



## **Call for Artists for Mill Meadows Heritage Lottery Funded Project**

We are seeking locally based artists to submit artwork inspired by Mill Meadows Local Nature Reserve. This is part of our exciting Mill Meadows Trail Project which is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and will create informed trails around the reserve and a new History of Mill Meadows for the local community.

All of the work submitted will be included in an exhibition in Billericay library during August 2018. By partaking in the exhibition, you will help us to raise awareness of Mill Meadows within the local community and the HLF Project we are undertaking.

We will use the exhibition to promote our celebration launch event which takes place on 9 September 2018 at Mill Meadows, and the launch of the Billericay Art Trail on 10 September 2018. Some of the entries will be used in our new illustrated History booklet.

### **We have identified three categories for the production of artwork. Artists may submit work from either or all categories:**

1. Simple flora and fauna themed pen and ink drawings, or with a colour wash. For example oak trees, leaves, wax cap fungi, orchids, wildflowers, insects, acorns, squirrels, cows, birds, horses, pigs, hens

*A detailed flora and fauna information sheet together with a list of grasses and wildflowers found in the Mill Meadows SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) is available on request.*

2. Paintings in any medium inspired by Mill Meadows from the past eg grazing landscape, windmills, Greens farmhouse, Gatwick House, Lockers House, Mill Cottages.

*A detailed Historical information sheet, Reference information and photographs are available on request. Work does not have to be completely historically factually accurate.*

3. Paintings in any medium inspired by Mill Meadows as it is today. Eg seasonal landscapes, dog walking, tobogganing, picnicking, working groups, Red Poll cows grazing

*Further information and photographs available on request*





## Application Process

Please complete the application form below. We would like to encourage as many local artists as possible to take part in our project so entry is free.

The deadline for applicants is **2 April 2018** and for submitted work is **30 June 2018**. We will contact you with arrangements for delivering your work.

Selection for inclusion in our *History of Mill Meadows* publication will take place during July and you will be informed if we would like your work to feature.

The exhibition will be installed on **3 August 2018** and will run until **31 August 2018**.

## Terms and Conditions

- 1) You will need to agree that we can showcase your work via our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and website pages to promote awareness of Mill Meadows.
- 2) You will need to agree that your work can be reproduced in our *History of Mill Meadows* publication
- 3) You must be able to certify that all work exhibited is unique and original to you. If an artwork is a copy of another's artist work you should credit the original artist and agree that it can be reproduced for the purposes of the *History of Mill Meadows* publication.
- 4) Your work will need to be suitable for hanging. Please make sure it is framed (if appropriate) and with a string or wire attached.
- 5) Artworks must not be removed from the Exhibition before the final day.
- 6) You have the option of selling any work exhibited. The Mill Meadows Society will not take any commission from sales. Arrangements for the sale must be discussed with The Mill Meadows Society prior to exhibition installation. Billericay Library will not handle any sales/or money for you.
- 7) You may wish to take out artists insurance for your artworks (offered by a number of insurers). The Mill Meadows Society is not liable for any damage sustained to your artwork throughout the exhibition.

## About Mill Meadows

Mill Meadows Local Nature Reserve is about 90 acres in size, and one of the finest ancient meadow systems in Essex. The site was formerly farmland and much of it has been undisturbed by ploughing and fertilisation for many years, creating the ideal conditions for a wonderful diversity of wildflowers fungi, insects and invertebrates, many of which are rare. It contains an area of about 17 acres declared as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its unimproved neutral grassland. Along with the grassland there are areas of woodland, scrub and hedgerows forming old field boundaries featuring some impressive veteran trees.

The site is important for its species-rich wildflower meadows and its range of waxcap fungi for which Mill Meadows is a site of regional importance. In addition the site is well used by local bird populations and foraging bats. Mill Meadows is grazed by a herd of Red Poll cattle in order to achieve the conservation objective of preserving the important grassland species and encouraging the growth of flora.



The site of the local nature reserve was acquired by Basildon District Council in 1991, and it was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1994. There is open access throughout the reserve at all times, dogs are allowed and the site is particularly popular with dog walkers. There are thirteen entry points into Mill Meadows and a public right of way. There are currently two Marked Trails with plans for more.

## **The Mill Meadows Society**

The Mill Meadows society was launched in 1998 after a number of local residents expressed an interest in helping the council with management tasks. The aims of the society are to participate alongside Basildon District Council to help manage and conserve Mill Meadows; to encourage public interest and participation and to promote public interest in its natural history and conservation.

## **Heritage Funded Lottery Project**

In September 2017 The Mill Meadows Society received a National Lottery grant of £62,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project to improve the enjoyment and understanding of Mill Meadows for the public. Improved pathways and bridges will be installed and new informative, signposted walks developed. The wildlife and history of the site will be explained via new graphic panels and information accessible via phones and tablets while on site. A new interpretation leaflet will be developed and the website will be fully updated. A facility to track the location of the cattle on the Meadow will be included on the website. A new publication will be written about the History of Mill Meadows, based on an existing text *A History of Mill Meadows, Billericay*, by J A James.



## Mill Meadows Painting Exhibition Application Form

Name	
Please circle Category:	1) Flora & Fauna Pen & Ink/Wash 2) Painting - Mill Meadows Past 3) Painting - Mill Meadows Present
Do you require further information?	Historical Brief                      YES/NO Flora & Fauna Brief                YES/NO Other (please give details)
Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Insurance <i>Please state the level of insurance cover you will have at the time of the Exhibition or that you prefer to work at your own risk</i>	

Please return your form by **2 April 2018** By post or email to:

Tanya Burrage  
Project Administrator  
62 Bell Hill Close  
Billericay  
Essex  
CM12 9QJ

[tanyaburrage1@gmail.com](mailto:tanyaburrage1@gmail.com)

07961 838328