

Members events

- **Our next free Members' Coffee morning** will be on Wednesday October 19th from 10.30am at the Community Hut by the cafe. **Please note the change of date!** Do join us! Members are welcome to bring a friend.
- **Making an Insect Hotel:** see next page.
- **Making bat and bird boxes:** this event has been delayed until the early next year – watch for details coming soon.

Carols in the Park

Saturday Dec. 17th at 4.30pm by the boathouse.

Information Centre

Our Information Centre will close for the winter at the end of half-term and will open again at Easter.

Co-op Community Local Fund

The Friends of Lake Meadows have been nominated to receive funding from the Co-op Local Community Fund. We shall get a large contribution towards our project to refurbish the lake, encourage wild-life and provide information.

But we need your help! We'd like you to get involved. The more support we get, the more funding we could receive. So if you're a Co-op Member log in to your Co-op Membership account and choose FoLM as your cause. If you're not a member, please join and support us! You will get discounts on all Co-op branded products - 5% to you and 1% to us!

To become a Co-op Member apply at the Queen's Park store or Co-op funeral home in the High Street or go to <https://membership.coop.co.uk/sign-in>

Next Working Party

Saturday October 15th 9.30am at the Compound.

Photography Competition

We had 123 adult entries and 50 junior ones. Well done to all the winners and our thanks to the sponsors – Billerica Round Table, Lions and both Rotary Groups. The winners were:



Adult class: 'Cover' taken by Sean Muldoon



Junior Class: 'Serenity' by Freya Donaldson

The display of finalists' photos is on display until October 20th at Billerica Library. We shall be showing other finalists' photos in the coming year on our website and in future newsletters.

Insect Hotel

We plan to encourage wildlife in the park in a variety of ways during the coming year, one of which is to build an insect hotel.



The basic hotel will be built in coming weeks, but we need help to furnish it with all sorts of materials.

Help Needed!

An opportunity for the children or grandchildren of members - they might like to help to complete the hotel at half-term. However, places will be **very limited**, so **you need to contact us if you want places** – contact details below.

Examples of the type of materials we need you to collect beforehand:

- Plastic bottles
- Broken bricks and roof tiles
- Stone chippings
- Broken plant pots
- Corrugated cardboard
- Short pieces of drainpipe
- Small logs and twigs, rotting wood and bark
- Dry leaves
- Hollow plant stems, such as bamboo and canes
- Straw and hay
- Pieces of hard (not soft) wood with holes drilled in it

A date will be arranged during half-term, which suits those who want to help! So if you and your family would like to come and help, please email secretary@lakemeadows.org.uk or ring: **07843 860 135 (answerphone)** so that we can make further plans.

And finally....

The Friends of Lake Meadows brings together the strengths of the local community, Billericay Town Council and Basildon Borough Council to make a real difference to Lake Meadows, enriching the lives of those who use the park, and benefitting their health and well-being.

Golden Plaque Awards

Every year, as the year comes to an end, the committee makes prestigious awards to individuals who have helped the Friends during the year.

This year, with so many volunteers helping, it was decided to award Golden Plaque awards to the following people:

For their commitment to manning the Information Centre every Monday:

Liz Hawkes and Vic Sarbutt

For their commitment to gardening every Tuesday - totalling about 750 hours this year:

Peter Hardiman, Vic Hare, Mary Hitchings, Sue Howell, Judy Jones, Trevor Keens, Gwynn Lewis, Beryl McMillan and Chris Yeomans.

Well done everyone! Your efforts were certainly noted this week by Basildon Council Senior Managers who were impressed by all the work that we do at the park. They particularly commented on the improvement to the gardens and they enjoyed visiting the Information Centre

Garden of the Child

Last edition we mentioned how the garden had suffered both from the summer drought and with small feet trampling on the new plants. Recently the statue has become the Pokémon 'tower' of the park, where youngsters, and some adults too, meet up to swap the virtual creatures that they collect! Pokémon have been contacted, so hopefully this will soon be changed and with colder, and maybe even wetter weather, the game will cease?

Thanks to a working party manned by St John's (Billericay) Cricket Club volunteers fulfilling their community project, and of course our gardening team, we are gradually working on tidying the garden and bringing it up to looking cared for again. We shall replace lost plants, add new ones to fill strategic gaps and fence off areas that need protection. Hopefully by next Spring you will see a real difference.

New signs, bins and bike rack



Conservation area signs have been put up recently in the sluice bank areas, and also about the cherry trees and Rhododendron Row. Replacement rubbish bins have been installed near the café, as well as a bike rack by the community hut.

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