

FRIENDS OF GOFFS PARK



Edition: July 2024

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Foreword

Friends of Goffs Park is delighted to have been awarded funding to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the creation of Goffs as the first public park of Crawley New Town, by "Awards for All", part of the Cultural fund of the National Lottery.

This award enables us to run a summer programme of events: "Goffs Park Platinum Picnic" and our "Alice in Wonderland Bubble Extravaganza".

The Platinum Picnic is set to be a fantastic fun day out for all who come. We're celebrating the park's 70th anniversary in style. No ticket needed. Bring a blanket, pack a picnic and head to Goffs Park on the 4th of August from 11.30am to 4.30pm. We have a show, in front of Goffs Park House which includes a mix of wonderful song, dance, music and some amazing martial arts demonstrations for you to enjoy. Copthorne Silver Band will be the show's grand finale this year.

Sign up on the day for the races and fancy dress parade and competition, the theme being "70 Years ago, Come Vintage or be Creative". We'll be giving a prize for best dressed adult, best dressed child and overall most creative costume.

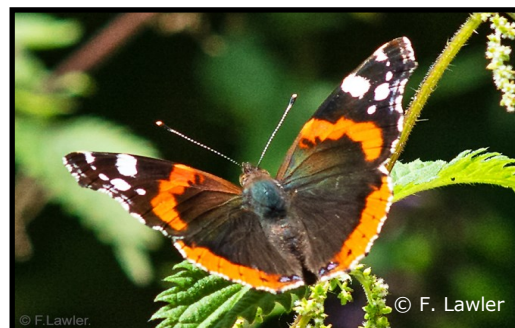
We have over forty stalls attending the event. Crawley Disc Golf will be holding a free open game for all to try.

All aboard!! The miniature railway will be running their brilliant service. Tee Time at the Kiosk will be open with a fantastic array of drinks, food and ice creams. You can also grab a game of 9-hole pitch and putt or foot golf at the Kiosk.

We also have the Armed Forces Veterans with not just one but three incredible vehicles and so much more. Friends of Goffs Park can't wait to see you all at Goffs Park Platinum Picnic!

With our Alice event, we're selling children's tickets. This covers activities including a tea party, croquet, bubble-station fun, a Characters' Trail around the pond and also escape-room style Wonderland Puzzles.

On the day, Magdalena Designs will be about with face painting and glitter tattoos and our sandwiches will be provided from Tilgate Bakery. We are also grateful to be supported by Tee Time, at the heart of activities at the Kiosk to help with the day running smoothly.



Red Admiral butterfly,
Vanessa atalanta

Key Dates

Goffs Park Platinum Picnic

- Sunday 4th August
- 11:30am-4:30pm
- Top Lawn in front of Goffs Park House, plus activities on lower lawn.

Crawley Pride

- Saturday 17th August
- 11am-10pm
- Goffs Park
- See: www.crawleylgbt.com/

Alice in Wonderland Bubble Extravaganza

- Saturday 31st August
- 11am-2.30pm
- By Kiosk
- Childrens' Tickets—£2
- Search—Ticket Source for our event

Members Christmas meet

- Saturday 7th December
- 7-9pm
- St. Peter's Church, West Green
- Join us for a festive evening with mulled wine and mince pies. No ticket required.

Dog Show (from 27th May 2024) | By Vicky Raine

The friends dog show held on the 27th May took months of organising and was more than a year in the planning and turned out to be a great success.

The weather was always going to be the make or break of the event and luckily after a short but heavy spring shower, thoroughly soaking the set up volunteers, the rest of the day was a sunny blessing.

Hundreds of people turned out with their furry best friends to take part in the fun classes, the have a go Agility, Scent and Search and Temptation Alley. Stalls selling all sorts of pet related items were in attendance and there were demonstrations from canine partners and pet first aid. The Friends of Goffs Park new PA system had its first test run and proved a good buy as the audience enjoyed a commentary from the compere.

The 'Dog of the Day' Dawn Powell memorial trophy was won by Ruby the Doberman puppy owned by Emma Hitchins. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time to hold the event. It truly was a memorable day.



Goffs Park Platinum Picnic

Sunday 4th August

11:30-16:30

Bring your friends and family for a day full of fun and community spirit!

- Music, dance and live band
- Fancy Dress: "70 years ago" - go Vintage or be Creative!
- Community and commercial stalls
- Children's egg and spoon race, sack race and three-legged race



Enquiries:

goffsparkfriends@gmail.com



Frank Lawler's Nature Corner

This year we were lucky enough to have a visitation from a lone coot in the spring. Haven't seen one on the pond for about 5 years. He settled in very well, being a powerful little bird, but left after a month. Maybe he went looking for a mate.

This unusual hoverfly is a large-tailed aphid eater (*Eupeodes volucris*). Haven't seen many this year, but they are certainly worth keeping an eye out for. Hoverflies are pollen eaters and are some of the most colorful insects you will see during the summer.

Litter on the pond this year is a real problem, with glass and plastic bottles along with the ever present cans of course. The moorhens do their best, making nests with Mars bar wrappers and MacDonald's cardboard, but none of the above items are suitable nesting materials.

So far this season we have had at least five moorhen chicks survive, along with two Mallard ducklings and the lone Canada gosling, which is an improvement on 2023.

Haven't spotted as many species of butterfly this year mainly Speckled Wood, Holly Blue and Red Admiral, but in July, Ringlets have made an appearance.

Beetles are having a great season and there are lots of Figwort Weevils in the wetland area of the park. Most of the smaller creatures need a good pair of eyes to be seen at all. It's shaping up to be a much better year and hopefully the sun will be more prominent in future.

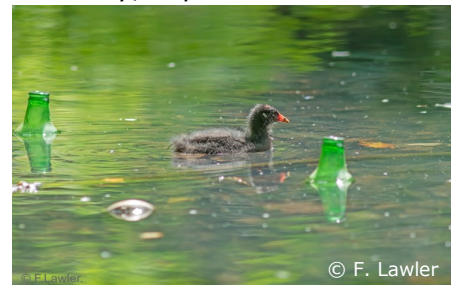
Follow Frank : <https://www.flickr.com/photos/155787248@N08/>



Coot, *Fulica atra*



Hoverfly, *Eupeodes volucris*



Moorhen, *Gallinula tenebrosa*



Alice in Wonderland



Bubble Extravaganza



Saturday 31st
August 2024

11-2.30pm

Goffs Park Kiosk

Child tickets: £2

- Tea Party
- Croquet
- Bubble Station
- Characters' trail
- Wonderland Puzzles



Book here: ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-goffs-park

Crawley Model Engineers Update | By Tim Finch

We're now roughly halfway through our season. It's been a lot quieter than we'd have liked but there's no obvious reason why that's happened. We have done a few private events for childminding and Scout groups but again not as many as we did last year. Closed events in the park always reduce our numbers, and of course the weather plays quite a part and we all know what that's been like this year so far! The Friends events always help us out, and looking at our records I see our best day last year was on your show day. Let's hope the same is true this year.

Regardless of this we continue to look after the park grounds immediately around the railway on a mostly weekly basis, and endeavour to work alongside the Council as much as we can.

Why is Goffs Park designated as a historic park | By Janet Roskilly

At the ending of World War I, many towns and villages wanted to commemorate the sacrifice made by so many of their young. Often this was by a stone memorial listing the names of those who had given their lives. The parishes of Crawley and Ifield chose instead to purchase land for a Memorial Field so that younger generations would grow up strong and healthy. With all households subscribing, land to the East of the High Street houses reaching as far as the present College Road was bought to create the Recreation Ground where all sports could be played and no commercial activity would take place. Later, other facilities were installed.

Following World War II and the designation of Crawley as a New Town, plans were drawn up which incorporated the major part of this Memorial Field into the New Town Centre. After considerable discussions between the Parish Council of Crawley and Ifield and the New Towns Commission there was a land exchange – and the Lower Field area of our Park is, in effect, part of Crawley's War memorial. This information was published in the Crawley Observer in the 1960s in articles by Town Councillor, Hepzibah Carman, and in talks and a relatively recent article in Crawley Museum's Newsletter, by Crawley historian, Nadine Hygate,

A few years ago now Crawley Borough Council commissioned a report from Sussex Gardens Trust into the history of Tilgate and Worth Parks, both the remains of significant Sussex estates, and also Goffs Park as the first public park of Crawley New Town. Now that Crawley Borough Council have announced the intention of the Historic Parks Working Party to look at the future of our Park, known to many as The People's Park, we can use our fund raising powers to have high quality interpretation boards to show this part of our history.

Friends of Goffs Park Membership

A big thank you to Sue Herbert, for her impassioned efforts in supporting membership for Friends of Goffs Park. Sue now hands the baton, regarding membership, to Mandi Roskilly, our treasurer.

Renewals and New Membership: £5 per household. Valid until 31st March 2025

- Bank account details: Natwest, Friends of Goffs Park, Account no. 31077366, Sort code. 60-06-20
- If you use online banking, please reference your full name and email Mandi with full contact details: membershipgoffsparkfriends@gmail.com
- Or send a cheque to 'Friends of Goffs Park' with contact details to FOGP Membership, 79 Southgate Drive, Crawley, RH10 6EP
- Please note, Mandi will reach out to confirm GDPR preferences. Do email, should you wish to update your details.

