



Registered Charity No: 1157058

Newsletter

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Message from our Chairman

So much has happened in recent weeks for FoLM, but one of my first jobs, as the newly-elected Chairman, must be to get an extra newsletter out to you. First I must thank Jonny, our past chairman, for all his enthusiasm and energy in pointing us all in the right direction during the past three years. We have achieved so much during that time, and whilst we have ideas for moving forward, I hope that we shall be able to consolidate ideas and also involve more people in the work of the Friends.

Charles Novis

Bark in the Park



We had a simply amazing day at our 3rd Bark in the Park event the other Saturday. Our three judges, who did a brilliant job, are pictured here, with Jane Bunting (right) who organised the event, as well as two winners and their owners.

The weather was perfect - warm and sunny with blue skies all day, which helped make everything run smoothly. We had a wide range of stands, as well as activities, such as zorbing and bouncy castles, for the children. There were dogs of every shape and size, with owners to match! And the highlight of the event was The Essex Dog Display Team with their super obedient dogs, who showed their skills in many daring exercises.



Peace Tree

On the United Nation's **International Day of Peace**, a large group of FoLM members and Rotarians dodged the showers to dedicate the new Peace Tree and surrounding bench at the park. With the tree coming from Italy, the seat made in Burma and engraved in Thailand, the paving stones from India and labour from Billericay, it has been a truly international project.



Our new chairman, Charles Novis, explained that the theme set by the UN for this year is **'Partnerships for peace, dignity for all'**. He then provided three quotes:

- 'Peace begins with a smile' – *Mother Teresa*
- 'Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding' – *Albert Einstein*
- 'I believe in peace, I believe in mercy' - *Malala Yousafzai* speaking at a conference in Birmingham

Nick Lamborn, **Billericay Rotary Club Mayflower Projects'** Chairman, explained that as an international group, with members throughout the globe, Rotarians are committed to advancing goodwill and peace around the world. He said it was the Rotarians who helped establish the United Nations after WW2. His group helps fund international causes but also likes to help at a local level and was delighted to be involved in placing the symbol of peace in the heart of our community.

Finally, the Reverend Margaret Fowler, from **Christ Church**, emphasised how marvellous it was to have a centre for peace in Billericay, where anyone, whatever their troubles, can come and sit quietly in peace.

We thank the Rotarians for sponsoring the seat and tree.

Working parties

Last Saturday, we had a busy working party, painting the knee rail around the gardens and weeding the rhododendron bed, from which we carted off seven barrow loads of weeds!

Our next working parties are on Saturdays October 17th, November 21st - See you there!

Children's Corner

Q: Q: "What's the difference between a guitar and a fish?"
A: "You can't tuna fish."

Q: What goes through towns, up & over hills, but doesn't move?
A: The road!

Q: Which is the longest word in the dictionary?
A: "Smiles", because there is a mile between each "s"!

Volunteers at Lake Meadows are involved in many aspects of the park including:

- Working parties and Gardening
- Information sharing to promote the park
- Regular maintenance walk-about with staff
- Working with the park managers
- Planning of new projects
- Refurbishment of existing facilities
- History of the park
- Meetings with Council members
- Encouraging & promoting biodiversity
- Fund-raising
- Surveys of users & representing their views
- Running events

Our volunteers

Our team of volunteers were recently entered for the Basildon Volunteer Awards, for 'their enthusiasm, energy and hard work, their innovative ideas and project achievements and for involving the community in their work, which benefits everyone visiting the park'.

Unfortunately we did not win our category, which was won by Basildon Youth Council, although of course we congratulate them.

We have a great team of volunteers but we do need more people to help. So, please, 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**

Photograph Competition

The twelve finalists, and the Junior winners, in our annual photo competition are on display at Billericay Library throughout October. At a short gathering held there on Saturday September 26th the winners were congratulated and given their prizes. They are:

Winner: Martin French with his photograph called '**Fountain Play for Gulls**' (pictured below) which beautifully captured gulls flying through the fountain.



Winner of the junior section was Amelia Ridgewell with her shot of the 'Vertical Tree'.



Junior Runner –up was Jessica Sturgeon with 'Gosling in the Park'



We congratulate them and all the entrants and hope that next year's competition will bring even more entrants!
