The Reflection Garden- Wickford Memorial Park  
  
Continuing on our tour of the Memorial Park- this month we will be looking at our new Reflection Garden which will soon be completed.

This project will enhance our park and provide a reflection/serenity area for visitors.

The Reflection Garden will be dedicated to particularly young people and families as a space to reflect but for everyone to enjoy finding peace and quiet and use nature to inspire positivity.  
It has been designed to create two ‘nature hugs’ (there are two crescent shaped areas); benches will also be curved continuing the ‘hug’ theme.

This has been sponsored by the Community Lottery Fund. We applied for £9450 for the garden via the National Lottery Awards for All and we have been given the full amount to help our community thrive.

We’ve known for a long time open spaces and our park are the perfect places to maintain well being and mental health. The Friends of Wickford Memorial Park are passionate about our park. We have been working with the Park Staff to produce this new area. They have done all the heavy work for example adding the topsoil and top dressing, and will be installing new benches and signage. Staff have helped plant and stake the larger trees.

We hope you’ve enjoyed the progress so far. Benches and new signage will be coming in the next few months, community planting events will be posted and have already connected with schools and engaged students from both Hilltop and Beauchamps.

Phase One Planting: Silver Birch Trees, Midwinter Fire Dogwoods, White Hellebores and bulbs- Crocus and Snowdrops.  
Phase Two Planting: More Silver Birch, Brunnera, Bergenia, Purple Hellebores and more crocus in the Autumn.

Planting has been designed for all seasons, i.e, when the mid-winter fire dog woods mature it will emulate a warm bonfire effect in winter. Over the years, we will organise annual planting days for additional plants with the schools.

Around the Reflection Garden, we planted 21 Cherry and Amelanchier trees as a border, which were bought with a £3,000 grant from Essex County Council.  
  
Once the garden is complete we will be holding an Open Day for people to visit, and to ask questions of volunteers.

We run our gardening groups every Wednesday and Saturday mornings if you’d like to come along, no gardening experience necessary and there are tasks for all abilities.