

FRIENDS OF RAPHAEL & LODGE FARM PARKS

November 2012



RAPHAEL PARK RESTORATION PROJECT

The waiting is nearly over! After a lengthy period where Havering Parks Service, along with Chris Blandford Associates, have been progressing the procurement of a main contractor to carry out the restoration works, we can reveal that a main contractor has now been appointed. The winning tender was within the available budget, meaning that all of the planned and agreed elements of the restoration can take place. These include the construction of the new play area kiosk/toilets, the restoration and extension of the park keepers lodge, refurbishment of all footpaths throughout the park, enhanced entrances and redecoration of gates and railings, tree planting and significant shrub and herbaceous planting, repair of the lakeside promenade and new marginal planting, new bins, benches, entrance and interpretive signage, restoration of the bandstand, black shelter and summer theatre and so on. The Friends group will be liaising with LBH and the appointed contractor to develop a detailed programme of works which upon commencement is expected to last around 42 weeks. The council will ensure that the works have the minimum impact on visitors to the park including the regular events and activities programme. Finally thanks for being so patient during the planning period. We all look forward to works commencing and especially to the completion of the programme ensuring that Raphael Park once again becomes the jewel in the crown of Havering's parks and open spaces.

NEWS IN BRIEF

LODGE FARM PARK
A BLOOMING WINNER

We are pleased to report that Lodge Farm Park received a Silver Gilt medal, in the annual Park of the Year award. The Awards were held at Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park on the 18th September after a busy summer of judging. The London in Bloom judges complimented the borough as a whole for being clean and tidy as well as praising the hard work of residents and council staff for looking after the parks. Overall, Havering scooped seven of the top awards in this prestigious contest, including 1st prize in the London in Bloom Biodiversity Award. Find out more about this scheme at <http://www.londoninbloom.co.uk/>. The Friends would like to congratulate all the park services team and our volunteers for all their hard work towards this achievement.



COMING EVENTS

Saturday 10th November
Autumn Quiz Night
"SOLD OUT". If you would like to join our Spring mailing list, please email Len@forlfp.org.uk

1st Tuesday each month
Litter Pick
Please meet Len at 10am
Raphael Park Café, all equipment supplied.

3rd Sunday each month
Litter Pick
Please meet Trevor at 10am
Raphael Park Playground. All equipment supplied.

Monday 12th November
Next Meeting
Friends Meeting 7:30 to 9pm
12a Bridge Close, Romford,
RM7 0AU





MORE NEWS....

BAT SPECIES YOU MIGHT SEE IN RAPHAEL PARK

The best viewing time is 1/2 hour before dusk and up to 1 hour after dark.

Pipistrelle Bat is by far the most common species throughout the U.K. it has a wingspan of 19-25cm's. A healthy adult can weight-in, at a mere 6gms making them our smallest Bat.



Daubenton's Bat or water bat, is mainly associated with and around Lakes and Large ponds. They are a medium sized bat with a wingspan of 24 -27cm and weight-in between 7-12gms.



For more info go to www.bats.org.uk/greencitybats

If you would like to participate in a Bat walk please contact us at www.forlfp.org.uk

BAT WATCH

A still moonlight evening, in Raphael Park. Well wrapped up figures holding small clicking boxes lurking silently among the trees. What's happening?

The object of the exercise was to observe bats and hopefully identify their roosting sites. Members of Essex Wildlife Trust were present as were Friends and Geoff Pepper from Parks Department. Bats are a protected species and knowing just where they are and how many there are is information that can help in their conservation. The information may be helpful but its' collection elicited curious stares from other park users.

Fortunately, all went off peacefully and we can report that the bat detectors buzzed throughout, thankfully with no roosting activity in areas of concern. This initial survey will be followed by with a deeper ecological survey of three particular trees. Our findings will be passed on to the Green City Bat Conservation Trust (which we are Members of).

RAPHAEL PARK TENNIS CLUB
 RAPHAEL PARK
 PARKER IS
 BISHOPSTON SQUARE
 WEBSITE: www.raphaeltennis.com
 E-MAIL: David@raphaeltennis.com
 Tel: 01787 50961 or 01786 70441
 HEAD COACH: DAVID WATKINSON L.T.C. qualified Club

CARDIO TENNIS
 NEW TO RAPHAEL PARK
 GREAT AND FUN WAY
 TO KEEP FIT!
 No Tennis Skills Needed
 FITNESS TO MUSIC !
 SUNDAYS 9.30AM to 10.30AM

COST £5 PER SESSION
 or
£24 for 6 weeks

No Booking Necessary



A few words from our Sponsors; " We at A.C.Preou Limited, are proud to sponsor the Friends of Raphael & Lodge Farm Parks, and sincerely hope you will too, by visiting their website and join their mailing list, many thanks for taking time to read this newsletter, Yours Sincerely, The Directors