

# FRIENDS OF RAPHAEL & LODGE FARM PARKS AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



October 2011

## Coming Events

### **Next Meeting**

Please join us at the Town Hall for our Autumn Meeting.

Monday 21st  
Nov, 7:30 to 9pm

### **Litter Pick**

Fresh air, exercise and feel good, all in just an hour!

#### **10am**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday &  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of  
each month

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, we meet at Raphael's café, with all tools supplied and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at the Playground.

### **Quiz Night**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov  
7-11pm  
St.Michael's  
Church Hall

Why not join us for this Autumns quiz night and Fish 'n' Chip supper at St.Michael's Church Hall, Main Road, Romford. Please bring your own drinks. For tickets please call Len on 01708 742888



## PARK REGENERATION NEWS

Following our fantastic news in the Summer newsletter and as you've most certainly seen in the local press, Raphael Park has received £1,787,700 from Heritage Lottery.

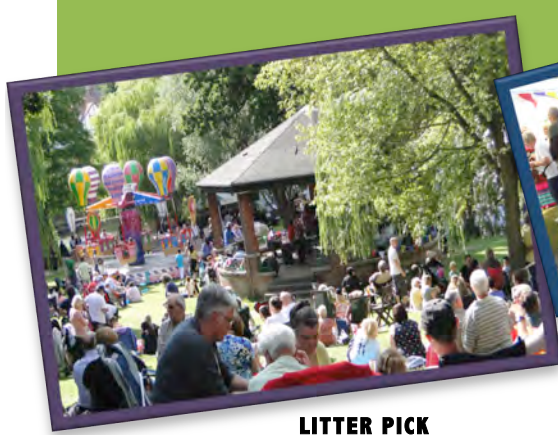
### **Veolia Havering Riverside Trust has awarded Raphael Park a £200,000 grant.**

We are equally thrilled to announce in this newsletter that Raphael Park is set to receive a further £200,000 (apart from the Heritage Lottery Fund grant) from Veolia Havering Riverside Trust. The combined funding will benefit the local community by allowing the Council to carry out major restoration works to the park. A major change will be work to the Park Lodge to accommodate a café with terrace and new areas for the Parks offices and new community meeting rooms. The Summer Theatre garden and bandstand will be renovated so that community groups such as the Romford Summer Theatre Group and the Friends of Raphael and Lodge Farm Parks can use the facilities to stage events. The funding will enable the Council to carry out a complete refurbishment of this popular park by improving and restoring entrance gates, benches, walkways, the lake edge, and protecting the parkland and the wildlife. Works will commence in late Spring early Summer 2012. Along with the improvements to the park there is an Activity plan designed to increase visitor numbers and provide volunteering opportunities. In addition to this grant, Veolia Havering Trust has contributed more than £200,000 to other Havering parks and open spaces providing ball courts, outdoor gym equipment, a skate park and play equipment.

Following requests made by members of the public during our meetings we have been pressing for restoration information boards to be placed at strategic areas in the park to keep you informed as to what, where and when works will be taking place. LBH have confirmed these notice boards should be up by the end of November.

## Bird & Wildlife Watch

Anyone wishing to share their fabulous photos with us, please email to [julia@forlfp.org](mailto:julia@forlfp.org)



### LITTER PICK

Litter picking may not be the Worlds' most glamorous or exciting activity but FORLFP believe it's well worthwhile as part of our drive to keep the Parks as welcoming and as safe as possible... and we want people to visit and enjoy them. Apart from its unattractive appearance litter can potentially pose a threat to visitors and their pets: children playing can cut themselves on broken glass and animals can become unwell after swallowing plastic. So we keep at it and feedback indicates that our efforts are appreciated..

The regular litter picks on the first Tuesday of the month continue and have been augmented by one organised by Trevor Preedy on the third Sunday of each month. Volunteers are always very welcome to come along and help.

While on the subject of volunteers.... On a wet and dreary morning in September the team were pleased to see a lone well wrapped-up figure they didn't at first recognize valiantly joining in the task. Turned out to be Cllr. Andrew Curtain demonstrating his commitment to the parks in a very practical way. Good to see because this was not an organised one-off PR exercise with attendant press but a helping hand being quietly lent without the expectation of public plaudits. Encouraging to know we have such support.

If you would like to know more or, better still, like to join the team, ring Len Oatham on 01708 742888.

### BURGLAR CAUGHT

'The Parks Protection Team sprung into action recently when a male cyclist sped through the park who was believed to be of serious interest to Police. A Police patrol attended the Park very quickly and the officers, in a minibus, gave chase as the suspect made his way through Blacks Forest and out of the North gate, with no apparent intention to stop for anybody. On reaching the gate, the police officers could go no further, due to the narrow gap. However, the Parks Protection Team Officer, on a more adaptable motorcycle, continued after the decamping cyclist keeping him in constant view until he was spotted entering back gardens nearby. More police reinforcements were called and the area was soon surrounded with the wanted man arrested. He has since been charged with burglary and will appear at Havering Magistrates Court.'



### MUSIC IN THE PARK

This years' highly successful event has been well covered in the local press so little remains to be said except to thank all those who attended for their support. Everybody seemed to have a good time, which was a prime object of the exercise. The FORLFP made a very useful profit on the day and the money will be put to good use in enabling us to do even more to improve the Parks' amenities.

Plans are already in hand for next years' event, which is scheduled for Bank Holiday Monday 4th June. The format will be similar to this year and we hope for similar support and success... if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

And some kind words from our fans!!

*"I managed to get along for the 'Music in the Park' event - such a throng of people. Romford and the environs must have been empty Sunday afternoon! Well done to the organisers (including yourself) - the event must be considered a HUGE success. The grounds looked fabulous in the summer sunshine. What a place to be on a warm summer's afternoon."* Susan

*"Congratulations to you and your group for achieving funding for Raphael park. It is hard work applying for funding for small amounts, so the amount you were awarded must have been really hard work, lots of time and effort."* Janet

*"I thought that I'd drop a short note to congratulate you on a splendid event yesterday. It was really well put together. Well done to the organizers."* Geoff

*"Thanks for last weekend - the kids loved it."* Chris.



*"Hello - congratulations on an amazing event on Sunday! Thoroughly enjoyed it! We particularly liked the band that played about 1-2pm with a female singer and a few guitarists. Many thanks."* Matt

*"I am just mailing you to say how much we all enjoyed the Music in the Park on Sunday. I was also pleased it was a nice day as your event must have taken a lot to organise. I hope these events continue. I think it gave the whole neighbourhood a lift in these hard times."* Wendy

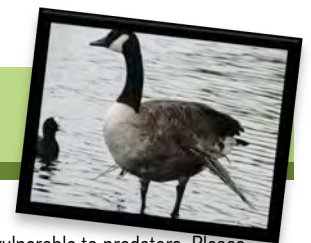


### A ROARING SUCCESS!!

## Bread & Canada Geese – Angel Wing

Well-meaning bird feeders please note: Angel Wing is caused by the consumption of too much bread and other high protein foods. We also know old moldy bread can cause a lung infection, which can result in death. Once a goose is affected by AW it cannot fly, cannot migrate and becomes vulnerable to predators. Please feed grains or corn rather than bread, which has little nutritional value and can be harmful. To help you to continue to enjoy feeding the birds and ducks, and know that you are doing so safely, we'll ensure that the new café will have a supply of good quality bird food on sale.

Well that's all for now folks, yours truly, The Friends



A few words from our Sponsors; *"We at A.C.Preou Ltd are proud to be sponsors of the Friends of Raphael & Lodge Farm Parks, and hope you will support them too by becoming a Friend, why not visit our website to see our mission at [www.preou.co.uk](http://www.preou.co.uk)"*