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THE FRIENDS OF RAPHAEL PARK
AND LODGE FARM PARK



NEWSLETTER

PROOF ONLY

AUTUMN 2013

MAIN CONTRACT COMES TO A CLOSE

November 2013 saw the majority of the work by Borrás Construction come to a close when practical completion was issued to them. Borrás will be issued with a comprehensive 'snagging' list to complete in the near future.

The Council would like to extend its thanks to Borrás Construction for a job well done! Heritage Lottery Fund staff visited the park on November 12th and were delighted with what they saw.

In addition the Council's Parks Service is in the process of installing a range of bins, new and restored benches, way-finding posts, entrance and interpretive signage and is also beginning to prepare shrub and herbaceous planting beds.

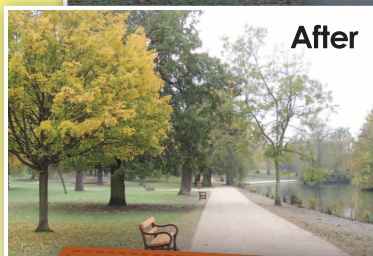
Lastly the Council has now recruited a new Raphael Park Manager, Peter Stewart, who it is hoped will commence his duties in January 2014. Peter will be the first point of contact for park visitors as he will be based in the Lodge. He will also lead the implementation of the Raphael Park Activity Plan which will provide events, training and volunteer opportunities for the local community. He will also work very closely with the Friends group.

We, The Friends apologize to park users for any inconvenience during the restoration works, but it is hoped you will all agree, it has been worth it. Take a look at some of these, before and after photos!

The Friends are full of pride at what has been achieved and thank all involved in this wonderful restoration work.



Before



After



Before



After



To summarise the following items have been completed since December 2012:

- Refurbishment of the park keeper's lodge
- Various demolitions
- The construction of the new toilets and restaurant (extension to lodge)
- New pathways throughout the park including grass seeding to the edges
- New entrance gates to the park
- Works in Lodge Farm Park car park
- The new timber bridge at Lake Rise entrance
- The new refreshment kiosk / toilets adjacent to the children's play area
- Hard and soft revetments to the lake edge
- Repairs and redecoration to existing railings and gates
- The restoration of the bandstand

Coming Soon

Monday 24th February 2014
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Annual General Meeting
Venue: to be confirmed

1st Tuesday - each month
10:00am - 11:00am
Litter Pick
Fresh air, exercise and feel good, all in just an hour!
We meet at Raphael's café, with all tools supplied.

3rd Sunday each month
10:00am
Litter Pick

So if you couldn't make Tuesday's litter pick, no excuse why not join us Sunday! We meet at Raphael's playground, with all tools supplied.

Sunday 27th July 2014
1:00pm - 6:00pm
Music in the Park 2014

More information coming soon!

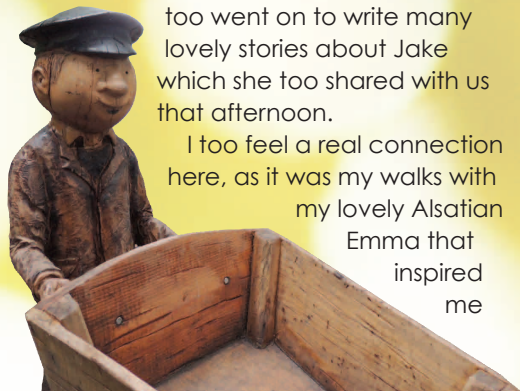


PERCY & FRIENDS PICNIC SPOT

As the kids came running towards us, it was pure joy! How fabulous that they were so excited to see Nick. Author Nick Butterworth was very excited to share his lovely story of 'How it all Began', in Raphael Park, of course we are talking about Percy the Park Keeper.

Nick had brought along a photo of his beloved Jake, who Nick was with when his character Percy popped into his head. Annette too went on to write many lovely stories about Jake which she too shared with us that afternoon.

I too feel a real connection here, as it was my walks with my lovely Alsatian Emma that inspired me



to form The Friends of Raphael & Lodge Farm Parks.

Sadly, both Jake and Emma have passed, but I'm very happy to say their legacy remains.

To the official opening of our lovely new picnic spot. After school on Tuesday 17th September, the staff from Gidea Park Primary School brought along Yr.2 children to meet authors Nick and Annette Butterworth. The children were also given a bulb each to plant around our new picnic area which next Spring should provide a pretty ring of daffodils and snowdrops. Our many thanks to Nick & Annette who helped make it a very special occasion, they signed books for all the children, and Nick just couldn't help squiggling little pictures of his woodland friends in each of them. The Havering Librarians and Knebworth Carvers, very kindly entertained the children,



whilst they waited patiently for their books to be signed with story telling and badge making. Dennis demonstrated how he and David had carved the sculptures and furniture for our picnic spot. The children watched on in amazement! Hot, tea's, coffee's and cake were served for a small donation to the Friends Group by our friend Wokabout and the Friends handed free goodie bags to all the children. Our many many thanks to all, we had a lovely afternoon.

Julia

MOBILE SKATE RAMPS IN LODGE FARM PARK

9am, 1st September, a mixed bunch of people standing around glad that it was such a nice day and anticipating the next 8 hours. A 'yellow bus' parked near the playground, another arrives carrying more people and a trailer full of skate ramps. For the next 2 hours it's a hive of activity as we get to work. By 11am there are 2 ramps, 1 Box, a Rail and Ledge.

Our Friends Marquee bursting with questionnaires, newsletters, pens and of course sweets! Another large marquee with 2 woks and loads of cold drinks (Thanks to Wokabout for supporting us yet again). There's a small crowd of eager riders ranging in age from 4 to 21. Then we are off, the ramps are quickly covered by experienced riders and youngsters having their first attempts at "bmx-ing" or tricks on scooters and skateboards. The volunteer youth workers are on hand to give out pads and to ensure every rider has a helmet. They also offer guidance and support to some of the more nervous first timers. As it gets busier a system of time slots is introduced for the younger riders to explore the ramps without disrupting those with more experience.

The atmosphere is great, lots of kids, supportive locals and everyone enjoying an afternoon in the park, even those just watching the young people having fun. It's interesting to see the co-operation between the experienced riders, taking turns and being aware of their run of tricks effect on others. Havering Youth team collected about 50 consent forms signed by mums or dads for anyone under 18.

The FORP questionnaire designed to survey people's attitudes to the ramps was completed by 50 people – a mix of ages, riders and non-riders. By 4pm tired people drifted away with a smile on their face. By 6pm the park was once again restored to its normal state with just the echoes of wheels on tarmac and wood lingering in the Autumn sunshine.

We hope to run another mobile skate ramp event sometime next Spring, watch out for an update.



WELL DONE TO WINNERS 'TABLE 3'

Well done to our Autumn Winners, "Table 3". Who were delighted as they walked away knowing they are the clever ones! We had a great night and raised a fantastic £900. Our many thanks, to our quiz followers and volunteers for 'Keeping up the Fund Raising'. Our Next quiz will be in April 2014 Looking forward to the new year, we hope to hold a few more quiz's, hopefully incorporating one or two in the new Lodge Restaurant, where there will be a licensed bar and hot food!, look out for our Winter Newsletter when a confirmed dates and venue will be announced.



KEEP IN TOUCH

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