

# Summer 2020

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

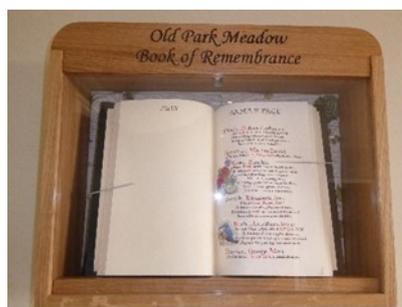
We hope you are all keeping safe and well and that you have been able to enjoy some of the amazing weather we have been blessed with over the last few months. It has been great to see so many of you using the beautiful space here.

As ever, we have been busy looking after the grounds and have been rewarded with some fabulous sights. We have had regular visits from a group of three buzzards and have also been fortunate enough to have seen a majestic red kite on several occasions. Some of our families are keen birdwatchers and they have let us know they have seen yellow hammers in the Bluebell Wood, a green woodpecker and pipits in Spring Corner amongst others as well as herons and swallows at Water's Edge.



At Water's Edge we have had a wonderful display of dragonflies and damselflies; the water lilies we added earlier in the year are flowering and bring a lovely splash of colour to our pond. We took part in the Big Butterfly Count in early August and so many people have commented on the number of butterflies we have had this year. Thank you to everyone that has sent in photos of your visits to Old Park Meadow, please keep them coming!

Over the last couple of weeks, we have added to our memorial options by installing chamfered oak posts in each of our areas. Slate plaques that are inscribed with the name of a loved one together with their year of birth and year of death will be added to the posts. We have also had a couple more entries into our Book of Remembrance which is displayed in our reception. If you would like more information on either of these, or any of our memorials, please do let us know.



Another recent addition to Old Park Lodge are external speakers which will allow mourners to listen to the service if they are outside due to restrictions on numbers allowed inside the lodge. Obitus came along mid-August and this new installation enriches our already extensive media offering; as you would expect from Obitus, the sound quality is excellent!

We have been regularly seeding the graves with our wildflower mix, some of them look absolutely amazing and we hope that the ones that didn't take this time will do so in the next round. We have also sprinkled bluebell and scabious seeds. Many of you know that we plant bulbs every autumn and we welcome all our families to come along and help us. This year we invite you to come along any Wednesday morning in October, we will also add an afternoon on another day for those who can't make a Wednesday. We will be contacting everyone shortly and will also put the details on our Facebook page.



At this point we must mention our Volunteer Gardening Club as we don't know what we would do without you all! We started this group last September with just a couple of people coming monthly and this has now grown into a weekly event, every Wednesday 9am – 12 noon, with anywhere between one and a dozen regular volunteers. Fortunately there is more than enough space here to allow for social distancing! It has been lovely to see friendships formed from this group and we are so very grateful to you for giving up your time.

We are very excited to announce we are holding a socially distanced coffee morning here on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September between 10am and 12 noon in aid of St Clare Hospice. Numbers are limited so please call or email us to book your place. It would be great to see you for coffee, cake and a natter!



We were lucky enough to have a visit from Ross Willsher in June, you may have seen some of his photos on our Facebook page but if not do have a look here, he is a very experienced wedding photographer: <https://gallery.rosswillsherphotography.co.uk/oldparkmeadow/>. Old Park Lodge can be, and is, used for other activities. We are hoping to get back to our Yoga sessions soon and Ross will be back with his photography workshops in the autumn, these are quite popular in the run up to Christmas! <https://www.rosswillsherphotography.co.uk/>.

That's all from us, we hope you enjoy what is left of the summer and we look forward to seeing you at one of our events in the not too distant future. The best way to keep up to date with our news and regular events is to 'like' our Facebook page. We are here Monday to Friday 9:30 am - 5pm and our grounds are always accessible through the pedestrian gate if you fancy a wander.

Delyse, Leisa, Alison & Alan

Where to find us...



Old Park Meadow, Coppice Lane, (behind the Butcher's Arm Pub), North End, Between Chelmsford & Great Dunmow, CM6 3PL Tel: 01245 806332 [www.oldparkmeadow.co.uk](http://www.oldparkmeadow.co.uk) in-