



# NEWSLETTER

SPRING SPECIAL EDITION - JUNE 2014

## Raphael Park re-dedicated to the People - June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014

Spring 2011, Raphael Park secures just under £3 million in restoration funding. It was fantastic news! How will we celebrate! Summer 2011 plans whirling around our heads.

Winter 2013, as main contractor Borrás left the park, it was time to set the wheels in motion to celebrate all that had been achieved. We, and Parks Services put our heads together, we were unanimous to ensure nobody and nothing was missed.

How fitting that the celebration should be 110 years after Sir Herbert and Mrs Raphael opened the park gates to the public on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1904. Of course without whom there would not be a park or celebration. Our many thanks to the Raphaels, who had the foresight to protect and preserve this wonderful landscape by bequeathing it to the people of Havering all those years ago.

Summer 2014. After many meetings, emails and calls, 6am Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June it became real. The marquees arrived and a hive of activity ensued, well after sunset we left the park exhausted but full for anticipation for tomorrow's celebrations.

The park early Monday, what a wonderful place to be, quietly finishing off those last minute jobs, excitement crackling in the air! Then panic! Nick called, "Hi, I'm nearly at the park..." Oh dear how times flies! Nick Butterworth about to arrive meant those lovely children from Gidea Park Primary School were on their way! And sure enough 10am on the dot the fun began. A smile on all our faces as we watched the children walking towards us wriggling with excitement Nick, illustrator and author of Percy's Park, together with Punch and Judy beaming, they too, eagerly awaiting their arrival.

So to the moment we had been waiting for, the arrival of our very special guests, our refurbishment sponsors! Heritage Lottery Fund, Veolia Riverside Trust, Environment Agency and LB of Havering; Speeches were made by Jon Sheaff - Heritage Lottery Fund, Nigel Oxley - LBH's Historical Buildings and Landscape Officer, Martin Stanton - Head of Parks and Open Spaces, Peter Stewart - Raphael Park Manager and Julia Herold - Chairman of the Friends. It has to be said, it was wonderful being in a room full of people who believe in our Park, Team and Dream.

1pm, having finished our speeches we headed along newly laid pathways, past the lake towards the main gate, refurbished Lodge and new Restaurant. Mayor of Havering Cllr. Eric Munday planted a Thuja tree, the same variety planted by Mrs Raphael in 1904. Followed by the unveiling of the plaque outside the Lodge entrance. Then onto the main gate for the much awaited formal Re-Dedication of our park to the People.

After much a great celebration the tea dance commenced, and the party began...





The Friends of Raphael & Lodge Farm Park Present

# MUSIC IN THE PARK 2014

Sunday 27th July 2014 - 1.00pm - 7.00pm

Raphael Park, Main Road, Romford, Essex, RM2 5EB

# FREE ENTRY

## Four Great Bands

Pimm's, Wine & Beer Marquee

Strawberries & Cream

Hot Noodle Bar

Hog Roast

Kids Amusements

Rodeo Bull

Bungee Jumping

and lots, lots more...

[www.forlfp.org.uk](http://www.forlfp.org.uk)

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**THE HOUNDogs**  
ROCKABILLY AT ITS BEST

The Houndogs were formed by the three Wilson brothers ten years ago, and since then they have built up a wide reputation for their exhilarating live performances.

[www.thehoundogs.co.uk](http://www.thehoundogs.co.uk)

## LosMusicos

Two of the most experienced Latin guitarists in the London Latin music scene, Guillermo and Juan Carlos collaborate with some of the finest percussionists in the UK to create an exciting acoustic sound.

[www.musicos.co.uk](http://www.musicos.co.uk)



## Copperface Jack

Copperface Jack have evolved over the last fifteen years and perform soft rock numbers spanning five decades and many genre.

They particularly enjoy park gigs and playing in the open air.

## NEW SERENADERS

We are a 'truly live' band, who know how to entertain!

We've been jamming and serenading audiences throughout London with our Caribbean sounds for over a decade.

