



Welcome to the Friends of Wickford Memorial Park Newsletter Spring 2025

We are a constituted group of volunteers working with Basildon Council Parks and the Countryside Manager and the Parks Manager to safeguard and improve the park.

Message from our Chair, Kim Oakes

Welcome to our 17th Newsletter!

Hello All

Once again, Starting the new year with lots more projects and planting around the Memorial Park. The Memorial Park is a real asset to Wickford, and continues to go from strength to strength.

We have a lovely group of dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Please feel free to join us on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. All Welcome, even if you stop by for a chat.

Group Information

- ♣ Volunteers usually work in the park on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. No special skills are needed, and we are always very pleased to see new people of any age. Before starting work, we usually meet at our lockup in the Council compound near The Park café. The times and dates of the work parties can be found under the Events tab on our Facebook page.

Planting Extra Trees in the Community Orchard

The start of the year saw the planting of an extra 50 Orchard Trees. At the moment we have 250 fruit trees: Apples, Pears, Cherries, Plums and Greengages. All Heritage species.



These were purchased with money that the volunteers fundraised via a Quiz Night. The planting was organised by the Biodiversity Officer at Basildon Council.

Carved Animal Trail



QR Code for map



The Carved Animal Trail is up and running for children to use.

New Lawnmower



We received a grant of £500 from Co-op as we have

been chosen as one of their Community Partners. We purchased a new lawnmower to look after the Home Front Garden and Crazy Golf. Many thanks Co-op!



Volunteer Awards 2025



We were nominated for the Basildon Council Volunteer Awards 2025.
We didn't win but were grateful for the nomination.

Cleaning the Lockup Ready for Spring

We cleaned the lockup ready for the gardening year and took stock of the tools.
Very satisfying.



Tour of the Park Spring 2025



We hosted a tour of the park on 5th April 2025. Seventeen visitors joined us for a tour of the whole park and learn of its history.

New Leaflet



We have produced a new 'Friends of the Wickford Memorial Park' leaflet for visitors to the park. This was designed by Martin Dunn the son of Janet and Derek Dunn – volunteers and committee members, and printed by Basildon Council. Well done and thank you to all in getting this produced.



They can be found at the Memorial Park Café, Wickford Town Council Offices or from volunteers when we are in the park.

The mission of the Friends of Wickford Memorial Park is to:

- enhance and protect the Memorial Park
- ensure that all visitors have a pleasant experience
- promote community spirit in Wickford
- encourage good health and wellbeing for the volunteers.
- ensure the park is open and accessible to all

We have a small committee and have lots of ideas for future projects and we hope eventually to hold events for the public in the park. The committee are looking at ways to finance future ideas and we will be looking at applying for grants and support from local organisations. Please let us know if you can point us in the direction of grants and funding.

Email: friendsofwickfordmemorialpark@hotmail.com.



Friends of the Wickford Memorial Park

Website: www.friendsofwickfordmemorialpark.co.uk

If you have any comments on the contents of this newsletter, please email us or post on our Facebook page

Newsletter compiled by The Friends of Wickford Memorial Park Committee