

Chairman's Message

I am delighted to welcome more new members, particularly our very newest member. She is 83 years old and says she absolutely loves the park. She has just taken out five - year membership! We are delighted she has joined!

I hope that you all enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter and that perhaps you will be able to join us for the AGM and Bee talk on September 26th – see details elsewhere.

It is great that all of our events recently have been fully booked, which means we must be providing what people want. Please let us know of any other simple events you would like to see at the park.

Our thanks to everyone who voted recently for the park in the UK's Best Park Awards 2019. We shall not know the result until later in September. Whatever the result, we know that we have an amazing park, don't we?

Magic mushrooms

Many thanks to Shaun Brown and his assistant Harvey, from Garden Fencing Essex, for reinstalling the wooden mushrooms in the Garden of the Child. They did the work on the hottest day of the year at no cost to our charity – a truly public-spirited gesture.



We are pleased to see them back where they belong and being enjoyed by some happy youngsters.

Success in the Conservation Area



In the Spring of 2018, our ecology group scattered wildflower seeds in an area of the sluice banks. We were thrilled in early July this year to discover over 30 different flowers had grown. We are hoping these will gradually establish over the next few years providing a haven for wildlife.

The group also established a stumpery in the area, complete with stag beetle larvae, and also laid down about 25 mats for grass snakes and slow worms to hide under.

Children's Corner

- Q. Why do bees have sticky hair?
- A. Because they use honeycombs.
- Q. Why do bees hum?
- A. They've forgotten the words
- Q. What did the bee say to the flower?
- A. Hello Honey.



Did you know that a bee flies at speeds of up to 20 miles an hour? Its wings can beat 200 times per second or 12,000 beats per minute!

They have six legs, four wings and five eyes, and they can see blue, but not red flowers.

Did you know that bees are the only insect in the world that make food for humans?

Photography Competition 2019

Remember that our photo competition is still open until the end of October. Adult and Junior entries welcome, which must have been taken in the park this year. Good money prizes for the winners! For details and the entry form see our website.

Past Events

Jazz in the Park was a great success again this year, with a large crowd enjoying the afternoon's music. Next year's event will have an American theme to celebrate the Mayflower sailing in 1620.

Name that Tree! A group of 15 interested people spent an evening walking around the park learning about the many specimen trees. We are luckily to have so many here in the park.

Let's go Batty! was another great bat evening when 28 batty people joined our resident batman and his batsmen for a talk and guided walk. It was amazing seeing the Daubenton's bats swooping over the lake!



FoLM Events

Who dug the Lake? – A fascinating talk on the history of the park, with slides, will be taking place on Wednesday September 4th 7.30pm A few places still left! **Booking essential.**
Book on-line or ring Rosie on **07843 860 135**

AGM & Speaker

Join us for our AGM on Thursday September 26th 7.45pm at Christ Church, Perry Street. The meeting will be followed by an interesting talk:

'I'm only in it for the honey' One woman's guide to feeling the buzz! A talk by Jan Tutton, Chelmsford Beekeepers' Association.



This is a free event! Do join us! **Everyone welcome!**

Carols in the Park – December 14th 4pm Free event. All welcome! Put the date in your diary.

Gardeners

Despite the heat of the summer and holiday time, our gardening group has grown recently to almost 20 gardeners. Most Tuesdays there are at least 10 or 11 of us working away, keeping everything weeded and watered. We are planning to redevelop some of the beds in the autumn, to enhance the planting.

Sadly, due to the early wet weather and the heat, the roses have suffered badly from rust, but we have pruned them very hard and they seem to have survived. Fingers crossed!

Water Station Survey

On the hottest day of the year in June, we asked these two members of the parkrun if they thought that it would be a good idea to put a bottle-filling station in the park.



Thanks to them and everyone else who completed our survey, we had 381 responses both at the parkrun and online, all of whom agreed with the idea. We have now applied for funding and hope that we shall soon hear that we have been successful. Watch this space!

New junior parkrun in Lake Meadows

Billericay parkrun, organised by local volunteers, has been running in Lake Meadows for more than two years, with great success.



Now a new junior parkrun is being staged in the park on Sunday mornings at 8:45am, starting on September 15th. It is the very first junior parkrun in the Basildon Borough.

The event is a two-kilometre run, walk or jog for children aged 4 to 14 years, and grown-ups can also take part if they're accompanying a child.

Like the Saturday event, it is completely free to take part and all your child needs to bring is a 'barcode'. To register for a free barcode, which works at both Billericay parkrun and Lake Meadows junior parkrun, visit www.parkrun.org.uk/register

If you'd like any more information, contact the team at billericay@parkrun.com

Garden of the Child

You may remember that, in the Spring, we planted over £300 of new plants at the top of the triangle of the Garden of the Child. Despite the worry of the recent drought, we have managed to keep them watered and you will be delighted to see the new plants already flowering well. Russet and golden heleniums and purple verbena borienensis are interspersed with a variety of grasses to create a sunny meadow area.

The Flower Meadow



The flowers are quite different this year – mainly blues, with some pink and white. They are probably a form of cultivated *Echium vulgare*, commonly known as Viper's Bugloss.

Everyone seems to be enjoying the meadow and it is a picture seen from a distance, despite not being as prolific as in the first few years.

Summer Wordsearch

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

BBQ	Flipflops	Kites	Sun x 7
Bees	Flowers	Paddle	Sun cream
Buttercup	Grass cutting	Picnic	Sunglasses
Butterflies	Hats	Sandals	Sunshine
Caterpillars	Hay	Sandcastle	Surfing
Cricket	Heat	Seaside	Wasps
Daisy	Hot	Shorts	Waves
Fan	Ice cream	Summer	

Note that there are seven 'Sun's, as well as sun cream, sunglasses & sunshine! *Answers go up, down, across and backwards, but not diagonally.*

Working Parties

We usually hold a working party on the third Saturday of the month. In the early days as many as 40 people, including a number of the park staff would help. These days it is down to the few brave stalwarts who turn out every time. The jobs that they do vary from Spring cleaning, planting hedges, barrowing woodchips, cleaning ditches, edging footpaths, collecting fallen wood and doing minor repairs. If you were one of the people who ticked your membership form to say you would be willing to help – we really could do with your help occasionally – it need not be every month. And you don't need any special skills! Please let us know if you feel that you could join us and help. The next one is on **Saturday September 21st at 9.30am.** Ring Charles on the Friends' mobile **07843 860 135 (answerphone)** or email the secretary.

Our volunteers ... continuing our series, we hear this time from **'The Ecology Volunteer'**.

"Shortly after becoming a member of FOLM, I was invited to join the ecology group. This small group is committed to maintaining and improving the ecology of the park. For example: creating habitats for insects and small reptiles in the conservation area, erecting and monitoring bird and bat boxes in the woodland, surveying and documenting the different tree species in the park.



A survey of the conservation area recorded about 30 varieties of wildflowers, including birdsfoot trefoil, red campion, ox-eye daisies, red and white clover and self-heal. We also design the information boards that are starting to appear around the park – so far we have done the Welcome board about the different habitats and also the Lake board. As someone fairly new to the science I found identifying leafless trees in the winter particularly challenging. But I am enjoying the whole learning experience!" EM.

And finally ... Fred and Ginger

Our Great Crested Grebes had their second brood of four little grebelets in July. We hope that you have enjoyed watching them, riding on their parents' backs or learning to dive for fish & water creatures.

Copies of this newsletter for our postal members have been printed by the Co-op Funeralcare Billericay, whom we should like to thank for their generosity and continued support.