

Chairman's Comments

As the year draws to an end, we can be proud of our achievements and the projects completed this year. The end of the lake is much improved, the new grasses area and wildfowl board have been well-received. Roses and trees have been planted in the gardens and we all wait excitedly for the return of the statue very soon. Membership continues to grow and we have a regular presence at the Information Centre. Without our growing band of volunteers none of this would be possible. So our thanks to them all!

Our partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society at Hyde Hall, has been of real help, giving us planting advice and horticultural expertise. Whilst the involvement of Essex Wildlife Trust, through our AGM speaker, as well as other local experts, is helping us to develop and promote different aspects of wildlife in the park.

Bark in the Park

A mainly fine but chilly day in mid-September brought our local dogs and their owners to compete in our 4th annual dog show.



with Marshall the dog!

A great display by Conquest-K9 Display Team headed the event and a dog scurry was run throughout the day. Stands and children's activities completed the event and our cheerful parks man, Richard, enjoyed posing

The Jewel in the Crown: the Story of Lake Meadows

If you are interested in the history of the park, from early times pre-1066 to now, there are still a few of our new books available at the Information Centre for £5 each. An ideal Christmas gift for someone.

Autumn colour at North end of Lake



Following advice from the RHS at Hyde Hall, and much searching by ourselves for find suitable plants, plans are now reaching fruition with the planting of trees and shrubs at the top end of the lake.

A theme of autumn colours will see plants including cornus, sorbus, viburnum and bright red burning bushes providing a good display, which will be reflected in the lake. They will take a few years to establish and additional plants will be added along the water edge.

Carols in the Park



Saturday December 16th 4pm Carols in the Park
Come and join us for mulled wine, mince pies and a great pre-season get-together around our little Christmas tree by the boat house. Bring a torch!

Statue of the Child in the Park



The statue is currently at the foundry and will be returning very soon to its home in the park.

It will just quietly reappear, as Basildon Council has asked that only limited publicity be given to its return. We do not want the thieves to return!

We have investigated means of protecting it from theft; however any determined thugs will

always find a way. The original fixing was extremely well-made but unfortunately one of the welds securing it gave way. A stronger fixing has been designed this time, which we hope will be theft-proof, Trackers cannot be used on it, as it is made of bronze and CCTV cameras are not a viable option.

However, it will be protected with SmartWater®, a forensic traceable liquid, which is a powerful and sustainable criminal deterrent. It directly links thieves with a particular crime scene, and in some cases multiple crimes, and works by heightening the criminal's fear of arrest and conviction. A small metal plaque on the plinth will state that the statue is protected with the product.

Incidentally many thought that the bronze poem plaque on the old tree stump had also been stolen last Spring. This was not so, as the stump was rotten and our chairman reset it on the new stump nearer the flower meadow.

Children's Corner



Q. What did one autumn leaf say to another?

A. I'm falling for you.

Q. What do you call a large pile of autumn leaves?

A. The Great Barrier Leaf.

Q. How does an elephant get out of a tree?

A. It sits on a leaf and waits till Autumn!



Why not collect some autumn leaves and have a go at making leaf people? Or make a collage using different leaves?

FoLM Membership

Please keep encouraging friends and neighbours to join our growing number of members. No compulsory volunteering necessary, just relax in your armchair and send us your form and fee. But any practical help is, of course, always very much welcomed!

Minor Vandalism

This summer has seen a spate of mindless minor vandalism in the park – park benches broken, cherry trees snapped off, bike rack wrecked, small fires lighted and the skateboard park damaged. These are minor incidents in the scale of things, but nevertheless troublesome and caused probably by just a few thoughtless youngsters.

Can we ask you as members to be alert to any new incidents as you walk around? Please let us know, as we are starting to keep a list as evidence. Of course, anything serious needs reporting directly to Streetscene on www.basildon.gov.uk/article/4651/Street-Scene-Reporting or phone the police on 101

Autumn Word Search

H	A	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	F	A	E	L
A	T	S	O	R	F	R	E	B	O	T	C	O
W	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	A	C	O	R	N
S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L	K	H	I	P	S
K	X	D	S	Z	B	O	N	F	I	R	E	M
R	H	L	T	A	L	F	A	E	L	E	Q	G
O	M	A	D	E	C	C	C	J	L	B	U	O
W	Y	G	Z	T	T	O	P	E	Y	O	I	H
E	E	A	S	E	B	L	K	I	J	T	N	E
R	H	O	S	W	L	O	F	N	H	C	O	G
I	R	N	E	D	M	U	G	W	K	O	X	D
F	U	B	G	S	Q	R	E	K	N	O	C	E
S	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	M	O	O	N	H

Acorn	Fireworks	Leaf
Badger	Frost	Mist
Bonfire	Halloween	October
Chilly	Harvest Moon	Pumpkin
Cobweb	Hazel	Smoke
Colours	Hedgehog	Squirrel
Conker	Hips	Sunset
Equinox	Haws	

Photo Competition

Photos are due to be judged soon and it is hoped that a display can be put up in Billericay library later this month, subject to the threat of new charging fees by Essex County Council. Our thanks to Billericay Round Table, the two Rotary Clubs and Lions for sponsorship of the prizes.

Flower Meadow

An amazing burst of vivid late summer colour greets you, as Log Creature stands guard over the meadow. The late seeding, due to an invasion of redshank, threatened the annual display but it has been worth waiting for. Enjoy it before the frosts!

Gardening Group

Our team of 13 gardeners meet every Tuesday morning, with usually 8 or 9 of us each week. The total age of the team is around 1,000 years! What a team! Just look at the amazing amount of work they have achieved this year, whilst enjoying what they do, keeping fit and making good friends.

They work hard to keep on top of over 1/3rd of an acre of actual beds. However, the weeds have been a major problem this year, with recent rain encouraging growth - they particularly enjoy growing tightly in with the rose bushes! All our shrubs and perennials are looking more mature and we shall be considering moving or splitting plants as needed.

The Garden of the Child still needs much work and the winter bedding plants will be on the way soon, as well as rose pruning and new autumn planting of memorial trees and shrubs at the end of the lake.

We really do need more gardeners, if we are going to achieve all that we would like. We are a really friendly crowd and you don't need to be an expert at all. So **please, please** do come and help us! All ages welcome! We have lots of tools and meet at 9.30am every Tuesday, until the start of December.

Information Centre Helpers

Special thanks to our team of helpers at the hut, who keep it open most Monday, Wednesday, Friday and some Saturday mornings. They have talked to hundreds of park users, persuaded many to become new members and sold donated goods to help raise funds for the park. The hut closes at the end of October, but if anyone else would like to help next Spring and Summer, then we'd be delighted! Just contact Rosie, the secretary.

AGM & Open evening

Our AGM in September was about our achievements during 2016 – 17 and was followed by the speaker, Andrew Armstrong from Essex Wildlife Trust, who gave an enthusiastic and interesting talk about encouraging wildlife in our gardens and the park, and we were impressed that he had taken the trouble to walk around the park to get to know it before he arrived.

Working Parties

Our next working parties are at 9:30am on Saturday October 21st – hedges & woodchips Saturday November 18th – winter tidying

We do need more help, there were only two helpers last time, so not much was done. So, if you usually help or if you'd like to join us, **please try to spare an hour or two to help us with park jobs next time.**

Love Parks Week

Amazingly, nobody took up the opportunity to win a bottle of bubbly (see last newsletter) by writing about why they love our wonderful park.

Tree Warden Scheme

The Town Council are considering setting up a Tree Warden Scheme for the Billericay area. Trees are extremely important to our environment, as well as providing us with beautiful scenery. They are an integral part of the landscape and its aesthetic appeal. They are the lungs of the town, producing oxygen and filtering out pollutants and also provide homes, transit points and food for varying wildlife.

If you are interested in being considered for this team, please ring the Town Clerk on Tel: 01277 625732 or email:

townclerk@billericaytowncouncil.gov.uk

And finally ...



Indian summer days and late meadow flowers,
Trees glowing in their amber and terracotta colours,
Drifts of golden leaves rustle beneath the feet.
Misty mornings and diamond cobwebs,
Chilly days and early frosts.
Mellow fruitfulness, glowing berries, hips and haws,
Conkers, acorns and hazel nuts.
Purple Michaelmas daisies and late red roses.
Fabulous fungi and scampering squirrels,
Autumn sunsets, October's harvest moon.

The harvest moon is late this year and will appear in our skies on Thursday October 5th.
