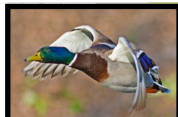


FRIENDS OF GOFFS PARK



Edition: April 2024

Email: goffsparkfriends@gmail.com Facebook: [FriendsofGoffs](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofGoffs)

Foreword

Wishing a humble seasons greetings for Spring!

Some of you may be wondering just what is going on with the park? After all, last year, there was a public consultation, so what changes are about?

A **new Tree Trail** is being launched for Goffs Park. This will be set-up in a similar way to Worth Park. Separately, our plans for the Blossom Trail are still with Crawley Borough Council. This is also the case for the Sensory Garden Project; an idea initiated by Crawley and Horsham Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club. FOGP is still campaigning to see these projects.

Of noteworthy interest, **Horsham District Council has purchased Bramber Brooks**, which covers 34 acres, with its own community orchard. We had submitted the idea of including fruit trees for the Blossom Trail, with the case that there historically used to be a orchard on the Goffs Park site. However, fruit trees require certain maintenance and as it stands, Goffs Park is not setup like Tilgate Park to bring in considerable income.

In other news, we noticed back in December, that Goffs Park House (pictured), has been boarded up! Our understanding is that extensive roof maintenance has been underway to stop it meeting the same fate as the Tilgate Mansion.

Graves Jenkins is currently advertising the property as to let for commercial use under instructions of Crawley Borough Council.

Furthermore, let us not forget the efforts of Parks Team! Dave and Dean have been busy mulching, hedging, trimming and pruning round the house etc. They will be doing some planting in connection with the partial barrier work Crawley Borough Council have now promised the Crawley Model Engineers for the Goffs Park Model Railway before Easter.

A key challenge for making the park better is funding and also making sure there are enough activities going on. This year, we're planning more than last year!

On Monday 27th May, we also have a **Family Dog Show**. Bring a picnic and your pet. Fun classes include "Agility", "Sniff and Search", "Waggiest tail", "Young Handler", "Musical Sits", "Best trick" and "Best Recall" etc.

Our **Alice in Wonderland Bubble Extravaganza** has now been rescheduled for Saturday 31st August. We're holding a Mad Hatter's Tea Party with children's activities, including a trail, croquet and bubble making.

Alice is special to us because a local girl called Kate Lemon modelled for Sir John Tenniel's Alice drawings for the first illustrated edition of Alice in Wonderland.



We're also excited to invite you to our **Goffs Park Platinum Picnic** to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the completion of the park as the first public park of Crawley New Town.

Key Dates

Goffs Park Tree Trail

- Saturday 20th April
- 11am
- Meet by lower car park

Goffs Park Family Dog Show

- Monday 27th May
- Time — 10:30am-3:30pm
- Lawn in front of Kiosk
- Enquiries — goffsparkdogshow@mail.com

Goffs Park Platinum Picnic

- Sunday 4th August
- 11:30am-4:30pm
- Top Lawn in front of Goffs Park House.

Alice in Wonderland Bubble Extravaganza

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

Goffs Park Summer Festival Pictures (from 9th July 2023)

We all had such a great time at Show Time Again! Our committee would like to thank all performers, stall-holders and volunteers as well as everyone who attended for making the day extra special!



League of Friends of Crawley Hospital



DMT School



Crawley and Horsham Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club (AFVBC)



Shimmy Sirens



Crawley Museum



Shin Sei Dojo



Friends of Goffs Park Explorers' Nature Table

Frank Lawler's Nature Corner

Frank says:

One of the highlights of the second half of 2023 was spotting a mink on the pond. Such excellent swimmers and fishermen. It certainly scared all the resident wildlife as they had never seen a mink before. He stayed around for four days and moved on. Mink in the UK originally came from America, supplying mink farms. They have been breeding in the wild since 1956, feeding on a wide range of small mammals, birds and fish.

Just before Christmas, we had a visit from a leucistic Egyptian goose, which are devoid of the usual colours of the species and certainly brightened up the pond during the ensuing dull days. I'm sure these are quite common, but it was a first for me.

January saw the appearance of rose-ringed parakeets in the woods, adding some green to brighten up the drab winter colours. They are also known as the ringnet parrot or Kramer parrot. Interestingly, they are a long-lived species, living up to 30 years and have no natural predators. It was quite the sight to see some up close, flying over the pond.

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



American Mink, *Neogale vison*



^ Egyptian Goose,
Alopochen aegyptiaca acris

Rose-ringed Parakeet >
Psittacula krameri



© F. Lawler



Alice in Wonderland



Bubble Extravaganza

Book here:

ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-goffs-park



Saturday 31st
August 2024

11-2.30pm

Goffs Park Kiosk

Child tickets: £2

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



FRIENDS OF
GOFFS PARK

Sponsored by:



Please note this event has been rescheduled from 1st April due to issues related to poor weather

Goffs Park Family Dog Show

Time - 10.30am - 3.30pm
Monday 27th May 2024
Lawn in front of kiosk

FUN CLASSES

e.g. Fancy dress, Kindest Eyes

HAVE A GO SESSIONS

e.g. Agility, Sniff and Search, Best Recall

DEMONSTRATIONS

from canine partners
and much more!



www.goffsparkdogshow.co.uk



gooffsparkdogshow@mail.com



Friends of Goffs Park Membership

- Renewals and New Membership: £5 per household. Valid til 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 Sue with full contact details
- Or send a cheque with contact details to FOGP Membership, 36 Victoria Road, RH11 7AU

Tel. 07720 945127

Email: sueherbert10@hotmail.co.uk

Crawley Model Engineers

Goffs Park Light Railway opens again from Easter Sunday till October running every Sunday 2 till 5. Tickets—75p per ride.

The Council have finally erected partial fencing and will undertake additional planting to help protect the rail and participants from people climbing over, especially dogs and children on days the trains are running!

Smart new doors are in place and new signage is planned. Anyone who would like to get involved with running or maintaining the railway should email crawleymodelengineers@hotmail.com
Website:

<https://crawleymodelengineers.weebly.com>

