



# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2017

## GREEN FLAGS & OFFICIAL FRIENDS STATUS



It was with great pride that we collected two green flags again this year. We've held a Green Flag in Lodge Farm Park since 2008 but were absolutely delighted when we were awarded Green Flag in Raphael Park for a 3rd year running. We were also delighted to collect our Official Friends Status, again an accolade we've held since 2009.

Our many thanks to all that have helped us and our much loved parks achieve these accolades, and please be assured that we are working hard to ensure this continues next year.

## MUSIC IN THE PARK 2016

The Friends of Raphael and Lodge Farm Park would like to thank you for joining us and supporting our Music in the Park 2016. It gave us great pleasure meeting our many regular and new users, and to be told; The event is a huge success and how much all enjoy and look forward to it. We've missed not holding a concert this year.



We were overwhelmed by the compliments for hosting such a fabulous day and on the wonderful atmosphere that was enjoyed by over 14,000 people, which is a testament to the expertise and hard work our dedicated team of volunteers.

All of the money raised from our event will enable us to continue to support our aims and objectives; ensuring that Raphael and Lodge Farm Parks are a fun and safe place for all.

## GRASS MATTING SAFETY SURFACE



The Friends of Raphael & Lodge Farm Parks have helped promote and been part of the volunteer team to Raphael Park Parkrun, which has been running since 2015.

It has been clear from our Music in the Park events that the bandstand entrance is sorely lacking an adequate pathway. This was pointed out during the renovation works but due to lack of funds the pathway never reached the bandstand and now leaves a gap between the pathway and bandstand of approximately 12' x 8'. During our Music in the Park 2012 we had a severely wet May and June which created a huge problem with water retention around the bandstand, making it very difficult for the Acts to work around and enter/leave the bandstand without risk of slipping and injury. This has now become a further issue for the Parkrun runners and organisers.

We would like to provide a solution to this problem by supply and installing a Grass Matting Safety Surface, this will be non-intrusive to the parks vista, relatively cheap -v- new pathway and of course provide a much safer surface to all bandstand users.

## CYCLISTS

*It's nice to cycle in a park, I can honestly say I taught my eldest son to ride a bike in Raphael Park, we often used the hill as a natural start point as it meant instead of him being shoved along he could naturally roll and finally gained enough confidence to take off his stabilizers. Fond memories. Sadly we've had some complaints about inconsiderate cyclist speeding along the pathways, as I'm sure you wouldn't like to see bikes being banned from the pleasure ground, as neither would I. Can you please be reminded that it is a privilege to ride in our parks not a right.*



## NUTHATCH - NESTED IN THE WOODS

We were very pleased to see the pair of Nuthatches nesting in our woods again this year. Colin spotted them in March with them fledglings in May. Lets hope these lovely little unusual birds who creep up and down tree trunks and negate branches upside down to extract hidden seeds or insects they have stored

## COMING EVENTS

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
7.30pm - 9pm

### Meeting

Venue: The Lodge, Raphael  
Park Friends Meeting Room

• 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month - 10am

### Litter Pick

- Fresh air, exercise, feel good, all in just an hour! All tools supplied.
- Meet at Raphael's Cafe with all tools supplied.

• 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month - 10am

### 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.



## Raphael Gardener's Club

Passionate gardener? Handy with a pair of secateurs? Want to help maintain your local green space? Then come along to the Raphael Gardener's club.

Join the Park Manager on the **first Wednesday of every month in Raphael Park.**

Activities include;

- Pruning
- Weeding
- Deadheading
- Planting and more!

Whether you're an experienced gardener or can't tell the difference between a Pansy or a Petunia, we'd love you to get involved.

**Meet the Park Manager at the Main Gate at 11am** the first Wednesday of every month!

Call or email for more information.

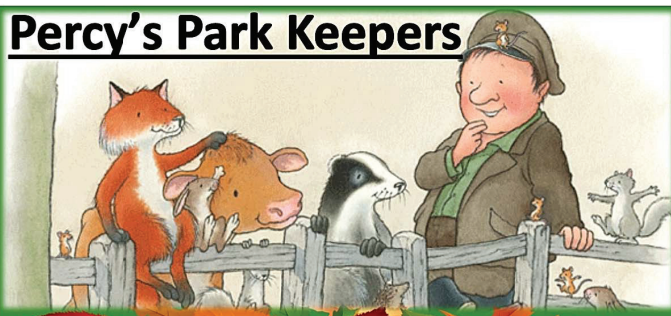
**Taylor Smyth-Richards**

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**Email: Taylor.Smyth-Richards@haverling.gov.uk**



## Percy's Park Keepers



Bring a long your little one to take part in our monthly book and activity club focused on Percy the Park Keeper.

Join the Raphael Park Manager the first Friday of every month at 11am to take part in craft activities and finish the day by reading a Percy the Park Keeper book.

**Meet at the Percy Picnic area on the first Friday of every month at 11am to take part.**

These events are perfect for little park keepers aged 2-5.

Call or email the Park Manager to book a place or turn up on the day.

**Raphael Park Manager**

**Taylor Smyth-Richards**

**Mobile: 07976738581**

**Email: Taylor.Smyth-Richards@haverling.gov.uk**

**Facebook: @RaphaelEvents**



## Campfire Cookout

Learn more about fire safety and cooking on a fire with the Raphael Park Manager **every Saturday** in \_\_\_\_\_. **Meet at the Bug Hotel near Percy in Raphael Park at 11am** for a group session all about cooking on a campfire.

Learn how lay and light a fire safely and cook tasty treats to eat on the day.

The Raphael Park Manager is a trained Level 2 Outdoor Learning Practitioner and has training in Pediatric first. All sessions are fully risk assessed to make sure everyone is safe and enjoys themselves.

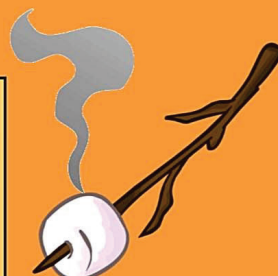
**Price-** £5 per child per day. Sessions can be block booked or for individual days

**Call or email the Park Manager to book or for more information**

**Mobile: 07976738581**

**Email: Taylor.Smyth-Richards@haverling.gov.uk**

**Facebook: @RaphaelEvents**



## KEEP IN TOUCH

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