

### From Muriel Simmons

This is so very sad. Time and again those of us who walk the meadows regularly see thoughtless dog owners who do not put their dogs on leads around the lake area, no good feeling distraught when anyone with an ounce of sense would realise that any breed of dog can be a threat to the wildlife.

The owner was lucky that the swans did not attack as the male swan attacked a couple of dogs near its nest last week and nearly drowned one of them.

As dog owners we all need to be responsible for the safety of our animals and the wild life we are so lucky to live near.

London Borough of Bexley could not be blamed if they made the lake area a dog free zone which would be very sad for those of us who do have the common sense to keep our dogs on leads in that area.

### From John Window of Mount Mascal Stables.

We long ago gave up using Stable Meadows due to dog owners seeming to take great delight in their dogs chasing horses and ponies in the Meadows.

The majority of riders pay a nominal fee to the Woodland Trust and ride in Joydens Wood. Where dogs are supposed to be on the lead.

### From Nick Grant

In response to your email to members referring to the comments from John Window of Mount Mascal Stables (see above) : Dog owners do not in my experience of 37 years of walking on the meadows seem to take great delight in their dogs chasing horses and ponies, on the contrary they are more concerned that their dogs are not injured by the horses yes you do get the odd dogs who do chase mainly I have say when horses are being galloped on the Permitted Ride.

However there are a number of horse riders who do not stay on the permitted ride and when advised they are off the Permitted ride seem to think it is OK to

use foul language. Indeed I have spoken on a number of occasions to the same group of 6 riders who persist in using the area behind Ellenborough Road which is a good 200 yds from the Permitted Ride.

Riders as well as Dog Owners need to respect and be aware of each other's right of use.

One final point human beings are the worst offenders on the Meadows.

### From Gail Moon

With regard to dogs over the meadows, not all dog owners are irresponsible.

Dog owners are the only people who consistently use the meadows all year round, come rain or shine or even snow.

During a few days during the summer the meadows are swamped by people having BBQs, swimming in the lake and leaving large amounts of litter everywhere and it is the dog owners who end up clearing up after everyone as the Council do not appear to employ anyone to do this anymore, they only empty the bins.

Therefore, if it wasn't for the dog owners then the meadows would probably look a lot like the rubbish tip at Crittals Corner! Dog owners are also not the ones fishing in the lake nor are they riding motorbikes around and terrorising people.

Incidentally word seems to have got around that the meadows are a good place to ride a motorbike as last weekend two separate groups brought a motorbike with them. One of them appeared to be a family group and were racing the bike around the top field between the church and Water Lane.

Our dog does not chase the water fowl or the horses. We clear up after our dog and often clear up other people's rubbish.

I do not think that dog owners should all be tarred with the same brush.

I hope we can have some positive attitudes towards responsible dog owners,.

### From A.N.Other

I am deeply distressed to hear of the death of the signets today. I appreciate that the dog owner showed remorse for what happened but it was not the dogs fault. The owner was totally irresponsible and had no excuse for not having her dogs on the lead. It upsets me greatly that not only are dog owners damaging and killing our beautiful wildlife but the whole area is being spoilt by selfish people riding motorbikes at all times of the day and night. Swimming and fishing illegally in the river and generally ruining what is a wonderful area for everyone. More respect for our environment and other users of five arches needs to increase if this facility for all is to be saved from destruction.

Rant over and let's hope that the poor swans and their babies are left in peace to grow and flourish.

### From Simon Stevens

Re the dogs on the meadows it's not the dogs that are to blame it's the irresponsible owners . If the dog is kept away a good distance from the river and the owner can control the dog this issue can be addressed.