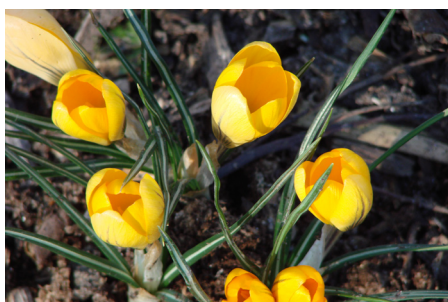


# Park Newsletter Spring 2010



**Welcome** to our first paper newsletter - "well about time too", you might say, but did you know we have been posting news on our website for the last three years? Why not check out our website: <http://www.forlfp.org.uk>. If you struggle to find us then why not try a Google search for "Friends of Raphael and Lodge Farm Park" This will lead you to our website and our news page. We hope you like it.

## **Brief History of The Friends of Raphael & Lodge Farm Parks**

We formed in November 2004, primarily to take care of Raphael Park, but within weeks we took on Lodge Farm Park too. We are a non-political, not-for-profit bunch, made up of local residents just like you! We work together with the council, police and other bodies. Our goal is to improve, protect and provide safe and fun parks for all to enjoy. Well enough about us, lets get on with the news.....

## **Heritage Lottery Application**

Did you know we are in the mid-stages of securing funding for a complete refurbishment of Raphael Park? In May 2009 we met with Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) officials and Havering Parks officers for a stroll through Raphael park. The HLF were suitably impressed with the potential that our beautiful park has and we have been in discussions with Havering ever since, forming a plan for

the proposed refurbishment. Soon we will meet with landscape architects to discuss the needs of park users and this is where you come in. We want to ensure we interpret our park users needs as best we can so we will be carrying out a survey in the coming months. We hope to email this survey to all registered friends and also carry out an on site survey. But to help us, please, please register on our website as emailing is much quicker and greener. However, if you would like a copy sent to you please write to: Friends of Raphael & Lodge Farm Parks, c/o A.C.Preou Ltd, Hobson House, 12b Bridge Close, Romford, Essex, RM7 0AU.



## **Blacks Brook Picnic Area**

We are entering a park enhancement competition for Raphael park (sadly we can't apply for the toilets, as these are in the HLF plan). For some time we have been thinking that perhaps a picnic area in the woods, where many of us already feed the squirrels and birds, would be a good idea. We would like to know what you think of a natural picnic area blending into the wood, providing log seating and picnic tables made from locally felled trees. Our carvers have talked about creating some of Percy the Park Keeper's favourite animals and even Percy himself! These could be placed around the picnic area. Spring and summer bulbs would also be planted and the area would become beautifully fragrant. Bird and bat nesting boxes, as well as feeding tables, would provide year-round lifelines for such wildlife, particularly in the winter months. We would love to hear your views please visit our website and let us know what you think.

## **Spring Quiz Night Saturday 27th March**

Our Spring Quiz Night was a roaring success. We had a fantastic night and managed to raise a staggering eight hundred and eighty-five pounds! Our congratulations go out to the winning team: "The Naughty Nines" (pictured top right)



We'd like to thank Len and Chris for all their hard work organising the evening and also a very big thank-you to everyone who attended on the night and made the night the success it was.

We'd also like to thank some of our kind donors for their prizes: Andrew Curtin for the chocolates (yes they made it there!) and Andrew Rosindell for the fabulous guided tour of Big Ben's Bell Tower. We are delighted that so many of you have given feedback on how much you enjoyed the evening. One question that people were asking on the night was how we plan to spend the money that was raised - we are proposing to allocate a proportion of the funds to maintaining the two flower beds (pictured below) that we recently started sponsoring in Raphael Park, with the remainder going towards sponsoring entertainment for our Family Fun Day this summer, as well as other events that we plan to hold in the forthcoming year.



Once again, we'd like to say a really big thank-you for your continued support and encouragement.



### Monthly Litter Picks

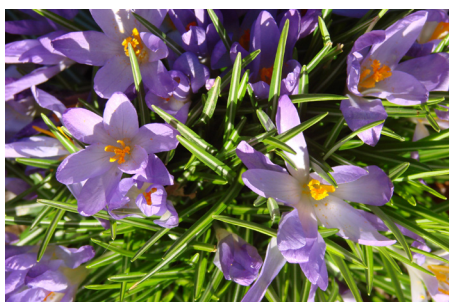
Don't forget Len runs a monthly litter pick in Raphael & Lodge Farm Park.

We supply equipment and all we need are a few helping hands! Len and the volunteers meet on the first Tuesday of each month 10am at the cafe and would love to welcome you.

### Raphael Park Family Fun Day

– Sunday, 11th July 2010 from 12:00

We are in the process of organising the above event. Any donations for our tombola stall or raffle would be greatly appreciated. If you could spare some time to lend a hand then please contact us via the website.



### Next Meeting

Monday 24th May 2010  
Romford Town Hall  
7.30 – 9 pm

### Got a View?

Please visit our website:  
[www.forlfp.org.uk](http://www.forlfp.org.uk)  
We'd love to hear from you.

### New Play Area

And how fabulous is our new play area!



### Contacting Us

Website: [www.forlfp.org.uk](http://www.forlfp.org.uk)  
Email: [friends@forlfp.org.uk](mailto:friends@forlfp.org.uk)

## The Friends of Raphael Park & Lodge Farm Parks

Our next meeting will take place on:

**Monday 24th May**  
**7.30-9pm**  
**Romford Town Hall**

Please come along to our meeting and support your local parks. Together with Havering Park Services we work to improve, protect and provide a safe and fun place for all to enjoy! We welcome your interest, comments and support. We look forward to seeing you.

The greater **your** support, the greater our impact

Join our mailing list and receive our quarterly newsletter via email. We can also keep you informed about events and other things that are happening in Raphael & Lodge Farm park.

Sign up today from our website - it doesn't cost anything and only takes a minute:

<http://forlfp.org.uk>

Privacy: We will never share your details with anyone else

THE FRIENDS OF RAPHAEL PARK  
AND LODGE FARM PARK

