

# Autumn 2020

## Welcome to the Autumn edition of Old Park Meadow's Newsletter

We are absolutely thrilled to have received the 2020 Silver Prize in the Natural Burial Ground category of the Cemetery of the Year National Competition Awards for the second year running. Philip Potts of the awarding body said; "The awards are an excellent opportunity to reward hardworking staff and demonstrate the central role Natural Burial Grounds can play in the community. They provide places of peaceful contemplation and beauty, as well as their ecological importance. The team at Old Park Meadow Natural Burial Ground performed exceptionally throughout the extensive judging period which is focused on Industry Standards, Environmental Issues and Good Practice".



We have now been open for three years, although it is nearer five years since work started on the planning and building of Old Park Meadow. It is amazing to see how much the trees have matured in such a short space of time and how the wildlife and nature are flourishing. Over the next few weeks our meadows will be cut for the winter. We will keep some areas of the grasses long so that the insects and small mammals still have some cover. Over the last few weeks our keen birdwatchers have reported more sightings of the skylarks, meadow pipits, buzzards and kestrels and the heron is still a regular visitor to our pond.

As we enter the new season we have been thinking once again about how lucky we are to be surrounded by nature and the changing seasons here at Old Park Meadow. We have been blessed with some amazing sunsets which highlight the kaleidoscope of autumn colours and projects a warm glow over the whole grounds. The leaves are changing, the berries are bright and the memorial flower beds are still colourful with beautiful shapes and structures in them.

In October and November we spent many hours planting thousands of bulbs ready for the Spring. Each year we invite our families to come along and help us with this and we were delighted to see so many of you this year. Our community is very important to us and we do enjoy the time we spend together.



Our groundsman Alan retired in September; Phil has now joined the team and we are sure you will find him as friendly as we do. Phil helps take care of our grounds and carries out maintenance on the site.



As we write this newsletter the guidance states we are not allowed to hold any gatherings, with the exception of funerals, but if that changes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> December we will do our utmost to hold some form of Christmas memorial event. We very much doubt we will be able to host something like last year's Name a Star evening but we will try to do something that will help us commemorate the loss of our loved ones at this time. We will keep you informed on our Facebook page and by email if you are subscribed to our newsletters.



The first of the slate plaques have now been installed on our new chamfered oak posts and they look quite striking. We have placed an oak post in four areas so that our families have this memorial option open to them. If you would like to place a memorial here please give us a call or email us and we can arrange this for you. Forms for all our memorials are also available for download on our website [www.oldparkmeadow.co.uk](http://www.oldparkmeadow.co.uk)

The best way to keep up to date with our news and regular events is to 'like' our Facebook page. That's all from us, we are here Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm if you need anything. Please take care, stay safe and we very much hope that the coming months are kind to you all.

Delyse, Leisa, Alison & Phil



Where to find us...

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