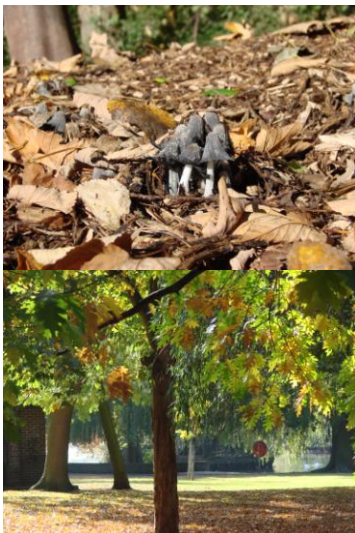


# THE FRIENDS OF RAPHAEL PARK AND LODGE FARM PARK



## Park News

### Autumn 2010



**Welcome** to our Autumn newsletter, but why wait for this when you can visit our website; [www.forlfp.org.uk](http://www.forlfp.org.uk) where you will find our blog, photos and lots more too. We hope you like it.

#### **Green Flag for Lodge Farm Park**

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, the prestigious Green Flag was raised for a third year in Lodge Farm Park. This is a great accolade for the grounds maintenance team, working in both Raphael & Lodge Farm parks. The Green Flag Award Scheme was set up in 1996 to recognise and reward the best of Britain's green spaces. Since 2009, the Green Flag Award scheme has been managed by a new consortium, comprising of Keep Britain Tidy, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and GreenSpace. For more information why not visit; [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk) [www.keepingbritiantidy.org](http://www.keepingbritiantidy.org) [www2.btcv.org.uk](http://www2.btcv.org.uk) [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)

**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 group made up of local residents. We work together with the council and

police. Our goal is to improve, protect and provide a safe and fun Park for all to enjoy. Well enough about us, lets get on with the news.....

**Heritage Lottery Stage 2** We are meeting regularly each month with the London Borough of Havering (LBH) and Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) who have been appointed by the LBH to develop an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for funding to restore and regenerate the park, CBA are one of Britains leading environmental planning and landscape consultants, working on restoration projects such as the Royal Botanic Gardens - Kew, Peckham Rye Park - London, Broadlands -Hampshire, Alexandra Park, - Sussex, Stonehenge and many world Heritage Sites. Our role is to provide user information and views on our needs in the park to ensure that the parks refurbishment meets the needs of the local community. To this end you will have recently received a questionnaire through your letterbox the response to which was overwhelming. Thank you all for your comments and your time. At this stage of the application it is imperative that we provide LBH & CBA as much information as possible. CBA's Design Team Leader hopes to attend our next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October. If you have any ideas to put forward or issues to raise please join us. You will need to fill in a question time request form: please ask for one when you arrive.

#### **The Friends Sponsored Flower Beds**

We are very grateful to the LBH for their kind donation to of the geraniums, which were taken out of the main entrance flower beds last week. We have now cut back and potted almost 400 plants, our fingers are crossed that at least half of them will survive our novices approach to gardening. Fingers crossed for a blooming 2011.

**Bulb Planting** In September two of the Friends Group, Len and Don, planted 1,000 bluebells and 15kg of daffodils in the woods. Watch out for a colourful Spring, unless of course the squirrels are looking a lot fatter!

**Blacks Brook Picnic Area** Would you like a place to relax in the woods? It could be a great way to get closer to nature. Many of us already feed the

squirrels and birds there. 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. Spring and summer bulb planting to enhance and ensure it will become beautifully fragrant. Bird & bat, nesting boxes and feeding tables could provide year round lifelines for those little creatures in the winter months. We would welcome your views. Please visit our website or contact us in writing (see contact details overleaf) and let us know what you think. Please ensure you add your contact name, address, and phone number. (contact details overleaf)

#### **Proposed site for Picnic Area**



**Birdwatchers and Botanists** Many of you enjoy the parks' plants and wildlife and we quite often see you studying them and taking photos. Would you like to share your photos, records, or observations? Or perhaps share your expert knowledge with us. We are also looking for anyone who is interested in giving wildlife walks and talks, no experience necessary. Please let us know.

These were recently photographed in the woods by Susan Taylor



**Monthly Litter Pick** Don't forget Len runs a monthly litter pick in Raphael & Lodge Farm Park. We supply equipment but need a few helping hands. Len and the volunteers meet on the first Tuesday of each month 10am at the café and would most welcome your help.

**Raphael Park Family Fun Day – Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010** We had a great day and once again the weather was extremely kind to us, the event went without a hitch. We made a grand total of £1521.31 We sincerely hope you all enjoyed your afternoon in the park and look forward to receiving any feedback, good or bad. We would like to thank the volunteers who very kindly gave up their time to help us run the day. It takes a group of more than 30 people to run the event and without them there wouldn't be a Fun Day.

So a huge 'Thank You' to all who helped.



### Autumn Quiz Night

**Time/Date:** 7pm, Saturday 13th Nov  
**Location:** St Michael's Church Hall, Main Road, Gidea Park RM2 5EL  
**Entrance Fee:** 8.50 per person which includes Fish 'n' Chip supper.  
**Bring your own drinks** (there is NO licensed bar at this venue)  
**Maximum 10 people per table**  
**Please call Len on: 01708 742888**

Winners of March Quiz Night –  
 The Naughty Nines



### Next Meeting

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
 The Lodge, Raphael Park  
 Main Gate Entrance/Exit only.  
 7.30 – 9pm

**Contact, Julia, Rich, Johanna or Len**



Website: [www.forlfp.org.uk](http://www.forlfp.org.uk)

Email: [info@forlfp.org.uk](mailto:info@forlfp.org.uk)

Mail: Friends of Raphael & Lodge  
 Farm Park, c/o A.C.Preou Ltd,  
 Hobson House, 12b Bridge  
 Close, Romford, Essex, RM7  
 0AU.

**Team Building** We are at a very strategic point in the role of the Friends Group in taking our park forward over the next few years. Our work can only be done if there is enough of us to share the load. We hope to hold a team building evening sometime in the next few months. If you would be interested in joining us please call Julia on 07799 116110. Please leave a message or text and we will get back to you as asap. (please note, we are working volunteers) Or if you prefer please email us, noting in the subject header; Team Building.

**Raphael Park Family Fun Day 2011** We are now looking to compile our list of volunteers for next years event. We need a pool of at least 30 people to help in the run up to, and on, the day. A full list of tasks is available on request. We are always looking for new ideas to keep the day interesting so please join us and help keep this day alive and show how you appreciate the Park. After all, without you there wouldn't be a need for the park.

## RAPHAEL PARK Consultation

We are currently bidding for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of Raphael Park.

We would like your opinions on the emerging plans. Please come and see us at the park lodge (house on corner of Main Road entrance gates) on Thursday 28 October anytime between 2-8pm to let us know what you think.

Refreshments will be provided.  
 Looking forward to seeing you.

**Parks Service**  
 Tel: 01708 434743




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