

FRIENDS OF RAPHAEL & LODGE FARM PARKS

Picture of the Season

Spring Quiz Winners, well done!

“Keeping up with the Jones’s”



April 2011

Coming Events

Saturday
7th May
10am – 3pm

Raphael’s Park Olympics!
Come along and join in the fun, for kids of all ages!

Monday
9th May
7:30-9pm

Please join us in Raphael’s Park Lodge, for our Spring Meeting.

1st Tuesday
Litter Pick
Each month
10am

Fresh air, exercise and feel good, all in just an hour! We meet at Raphael’s café, with all tools supplied.

Sunday
24th July
1-6pm

“Concert in the Park”
Featuring 4 live bands, Hog Roast, Chinese and Beer & Pimm’s Marquee.

Spring Quiz News

The Quiz was very successful socially and financially with over 120 enthusiasts attending. Everybody had a good time and the amount raised, £1068, was the highest Quiz income to date. A clear case of success building on success.

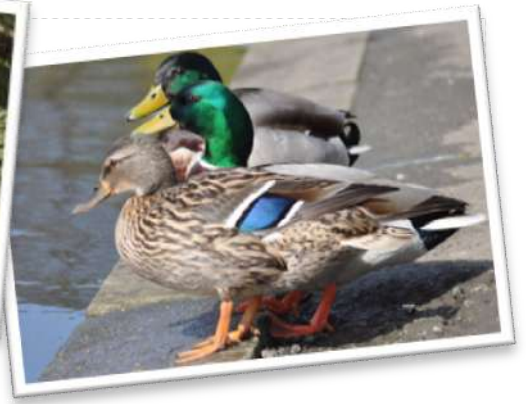
A new feature was the introduction of an Auction for two particularly desirable donated items. A tour for six people of part of the Palace of Westminster arranged by Romford MP Andrew Rossindell went for £100 and a session with a hypnotherapist raised £30; both very welcome contributions to the record total. Chris and Len again did a great job in organising it all. Your reporter learnt a lot from the evening. Should he now be approached by a worried passer-by in South Street desperate to know who was Chancellor in 1947, or which mammal uniquely has four knees, or even what the French call custard, he is now able to send them, fully informed, happily on their way!



Bird Watchers & Wildlife Photographers

Thanks to Chloe’ for sending these fabulous photos she took this March with her new camera, keep on sending them Chloe’!!!

Please email in your photos taken in Raphael’s or Lodge Farm Parks, we’ll publish the best in our Newsletter.



News in Brief

Official Friends Status for Friends of Raphael & Lodge Farm Park.

We are delighted to be awarded Official Friends Status for 2011/12, this is a marvelous accolade and is very much appreciated by the team. Join us on the 7th May and we'll tell you what this means to the park.

Lodge Farm Park Green Flag We can also announce we have maintained our Green Flag, this is a great testament to the Grounds Maintenance Team and ourselves working together.

Bulb planting in Raphael Park. 1000 bluebell and 25kg of daffodil bulbs were planted in the woods in September with the hope that, all being well, some cheerful colour will

emerge to brighten up the Park in Spring. 'All being well' because the operation was observed by our little grey friends in the trees who may have been under the impression that it was all for their benefit and may have done some investigating after we left. In retrospect, the operation could have caused comment. Picture the scene. On a sombre overcast day two grimly silent men in the woods industriously digging, and, standing nearby, a large black bag. They stand back to admire their work and realise that the first area they had dug was, quite by chance, an ominous looking 6ft by around 2ft. Passers-by looked quizzical but no-one asked what was going on. Some interesting answers had been thought up just in case.

Garden Suburb Heritage Walk

Famous for the Exhibition Estate, and boasting Humphrey Repton as a one time resident.

The walk will concentrate on the importance of Gidea Hall and the rise of the estate that grew from its lands, as well as the significance of Raphael's Park and those that were so influential in changing the landscape from open land to quintessential garden suburb. The Heritage Lottery are funding the development of this walk. We are looking for Volunteers, no experience needed! Enthusiasm is all we ask for. There are a range of activities that will help you learn new skills and develop those you didn't know you had! Please call Len asap 01708 742888

Bird of the Season – The Tufted Duck

Bird Watching

We are hoping to create a bird watch in Raphael's, so for anyone interested in taking photos or documenting bird habits, please feel free to email your photo's and notes, and we'll add to our database and publish findings on our website. Geoff's bird of the season. This picture is of the male Tufted Duck and was taken at Raphael Park in January. It is more colorful than the female as the female does not have the block of white on the sides. The tufted duck is a medium-sized

diving duck. You may notice the short rounded tail, which is common on diving ducks. It is black on the head, neck, breast and back and the male has white on the sides. It has a small crest and a yellow eye. In flight it shows an obvious white stripe across the back of the wing. It breeds in the UK across lowland areas of England, Scotland and Ireland, but less commonly in Wales, with most birds being residents. Numbers increase in the UK in winter because of birds moving to the UK from Iceland



and northern Europe. They eat molluscs, insects and some plants. This species indicates that the quality of the water is good with a plentiful food supply.

Photo & Editorial by Geoff Pepper