



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013

THE WETTEST WINTER ON RECORD

Looking back at our archive photos, I'm firstly reminded how many have truly appreciated our parks, from the ice skaters in 1900 then fast forwarding over 100 years and enjoying the snow in January 2013, it's at this point I dread putting the January 2014 photos on record. How dismal and wet it has been, with parts of the UK having the wettest winter since records began. On the bright side Raphael Park has been wet but the restoration works have most definitely held off a disaster! So to keep this brief a few photos of Winter 2013 and 2014, enjoy!



Coming Events

Monday | 24th February 2014

• 7:30 - 9:00pm

Annual General Meeting

Venue: The Lodge, Raphael Park

Saturday | 29th March 2014

• 7:00 - 11:00pm

Spring Quiz Night

Venue: St. Michael's Church Hall

Email: len@forlfp.org.uk for tickets

19th - 22nd and 25th - 28th June 2014

Romford Summer Theatre

Shakespeare - "Twelfth Night"

More details coming soon

Sunday | 27th July 2014

• 1:00 - 6:00pm

Music in the Park 2014

More details coming soon

1st Tuesday of each month

• 10:00am

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 of each month

• 10:00am

Litter Pick

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

• We're considering lighting the fountain during dusk and upto closing hours let us know what you think.

• Peter Stewart – Raphael Park Manager, pictured here second from right, is looking forward to progressing the activity plan for these next 10 years, our warmest welcome to Peter and with great anticipation we look forward to working along with him. Peter will be attending our meeting on Monday 24th February if you would like to meet him please join us.

• Len and Ian planted (second from left and first on right) just over 1000 bulbs throughout the park which were donated very kindly by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association. It's amazing Len still stands so tall.



FINISHING TOUCHES TO RESTORATION WORKS

Some twelve months after commencement of the restoration works, Raphael Park's finishing touches and soft landscaping are well underway, with an anticipated completion April 2014. The planting scheme, which is being undertaken by the council's Grounds Maintenance staff, of over 18,000 trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, ferns, hedging plants and bulbs are being planted at a cost of almost £53,000. The planting strategy seeks to balance historical restoration with modern needs and constraints and to categorise distinct areas providing a logical framework with which to apply planting palettes and species.

For example ornamental beds containing structural shrubs, clipped box and herbaceous planting are to be used along the historic carriage drive to provide historical reference to the Edwardian period during which Raphael Park became a public park. Conversely modern planting will be utilised where appropriate including the use of ferns, grasses and swathes of perennials.

To reflect the need to provide more historically relevant parkland species some 80 new trees are being planted throughout the park including the renewal of the chestnut avenue either side of the Spoon Pond. Specimen trees will include birch, field maple, alder, hornbeam, walnut, tulip and handkerchief trees. In addition a hazel coppice is being created at the Lake Rise entrance.

Over 8,000 herbaceous perennials will provide a riot of colour during spring and summer months will include lady's mantle, anemones, asters, masterwort, cranesbill, larkspur, globe thistle, geranium, hellebore, red hot poker, ox eyed daisies, lupins, peony and verberna. These herbaceous plants will be located primarily within the Pleasure Ground.

A range of over 3,000 shrubs will be planted in beds throughout the park such as amelanchier, box, cornus, escallonia, fatsia, veronica, hydrangea, lavender, magnolia, azalea and rosemary mainly to provide structure to the landscape.

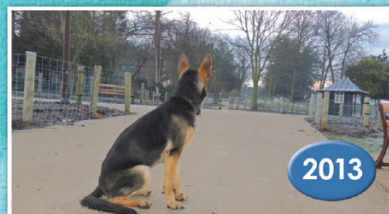
New hedges are being planted along many of the internal boundaries of the park to include holly, box, beech, hazel, blackthorn and dog rose. These hedges will provide structure and screening and protection for wildlife in the park.



1914



2013



2013



2013

BIRD FEEDING AND ANGEL WING



Whilst in The Lodge overlooking over the recently completed works, we were very sad to see a lone goose on the promenade, it's wings extended, disfigured and broken. He looked so alone as he watched his friends happily graze on the new sprouting grass higher up the bank. This poor fellow has Angel Wing.

Summer 2013 Park Services provided a leaflet which we distributed. The excessive feeding throughout the year polluted the lake, killing a number of birds. Another effect of a carbohydrate-rich diet (bread) is Angel Wing.

Please be reminded of the effect of mouldy and/or too much bread. Birds need a varied diet, please feed them lettuce, spinach, uncooked porridge oats or bird corn mix. Should you still feel you need to feed them bread, please note if you see bread floating on the lake surface that means they've had enough, please refrain from throwing any more into the lake. Our aim for 2014 is to eradicate Angel Wing in our flock, please help us make this happen, with our many thanks, the friends.



KEEP IN TOUCH

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