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Newsletter

Spring 2021

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**Chairman's Message**

At last, the world is looking more positive and the end of lockdown is in sight, albeit a few months away yet. Spring is just around the corner and lighter days are already here! We hope that you and your families have kept well and that everyone enjoyed using the park during lockdown, although we hear it was very crowded and muddy at times!

We were sorry to hear of the death of Peter Hardiman recently. He was one of the founding members of FoLM and a trustee, he was always willing to help with jobs in the park. He instigated the Peace Tree with the circular seat, in the gardens, in memory of those who gave their lives in WW1. Peter will be greatly missed; our thoughts are with Lesley and the family.

Our gardeners have started back to work this week! Although they have already missed a month of tidying up after the winter, we are sure that they will soon have everything looking lovely again! If anyone feels like joining the group, we can always do with more gardeners. Do contact us on the above phone number or via the website or just turn up any Tuesday morning.

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**Spring comes to Lake Meadows**

After the coldest February for a decade, with some of the lowest temperatures recorded in 25 years, it has been a joy to feel the warm sun again, but no doubt some wet and windy weather is likely at some point, perhaps with another hot summer.

Much is talked about climate change, but looking back to the time of Major Spitty, who owned the land in the 1800s, he too suffered very cold winters, and hot, dry summers. He held curling and skating parties on the Moat, as the lake was known. Local Scottish farmers and other locals took part, before retiring for dinner at the Red Lion afterwards.

But now there are signs of Spring in the park. Have you seen any daisies or celandines yet? Have you noticed the bird song has increased recently? Did you know that a goldcrest and kingfisher have both been spotted in the park this past week? We hope you enjoy using the park in the months ahead.

**Photography Competition 2020**

Over 100 hundred photographs were entered with over fifty of those by Juniors. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were not able to have our usual exhibition and the prize-giving ceremony at the library. Thanks go to our sponsors: Billericay Lions, Billericay Rotary Club, Billericay Rotary Club Mayflower and Billericay Lions. All the finalists can be seen on our website and the winners were:



**First Prize Adult Section:  
'Light Run' by Gary Ling**



**First Prize Junior Section:  
'Autumn Beauty' by Abigail Clapton**

The other winners appear on the next page.

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**Photography Competition 2021**

This year's competition has already been launched. Rules and entry form are on our website, or ring the above number. Closing date: Midnight on October 31<sup>st</sup>. There are good prizes, so do have a go!

**Photography Competition 2020**

The other prize-winners were:



**2nd Prize Adult Section:  
'Curiosity' by Sarah Clapton**



**Joint 3rd Prize Adult Section:  
'Snack Time' by Nigel Harris**



**Joint 3rd Prize Adult Section:  
'Lazy Autumn Days' by Beth Livermore**



**2nd Prize Junior Section:  
'Reflections' by Paige Gilbrook**



**3rd Prize Junior Section:  
'Splashdown' by Hugh Somerville-Cutting**



**Joint 4th Prize Junior Section:  
'Sunset Blossom' by Kitty Gundry**



**Joint 4th Prize Junior Section:  
'Sensory Garden View' by Charlie Lane**

## The Information Centre

Sadly, we are unable to open the Information Hut at the moment but hope that sometime over the summer this will be possible again, once we receive advice from the Parks manager.

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## Children's Corner

- Q. Why was the photographer arrested?  
 A. He shot all his customers.
- Q. Why did the photographer stop taking photos?  
 A. He couldn't focus on the job.
- Q. Why was the crocodile a good photographer?  
 A. He was a bit of snapper.



## Word game



How many words of four or more letters can you find in the words 'Lake Meadows'?

- 30 - Fair, 50 - Good,
- 65 - Very Good
- 80 and over - Excellent!

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## Shopping



If you use Amazon for deliveries, then do please register with Smile.Amazon

and make the Friends of Lake Meadows your chosen charity. For every £ you spend, they will donate 0.5% to our funds. It may not seem much, but every penny counts! All your purchases, screens and systems are identical to ordinary Amazon. An easy way to help for the Friends! Take a look.

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## Nature Notes

### Flowers to look out for in March

In the fern bed near the Lake Avenue entrance, the hellebores are flowering, whilst brightly-coloured polyanthus blossom in the rhododendron walk and Hillhouse Drive garden, under the coming daffodils.

Blackthorn blossoms in early Spring with clouds of snow-white flowers on black spiky twigs. Best known for their blue-black fruits in autumn, which are used for making slow gin. You can find some small blackthorn trees by the path just beyond the rocks and grasses area at the end of the lake by the play area.

Dandelions and occasional celandines appear throughout the park, as well as daisies (bellis perennis). Folk lore tells that to step on the first daisy of the year will bring good luck and to be able to step on seven daisies with one foot means that Spring has arrived. We still have quite a way to go yet before we can say that Spring is here!

## Co-op Community Fund



# Select us as your cause

We are delighted that we have been chosen as one of three local organisations to be nominated for funding for the year ending next October.

You need to register in one of the stores or at: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/46853> And then choose us as your chosen charity.

When you shop at any Co-op in the country, including both Billericay shops and the Co-op Funeral Home, your purchases of selected goods and services will trigger 2p in £ to our organisation and the same to you too! So we all benefit!

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## Did you know?

We are fortunate at Lake Meadows; the following different varieties of flora and fauna have been noted and recorded on our database:

49 birds, 12 butterflies and moths, 20 insects, 9 fish, 2 reptiles and 10 mammals including 6 bats; 6 ferns, 49 garden flowers and 82 garden shrubs, 19 grasses, 62 trees and 7 wild shrubs, 92 wildflowers and 17 fungi. Wow! Amazing!

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## Birdsong

Nothing lifts the spirits in the morning more than the dawn chorus. Think of it as caffeine for the soul.



Wouldn't it be great to identify a bird just from its song alone? To help you, the RSPB have created a bird song ID playlist with some of the common birds you'll find in and around your garden or local area. [Bird Song Identifier | Audio of Garden Bird Calls - The RSPB](#)

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## And finally ...

"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass.... it's about learning how to dance in the rain."  
Viviane Greene

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*Copies of this newsletter for our postal members have been printed by the Co-op Funeralcare Billericay, whom we should like to thank for their generosity and continued support.*