 10% off tennis coaching at the park. Classes are ideal for beginners or for improving your game. Adult Cardio-tennis is also available. All sessions are led by an LTA qualified coach. Book your free taster session by contacting Jack Woollcott on 07702 839337 or email [jack@jwtennis.co.uk](mailto:jack@jwtennis.co.uk) or see their website: [www.jwtennis.co.uk](http://www.jwtennis.co.uk)

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*The main aims of **The Gardens Trust** are to speak with a more powerful voice for the protection of parks, gardens and designed landscape; to play a key garden conservation role in the planning system as a statutory consultee; to provide support to strengthen the local activity of the County and Country Gardens Trusts and to be an internationally regarded centre of excellence in the study of garden history.*

*Dr. James Bartos, the first **Chairman of The Gardens Trust**, said 'I believe it will transform our ability to make a difference when it comes to the protection, conservation and understanding of our gardens and designed landscapes, helping to ensure their continued enjoyment into the future.'*

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## Rose bushes

**The Mayflower Twining Association** has recently agreed to fund a project to replace the yellow rose bed in the gardens. The roses were planted by the association many years ago.



Now we hope some new roses called 'The Mayflower Rose' will be planted this winter, which will improve this bed in summers

to come and give pleasure for everyone to enjoy.

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## Complaints about the Park

Whilst the Friends are always pleased to receive positive suggestions, they cannot deal with any complaints, which should go to **Basildon Council Street Scene**:

<http://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/4651/Street-Scene-Reporting> Fill in a simple on-line form and your concern will then be directed to the correct department and the matter will be dealt with as promptly as possible.