

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to Spring at Lake Meadows! If you are reading this, you are one of the many people who love our park. Like me, you will be disgusted at the Council's latest money-making increase in charges for the car park. We are the **only park** in Basildon with car parking charges – the other parks are all free! Fancy having to pay to visit a park. It is just a thoughtless, petty charge instigated by an ill-informed council that appears unaware of the value of the park to our community.

Many of us on the committee have written impassioned letters pointing out the many health and well-being benefits the park brings to our community and pointing out how many different groups of people will suffer from the new car park charges.

We wait to hear how local councillors may mitigate the charges, possibly using the Area Committee funds. Meanwhile, please make sure that you don't get caught by fines. We do hope that you will still continue to come to the park and enjoy it! And support all the wonderful activities that take place.



Photography Workshops for Juniors



Our workshops for budding photographers have proved very popular and we have a growing group who have entered our competition this past couple of years. Nigel Harris, a keen local photographer, leads the sessions and parents or guardians are always welcome to come along with younger participants. Holiday times only – please book online!



Jazz in the Park

We are pleased to announce that we shall again be running our popular music in the park event on Saturday July 12th – book the date in your diaries! This is a free event, no need to book! Just come with chairs and a picnic and enjoy a fabulous few hours of free music in beautiful surroundings.



Photography Competition 2025

Do you have a camera or a mobile phone! Do you take photos of your family or the places you visit on holidays? Then why not take some photos of the park and anything in the park?

You don't need to be a specialist, but just to be able to spot what would make a good photo. All the rules and an entry form are on our website - it is easy to enter and it is FREE! We urge you to get clicking and take some photos and enter.

This year's competition is now open: closing date October 31st at midnight. Rules & Entry forms are now on our website. www.lakemeadows.org.uk



Volunteers needed

We urgently need two people to help man our Information hut. If you can spare an hour or two to sit in the sun, to chat to people, encourage them to become members of FoLM or answer any questions, then you are just the person we need! You won't be alone! You will be partnered with one of our experienced ladies and simple 'training' will be provided.

We need somebody occasionally on a Tuesday morning and another regularly for Thursdays. The times are flexible, to be agreed with your partner volunteer.

The perks of the role? You'll enjoy a pleasant morning out, making new friends and learning more about the park. Inside the veritable Tardis there is lots of information about the park - old photographs, history and information about modern FoLM projects.

Call Rosie on 007484 759 131 if you'd like a chat about this.

Children's Corner

Q. Why did the Easer Egg hide?

A. Because it was a little chicken.

Q. How do dinosaurs celebrate Easter?

A. They don't. They're eggs-tinct.

Q. What kind of shoes do frogs wear to an Easter party? A. Open-toad.

Q. What's the Easter Bunny's favorite nursery rhyme? A. Hop Cross Buns.



Spring Wordsearch

T	E	L	O	I	V	S	E	L	O	P	D	A	T
U	K	C	O	O	T	B	L	U	E	B	E	L	E
L	G	A	J	R	W	L	D	P	D	S	B	E	E
I	N	T	D	A	E	I	U	R	K	B	U	G	S
P	I	E	A	I	N	D	C	I	S	M	T	S	E
S	P	R	I	N	G	O	K	M	H	A	T	U	G
E	R	P	S	B	D	F	y	R	O	L	E	N	G
E	I	I	Y	O	R	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	M
D	H	L	X	W	I	A	F	S	E	E	F	H	O
S	C	L	D	U	B	D	D	E	R	R	L	I	S
L	L	A	D	Y	B	I	R	D	S	U	Y	N	S
U	B	R	E	E	Z	E	A	A	N	T	S	E	O
G	O	S	L	I	N	G	K	K	R	A	I	N	L
S	X	O	N	I	U	Q	E	Z	Q	N	E	W	B

Ants

Bee

Bird

Blossom

Bluebell

Breeze

Bud

Bugs

Butterfly

Caterpillar

Chirping

Coot

Daffodil

Daisy

Drake

Duck

Egg

Equinox

Flowers

Fly

Gosling

Ladybird

Lambs

Nature

Nest

New

Primrose

Rain Rainbow

Seeds

Showers

Slugs

Spring

Sunshine

Tadpoles

Tulips

Violet



Chess & Draughts

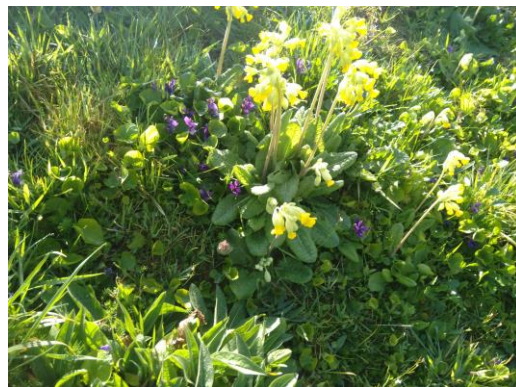


Join us for a game of chess or draughts at the park any fine morning or afternoon.

Chess and draught pieces are available to borrow from the café for the small deposit of £2. There are instructions for how to play included in the bag! Enjoy!

What can I see in the Park this month?

Lots of cowslips and violets are out in the conservation area by the sluice just now!



Do you know about Tisty-tosty balls? To make one, country girls used to pick the flower heads close to

the top of the stalk and thread 50 or 60 of them onto a string. The flower heads were pushed along the string until they formed a tight ball. Then the ball was tossed from one girl to another whilst chanting the names of suitable contenders for their favours. when the ball was dropped, the name still on their lips was the chosen one for that girl.

Spot the pink camellias – there are three of them out now and the new Tulip Tree is already in bud!

There are a few bluebells hiding in the grass, amongst the cow parsley shoots, near the Perry Street gate.

Unusual Cornus Mas bushes are in flower opposite the fern bed and there are buds on the new pineapple bush in the gardens.

Lots of bird song can be heard and blue tits are nesting in our nesting boxes. Hopefully we shall see the return of young waterfowl in coming weeks, with coot, moorhen, mallard, Canada geese and the crested grebe, producing youngsters.



Digging at the park. All the pipes in the park are very old. Last year there was a burst pipe near the bowls pavilion, which has turned out to be a leaking water main, so a new main has been put in place from the Lake Avenue entrance, down to the rhododendron bed then across to the pavilion.



The Tennis Courts - In a move to encourage more tennis playing across the country, the Lawn Tennis Association will be resurfacing the tennis courts, probably in May, and providing new nets. The scheme is being joint-funded by the LTA and Basildon Council. A new system is to be installed for booking the courts and we understand admission to the courts will be by using a coded lock. A closure lock on the gate will prevent dogs from accessing the courts.



New Picnic Table

We have recently put a picnic table into the park near the skateboard park, this was possible thanks to a generous donation from Billericay District Residents' Association.



There is a disabled place allowing for a wheelchair to gain access at the end of the table and it is placed near a path for easy access, with a bin nearby for leaving rubbish in. We hope that families will enjoy using it whilst watching big brothers and sisters on the nearby skateboard.



Natural England: Creating Greener Neighbourhoods and Brighter Futures

Did you know 47% of people do not currently have access to green space within 15-minutes' walk of home? Nature Towns and Cities aims to transform this reality, enabling millions of people to experience nature as part of their daily lives.

Spending time in nature boosts our mental and physical health, cuts healthcare costs, and drives economic growth—helping our country thrive.

Bringing green spaces into our towns and cities revitalizes communities in multiple ways—creating vibrant social hubs where people connect, attracting valuable investment to boost local economies, and building natural resilience against climate change, one of the greatest threats facing our future prosperity.

“Nature Towns and Cities” is embedding nature into the heart of local plans and placemaking to create lasting change across the UK, tackling challenges from environmental equity to air pollution.

When nature lives nearer, we all live better!

Nature Towns and Cities: Creating Greener Neighbourhoods and Brighter Futures – Natural England



And finally ... Green is the colour of hope – every Spring, hope is fulfilled as the winter ends & the world turns green once more.

Early Morning Bird Walk



There are still a few places left for our popular walk on Sunday May 11th at 7am. Led by Neil Sumner who always amazes us with his knowledge, this is a friendly walk around the park when it is still and quiet. Please book online at www.lakemeadows.org.uk

Maybe you might even see a kingfisher? Sadly, we don't think that Henrietta the park's peahen will be seen – rumour has it that she came to a sad end last year, after many years living locally. RIP.



Replacement for the statue

We are pleased that Basildon Council has agreed to money being put side for a replacement for our beloved statue. We are involved with talks and hope to have some positive news for you soon.



450 Years of Morris Dancing in Billericay



The first record the Mayflower Morris Men have of Morris in Billericay dates from 1575. To mark the

anniversary, they will perform their mummers' play, St. George & the Dragon, in Lake Meadows twice on 14th June at 11.45 am and 2 pm. Mumming is serio-comic and England's original street theatre. It's a free event, lasts about 30 mins., and is suitable for all ages. Please come along and remember to boo the dragon! www.mayflowermorris.com

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 & continued support.