**Friends of Wickford Memorial Park- Volunteer Group**  
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Continuing on our tour of the Memorial Park- this month we will be breaking down more areas in the park with more information.  
We will be looking at Mount Road, Jubilee Wood, and The Home Front Garden.

**Mount Road**Mount Road, Pedestrian Entrance has been developed over the last year by the Friends Group.  
There is an old pumping station which was overgrown. We cleared the weeds and painted sections to tidy up. There was a Willow Tree that needed to be felled, the logs were utilised around the park, and some left by the entrance. The whole area has been weeded and planted with wildflowers and bulbs.  
On the stump we had a tractor tyre installed by the council and we planted it with shrubs, perennials and bulbs.

**Jubilee Wood**

This wood is relatively new and was planted for the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2012. So is approximately ten years old.  
It is worth a walk around as there are hundreds of trees and cannot be appreciated from the path.

There is a grass pathway leading from the Remembrance Ave on the righthand side.

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**Home Front Garden**This is the Friends- **pièce de résistance**.

This is a quiet peaceful garden that was originally planned for Wickford civilians who lost their lives in the war. Each tree, eleven, planted represents civilians who died in the war. The youngest being only 10 years old.  
  
If German bombers couldn’t get to London, they would follow the River Crouch and dump the bombs along the way- ‘Bombers Alley’. That’s why there are so many civilian deaths for such a small population.  
  
One of the Civilians was Molly Pratt she was due to get married the following week. She was early 20’s. She died along with her family. They found her wedding dress in the rubble.  
It was overgrown and neglected in February 2020. We salvaged some of the plants but it became obvious that we needed to start again. So the site was bulldozed, once we rescued some shrubs, and we had a major replanting in October 2020. Costing thousands- most from the council budget and the rest from our funds via fundraising and grants.  
  
The back border has screening and climbing plants to screen the compound.  
  
There are 2000+ snowdrops planted around the trees.  
Approx 2000 Crocus and Thalia (white scented daffodils) were planted in the Centre Bed, along with nerines, cammasias tete a tete and chinodoxia.  
Plus hundreds of Polyanthus.  
The council’s biodiversity officer installed four blue Bee Planters in the garden. These are for solitary bees to hibernate during the Winter. We are very pleased to have them.  
The tops of the Bee Planters have been planted with hundreds of tulips, layered to produce a lasting display.  
It is worth mentioning that there is only one full time member of staff and an apprentice for the whole park, volunteers work closely with them. It is a partnership with the council and the volunteers.  
  
There are three car parks: Runwell Road (main entrance); Rettendon View and Highcliffe Road.

Please visit our website: [www.friendsofwickfordmemorialpark.co.uk](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.friendsofwickfordmemorialpark.co.uk%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1ZXfKzVPm_VZZIFld8LZOV8VLW3fyc_CYY0txqhyWQTE5I_IdiHvfhdxc&h=AT0VH8onQHrnXTwlWFWxtaqjEdSaBk3iiqmoQ9cA0Nle1ExaZqJs8hYsS_5tlaflFIF_k3lJ1vVOJlSc70ToOHM1C6kmcZ5iXLV7uYYIRC1PQYRWMz94urACF_QhV9BUcA2J_Z8HkqI_VlYGbZtb&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2wkw60obEkY-Looqu0nCnRysYuqR65zO744O7NnnacPEodCHLfDIcfrsCJkQdATs-bbYJVJH23DR38KVSasSIR_dmCFMi5cjBwhvuHSB9zMhidEuUwyUAsjMrD_qe49xsH7pvy7BIU6TdJM8-Yyj75eZbl3nLv)  
Or Facebook: Friends of Wickford Memorial Park

