

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

Tel: 07843 860 135 (answerphone)

E: [secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk)

**Chairman's Message**

We hope that you are all keeping safe and keeping well during these difficult times. We have all been fortunate to have the park to visit, which has been particularly beautiful this year. Never have the trees seemed so green, the forget-me-nots so blue or the rhododendrons such a mass of colour. A real lift to the soul in troubled times, where we can enjoy a quiet walk in peaceful surroundings.

We are fortunate in having such a great park so near to our homes, and the Friends have done a huge amount in the past eight years to help care for and improve it. However, our committee members are not getting any younger and it really is time for some younger people to step up and help us.

So, we are again putting out a plea to anyone who has recently retired or has some spare time to give. If you have enjoyed helping others during the coronavirus epidemic, and have benefited from using the park, then your enthusiasm would be welcomed by the Friends and we can guarantee you'll enjoy it!

If you would like to have a chat, leave a message on 07843 860 135 and I shall get back to you or email me at [chairman@lakemeadows.org.uk](mailto:chairman@lakemeadows.org.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Water Station**

A sensible decision was made, when the virus first started, to defer the installation for the time being. It is being safely stored at the Council depot and we plan to install it next Spring by the community hut, all being well.

We are in touch with another Friends group in South Wales, where six or seven of these units have been installed very successfully.



\*\*\*\*\*

**Roundabout**

A new roundabout, suitable for all children including those with disabilities, has been ordered by Parks for the children's playground and will be installed as soon as it is feasible.

**Photography Competition 2020**



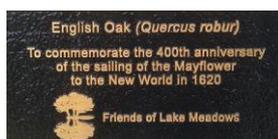
A reminder that our photo competition is open for entries until October. The park is looking particularly lovely this year, so do take the opportunity of having some free time, to take a few special shots of anything in the park that you think makes a good picture.

Details are on our website, or if you are not able to go online, you can ring us and we will send you the entry form and rules. There are good cash prizes for both adult and junior winners! Why not have a go?

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mayflower Oak Tree**

We planted a new oak tree, a gift from FoLM, in the week before lockdown, to commemorate the sailing of the Mayflower ship to America 400 years ago.



The tree is doing really well, thanks to three people watering it regularly during the recent dry weather. One of the few successfully achieved events in Billericay to commemorate the anniversary! The design on the raised bed was abandoned for practical reasons, but does have a red, white and blue design. It is hoped that some of the Mayflower events organised by other organisations will be able to take place in the autumn.

## Gardeners

Our gardeners were delighted to be given the go-ahead to return to their gardening sessions in the first week of June. The Council stopped all gardening and working parties at the start of the epidemic, as they could not justify the work as being essential.



At the first session we had 16 gardeners working flat out for two hours, moving 40 barrows of weeds! We shall need several more sessions before we can get the gardens back to looking reasonably good. Sadly, we have lost a number of plants due to the drought.

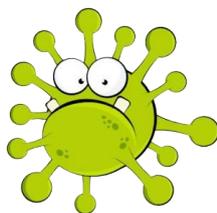
\*\*\*\*\*

## Children's Corner

Have you seen the Things for Children to Do on our website? We have put together some different quiz sheets for you to guess what the things are. They have nothing to do with the park but may keep you busy for a while.

Q. Did you hear the joke about the coronavirus germ?

A. Sorry, I don't want to spread it around.



Q. Which of Snow White's dwarves is in quarantine? A. Sneezzy.

Q. Heard the joke about coronavirus?

A. It will take you two weeks to get it.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Information Centre

We have decided not to re-open the Hut yet, due to the virus. Hopefully we will later in the summer.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Water Fountain

One night in late April or early May, the water fountain was stolen from the middle of the lake! The matter is being investigated by the police. Amazing!

## Future events

### Jazz in the Park on Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>

Sadly, this event has had to be cancelled for this year. Although more restrictions may have been lifted by then, social distancing could not be maintained, particularly for the players and the volunteers who provide the stage and marquee for the event.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Coronavirus Wordsearch

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

Bees	Cough	Queues
Birdsong	Hug	Quiet
Boris	Mask	Slow
Briefing	Meet again	Smell
Calm	NHS	Sun
Care	Park	Taste
Coronavirus	Peace	Temperature

\*\*\*\*\*

## Litter

We and the parks team are disappointed at the amount of litter left in the park after recent picnics. Young people meeting in large groups have ignored social distancing, have lit fires, destroyed trees and sniffed gas, amongst other things! These matters have been reported to the police and we recommend that, should you become aware of any antisocial behaviour, you should ring 101, rather than approaching anyone yourself.

\*\*\*\*\*

## And finally ...

Remember: "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain." Treasure these days of renewed calm and quietness, enjoy the simple things in life - the bees buzzing, the birds singing! Tomorrow may not ever be as quiet again! Enjoy!

\*\*\*\*\*

*Due to the Coronavirus, copies of this edition of our newsletter for our postal members have been printed by the chairman on his computer.*

\*\*\*\*\*