

# Friends of Croham Hurst Woods

We aim to support and promote the preservation of Croham Hurst Woods and its flora and fauna for the enjoyment of the community

## Newsletter No 24 March 2013

### Chair's Report (Councillor Maria Gatland)

Our tenth anniversary AGM was a great success. It was very well attended and the magic show to celebrate our anniversary was a talking point for weeks. It was important as well to remember just how much the Friends have achieved over the ten years from our first project clearing the bank on Upper Selsdon Road to the recent removal of one hectare of invasive holly. One of my favourites was the recreation of the meadow shown on old maps but all of them benefit the Hurst in many ways not just for the present but for the future. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of so many and the support of the local community. I hope the next ten years will be as productive.

I frequently request Croydon Council to clear graffiti or remove dumped rubbish or unusually recently a burnt out motor bike. It continues to surprise and at times anger me that some people use our beautiful woods as a dumping ground. Just recently a Christmas tree was dumped on the green, I am grateful to the Council for removing it following my request. Dumping of any kind is not acceptable and is illegal. Most people love and care for the Hurst, many pick up litter every day. A few show no respect for our ancient woodland that contributes so much to our local area.

The Hurst looked stunning in the snow, it was full of people, families, and dogs all having fun. Some members remember when it was normal to see so many children in the Hurst but now it is only when snow falls. I am really pleased to report that the Hurst will be one of the sites used by Elmhurst School for a Forest School. It will only be used for a few hours on selected dates and will be watched over by the Council because it is a nationally important site. What an opportunity for young children to learn about the trees, animals and plants and much more. Hopefully they will be champions of the Hurst in the future. I saw so many taking photos of the Hurst in the snow. Why not send them to our new website.

Following a recent meeting with the Forestry Adviser to the Council to discuss future projects, he has sent me two proposals. The first would be the removal of another area of holly, the recent removal had a stunning impact bringing light, warmth and regeneration. The second proposal would be the restoration of the historic view from the top of the Hurst much obscured now by growth. This would entail the removal of some trees. It is important to remember that although both proposals will cause some problems and disruption the benefits for the Hurst, for us and the next generations will be huge. I think it is a good use of the funds so generously donated. Please let me know what you think via our website or [twitter@GatlandMaria](http://twitter@GatlandMaria) or email [maria.gatland@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:maria.gatland@croydon.gov.uk)

I have arranged a guided walk of Croham Hurst Woods on Saturday March 16th 2013 at 10.30am. Details on our website, twitter and council publications nearer the date. Join us and learn more about this wonderful place.

### Keep It Clean (David Coups)

This is a new campaign, launched by Croydon Council in December 2012 which is focussing on anti-littering. It encourages local communities to look after their environment and dispose of waste responsibly. The Friends support this aim and are hoping to organise a litter pick on Croham Hurst.

Usually we utilise part of our monthly work programme to collect litter however on this occasion we thought it would be good to arrange a dedicated litter pick for the Hurst. This is likely to take place on a Saturday in March/April other than the regular work day. Please look out for the details nearer the time.

## **Website (Ann Kellaway) [www.friendsofcrohamhurstwoods.wordpress.com](http://www.friendsofcrohamhurstwoods.wordpress.com)**

We now have a new website where you will find information about the Friends, dates for workdays and also our latest newsletter. There is also a "Links" page that lists a number of sites where you can get information about a wide range of subjects relating not only to Croydon and the Hurst but also the Forestry Commission etc.

## **Message from the Treasurer (Ted Budden)**

Thank you to all who have paid a subscription for the 2012/2013 year. If you have not please do not forget us.

## **Newsletter Delivery (Sheelagh Smith)**

We are always looking for more volunteers to deliver our newsletters twice a year. We especially need help with Mansfield Road (65 households); Chelsham Road (93 households); Farley Road (125 households). These roads could be split between 2 people. Please contact Sheelagh Smith on 020 8680 4687 or at [sheelagh.smith@talk21.com](mailto:sheelagh.smith@talk21.com) if you are able to help.

**Subscriptions** If you wish to subscribe to the Friends of Croham Hurst Woods, please supply the following:

Name  
Address  
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Subscription enclosed (£10 min), cheques payable to **Friends of Croham Hurst Woods**  
Send to Councillor Maria Gatland, Floral House, 238 Selsdon Road, South Croydon CR2 7AA  
Tel.No. 020 8405 6718

## **Committee**

Chair .....Councillor Maria Gatland  
Treasurer .....Ted Budden  
Secretary .....Ann Kellaway  
Additional Members.....Sheelagh Smith, David Coups

## **What links these photographs of Croham Hurst and can you place them in order?**

