

# Friends of Goffs Park Newsletter



Issue: April 2023



## Foreword

Spring is beautiful, refreshing time for renewal. We hope in time, people will be able to enjoy a community Blossom Trail, particularly at this time of year. So far, we've raised £180 from a successful quiz night, in partnership with Crawley Horticultural Society (CHS) in March. We're grateful for the collaboration with CHS who have been fundraising for roof repairs for their premises.

Now, some of you have been asking about memorial trees for the park, particularly for the Blossom Trail plans we have. We're in touch with the council to help find a way to make this possible.

We have continued to liaise with Crawley Borough Council over plans for the park. We understand, some of this is being shaped in relation to last years consultation. We're also still pushing for improving toilet access for the park.

Please see the key dates. We have an **Easter Bunny Trail** and our **AGM**, with election of new committee members. We will also be holding a **Summer Festival**, similar to last year, with community stalls and local talent on stage.

Finally, thanks for all the support and here's to making the most of the park, which will be celebrating 70 years next year, as the oldest park in Crawley.



Daffodils in Spring, Goffs Park

## Alice in Wonderland Easter Bunny Trail



We're hosting an **Alice in Wonderland Easter Bunny Trail** in Goffs Park by the Kiosk on Easter Monday. £1 a go for the woodland bunny trail and Easter crafting with Alice and the Mad Hatter.

Look out for Southgate bunnies Ama, Lady and Rye! There will be face painting and the Cuppa Love Kiosk will be providing plenty of Easter cupcakes and other tasty treats on the day.

Please note, children are to be accompanied by their parents or carers at all times for all activities.

**Crawley Model Engineers** will be running trains on **Goffs Park Light Railway** on the day. 75p/ride. Minimum charge of 2 tickets (£1.50) for cashless payments.

In 1963, 60 years ago, the first simple out and back piece of track was built in Goffs Park by the then newly formed Crawley Model Engineers.



It was some years later that the railway was extended into the big continuous track you see now. One of those original members is still with us today, and an honorary member of the club.

## Key Dates

### Alice in Wonderland Easter Bunny Trail

- Monday 10th Apr 2023 (Easter Monday), 1.30-3.30pm
- Location: By the Kiosk
- £1 a go for trail and crafting

### AGM

- Saturday 29th April, 11am
- Location: By the Kiosk

### Summer Festival

- Sunday 9th July, 1pm onwards

### Membership

- £5 per household, which lasts until 31st March 2024.
- We endeavour to be accommodating to all.

Membership and Donation Queries:

Tel. 01293 411355

### Cuppa-Love Kiosk new opening times

We're thrilled for Simon Trussel's support for the **Easter Bunny Trail**. Here's an update from Simon:

"We're looking forward to be back... you'll see me up and around prepping for re-opening on Friday 31st March for the Easter holidays. Oliver, my nephew, will also be helping me out."

We'll also be open each week-end from 10am-4pm, up until the 6 week summer holidays when we will extend our opening times."

### Support from Crawley Borough Council's Parks Team and The Wildlife Trust's Gatwick Greenspace



As always, a big shout out to Dave and Dean who make a continued effort to keep main the grounds of Goffs Park.

We would also like to share a special thanks to Gatwick Greenspace volunteers who tidied around the pond and also removed a lot of rubbish from the pond back in January.

Please note, we are exploring bringing further opportunities for community work parties.

### Frank Lawler's Nature Corner Update

"So many spring birds about at the moment, mistletoe thrushes, blue tits, tree creepers and goldcrests. The carp came out of their winter stupor last week too as the warmer weather kicked in. I'm expecting Canada goslings as well as the usual ducklings and moorhen chicks this year."

The cormorant has been making regular sorties to the pond to feed on the smaller fish, which is always a fun sight. The seagulls are either pinching food meant for the ducks or fighting over sticks and leaves that they find on the pond. Always funny birds to watch and great to watch in the air."



Mallard drake, © F. Lawler



Tree Creeper, © F. Lawler

### Crafty times with the FOGP Committee

Frank, Janet and Sian caught up for a fun crafting session, as part of preparations for the **Alice and Wonderland Easter Bunny Trail** on Easter Monday.

We're really looking forward to it. Please come and say hi!



### Goffs Park Dog Walkers

## Goff's Park Dog Walkers



Join the Goff's Park Dog Wakers group on Facebook, administrator Chris Heath. A friendly lot with a great love of dogs meet around 3-3.30pm at the Kiosk. Come and socialise :)