

Friends of Goffs Park Newsletter



Issue: October 2022



THE FRIENDS OF GOFFS PARK

PROTECTING YOUR PARK

Foreword

Autumn is now upon us, bringing beautiful colours to the park. There's something awe-inspiring about the transitioning trees of the season.

Here, we would like to give a special thanks for all those involved with **Show Time in Goffs Park**, from organizers, to performers, stallholders and supporting staff. It just goes to show the far-reaching talent and community spirit that Crawley has to offer. We are also honored for the support of the mayor; Cllr. Jilly Hart as our special guest, along with a host of Crawley Borough Councillors.

Crawley Pride in Goffs Park during August has also been a significant celebratory event, yet again bringing local talent to the stage, with a heartfelt solidarity and beautiful vibe.

There also been a considerable drive to gather views on improving the park. The Council have also been running a survey and we've also held a consultation during **Love your Parks** week outside the **Kiosk**. All this feeds into the **Nurture strategy** we envisage.

Finally, a big thankyou for the continued support from all, as we look to plan events for the year ahead.



Canada Gosling, Goffs Park pond



Samaritans stand, Crawley Pride



Crawley Belly Dancers at Show Time in Goffs Park



League of Friends of Crawley Hospital and Kendo at Show Time



Key Dates

Poems and Pints

- Sunday 20th Nov 2022, 6:30pm
- Location: Goffs Manor
- Hosted by Silvana Wrigglesworth
- 30 min set, followed by invite to all to read/recite favorite poems.
- Poetry books available on the night to browse.

AGM rescheduled til March 2023

- To coincide with the membership cycle.

Membership

- £5 per household, which lasts until 31st March 2023.
- We endeavour to be accommodating to all.

Membership and Donation Queries:

Tel. 01293 411355

Email: sueherbert10@hotmail.co.uk

In Full Swing at The Cuppa-love Kiosk!

We're loving the warmth and energy that Simon Trussel brings to the park with the new Cuppa-love Kiosk!

The kiosk offers a range of refreshments, with meal deals and very tasty toasted waffles with ice cream. Simon says:

"Community spirit has been re inspired up at the kiosk.., lots of regulars, dog walkers and new guests/walkers to the park have created a strong bond this summer".

The Pitch and Putt is free to play at the moment; just £5 deposit for equipment from the café. October opening times:

Weds-Fri : 8am-1.30pm, Sat-Sun: 10am-6pm



Crawley Model Engineers: Update from Tim Finch, Treasurer

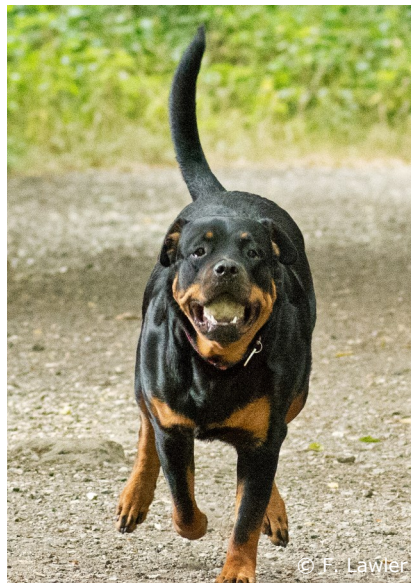
"This summer has been busy for the Goffs Park Light Railway. The two heatwave weeks kept folks indoors, or at least away from Goffs Park but otherwise the Sunday rides have remained popular.

This summer holiday we tried opening on Wednesdays 12am-3pm which proved successful; as we expected not quite up to Sunday ride levels but worthwhile nevertheless. For the first season in quite a few years we've been able to regularly run steam hauled trains which has gone down well. Luckily the design of all our locos has meant the hot weather and dry ground didn't cause us any issue with errant sparks.

We're always after volunteers who can bring enthusiasm and possibly even some basic skills to the railway – you can make contact via our website or Facebook – just search for Goffs Park Light Railway. We will be running at least every Sunday until the hour changes in October, but if the weather is good we might extend the season into November. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for on the day updates."

Dogs at the Park!

Daily walks in the park create new memories with our faithful friends. Here's a tribute to our companions who help us through our days. We would like to share that there's a **Goffs Park Dog Walkers** group on Facebook.



Frank Lawler's Nature Corner

Summer is an incredible time for pondlife. Here, Frank shares some insights on insects he's seen over the recent months. Frank says: "Summer's a great time for seeing dragonflies and damselflies about the pond. They actually belong to the same insect order—*Orderata*, which refers to their toothed jaws. They are predatory insects!"

"Dragonflies tend to have bigger eyes and larger, broader bodies. They move about faster than damselflies. Damselflies tend to be long and thin. On landing, dragonflies keep their wings open whereas Damselflies fold them".

The pictured Common blue damselfly is male—it is pale blue with bands of black along the body, which may remind you of bamboo. This species is the most common damselfly found throughout the UK.*

The Common darter is a red narrow-bodied dragonfly which hovers, before suddenly darting towards their insect-prey.*



Common blue damselfly,
Enallagma cyathigerum



Common darter,
Sympetrum striolatum

*NB. Fact source: wildlifetrusts.org

Follow Frank on Instagram: [@gofts_park_wildlife](https://www.instagram.com/goffs_park_wildlife)

Poetry Corner

Crisp Autumn Mornings

For the mornings as crisp as autumn,
Leaves fall with a hint of gold
As the sun shines
Through patchwork canopies.
Late flowers of summer sway in brevity,
To strong gusts on some days
And gentle breezes the next.
A clematis creeps upwards in a perilous
Dance with a Virginia creeper,
Both intertwined in a climb through
The fanning branches of colourful acers.
All this reflected upon
A lake of changes.

By Silvana Wrigglesworth

A Big Thanks to the Parks Team!



We caught up with Dean and Dave of the Parks team. We truly appreciate all the time and effort that the Parks team put in not just for Goffs, but other local parks too—from removing litter, even from the pond and generally keeping the grounds in a good condition.

The Parks team have also been growing the park's "Arboretum collection" including elms, oaks, Erman's birch and Turkish hazel. Some of these trees can be seen on the lawns closer to the main car park.

Remembering the Paddling Pool

Our team members—Janet Roskilly and Sue Herbert reflect on memories of the Goffs Park paddling pool from 40 years ago...

Sue: Goffs Park paddling pool was an idyllic setting for us mums. I was there with friends and their babies and toddlers in the late 1970s and early 80s. Shaded by trees, with plenty of room around to spread out our rugs and picnics, it was a great place on a sunny day to chat and have water play with our children. My grandsons since have enjoyed being timed on the obstacle course, which by the way needs a replacement bridge, and also the climbing wall, but the loss of that shady pool where children played and friendships were made was very sad.

Janet: In the 1960s with a group of other young families from Gossops Green, we gathered to cross the A23 and bring our children to the paddling pool with picnic food and water toys. Later when our growing family moved close to Goffs Park, I would walk to collect our children and their friends and picnic by the pool on the way home.

An on-going effort by the Friends

Four members of Friends: Pat McIntosh, Kirti Patel, Janet Roskilly and the much missed late Dawn Powell have been raising questions about toilet facilities near the play area of the park at all possible Council Question Time events for over three years.

At the very last such event held in the old Town Hall building, in 2019, a young member, David Gonzalez presented information from a pilot survey of park users conducted as part of his International Citizenship Service programme. He stationed himself near the level crossing entrance and found a clear demand for these facilities. It is good to see that this campaigning finally appears to be having an impact.



Cogs are in Motion for Change!

Our **Nurture Strategy** encompasses building community, embracing the environmental value of the park and improving amenities. We've raised concerns about littering issues around the park and relayed that members of the general public independently litter pick. The Parks Team have installed 2 new bins in the park, which has helped improve the situation and we'll push for more anti-litter signage.

The **Love Your Parks** meet-up helped confirm the feeling that Goffs feels like more of a park you would visit during drier months, than during the winter months. The main reason for this was that accessibility needs to be improved e.g. there's no path across the field between the basketball court and Kiosk. Such a path would help create a new walking circuit (without getting muddy) and improve accessibility. We'll be following up on this idea. There are signs of improvement for accessibility, as the dogs walkers path has had significant restoration work over the past month. We'll also be continuing to support the **Cuppa Love Kiosk** as a central community hub for the park. We've also taken on board that we need to improve coms available in the information boards

Regarding ecological improvements, we've been consulting with the Parks Team about the pond as a priority. Some have raised concerns about some fish dying in the pond during the hot weather. Also, stagnant water about the pond has been making the area smell bad in areas. We've been assured that the Parks Team are exploring how to improve the situation for the fish—we have advised for a permanent pump with diffuser system to improve oxygenation of the water. That is what is being looked into. As we seek to work with the Parks Team to establish a Habitat Action Plan, we are hopeful to establish more suitable conditions to encourage more ecological pond life in the coming years.