

# 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 30 March 2016

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

I am delighted to report we had a really well attended and enjoyable AGM last November. Holding it in the Watney Room of Emmanuel Church meant more people stayed for a drink and chat after the formal part of the meeting. Our speaker Mark Stevenson and Emmanuel Church's very helpful Dan Blackburn contributed to a very pleasant evening.

Since I started walking my dogs in Croham Hurst woods many years ago I watched the loss of the famous view from the top of the Hurst with concern. I have had letters over the years from residents who watched planes take off at Croydon Airport. It upset me to lose this historic view and I was really pleased that I was able to convince the Council at last of its importance. Thanks to our members that enabled the Friends to fund the opening up of the wonderful view across Croydon. It's now really popular with walkers and residents but please don't leave your rubbish behind for others to clear.

It is worth reminding everyone that your generous support over the years have enabled us to clear the bank outside the railings on Upper Selsdon Road, restore the meadow area as shown on old maps with the help of the Downland Trust, remove hectares of holly, supply benches and Information Boards as well as restoring the view. In all of this we are grateful for the support of the Council and the help and advice of Simon Levy the Forestry advisor to the Council

You will have noticed Health and Safety works undertaken by the Council. Over 100 trees have been removed or had remedial works. This will suffice now for five years unless emergency work is needed. Generally the works have been done well but its a shame the railings were damaged twice. One incident was of concern with a large tree falling into the road.

We have a monthly work morning ten months of the year and they are going well. Over the last year or so we have lost some of our regulars. We are looking for a couple more people who would come fairly regularly. It's just for a couple of hours and it really makes a difference. It's a shame that the posters advertising our workday have been pulled down recently. We suffered a spate of this some years ago but it has started again. I have little doubt it is the same person who always chooses the two not in full view. All I would say to this person is why not come along to our workday and let's try and resolve whatever the problem is rather than indulge in this petty vandalism. As well we always advertise our workdays on our website [www.friendsofcrohamhurstwoods.wordpress.com](http://www.friendsofcrohamhurstwoods.wordpress.com)

Cycling is only permitted in the Hurst on the Bridleway, nowhere else! The surface of the Hurst is fragile particularly on the top. Recently on Sunday afternoon walking on the top with my dogs I was shocked to hear engine noise behind me. Two riders their faces hidden by balaclavas rode their machines at speed despite lots of people including children and pets being about. Everyone was shocked and upset. I have informed the police and the council.

In the past few weeks if you have taken a walk in the Hurst I am sure you will agree it looks stunning. However a black cloud hangs over the Hurst in the proposal from the Council to downgrade Croham Hurst Woods from Greenbelt to Metropolitan Open Land. When you also see other proposals in the Local Plan to downgrade Metropolitan Open Land in Shirley in order to build hundreds of houses you understand my concern as it is a slippery slope once declassification starts. Croham Hurst Woods is ancient woodland, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, site of a Bronze Age Barrow, an important site for wildlife in London and a wonderful place for residents to enjoy. I was shocked at this proposal and I am really

grateful for so many objections from such a wide range of people including our MP Chris Philp to this proposal in the consultation on the Local Plan. The consultation ended in December and we will have to wait until July to know if there will be any change to the proposal. Whatever happens the Friends will do everything possible to protect and care for our ancient woodland.

### Message from the Treasurer (Carrie Le)

A big thank you to all who have paid a subscription for the 2015/2016 year. The new financial year started in November 2015 but if by any chance you have forgotten you can still pay your annual subscription now. New members may join at any time.

### Newsletter Delivery (Richard Kellaway)

Many thanks indeed to all those who deliver the newsletters. Vacancies do occur from time to time to deliver newsletters in the local area. If you are willing to help please contact Richard Kellaway on 020 8657 4672 or at [rekellaway@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rekellaway@blueyonder.co.uk).

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

If anyone has any interesting facts about Croham Hurst or any photos please email them to me at [akellaway@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:akellaway@blueyonder.co.uk) and we will publish them on the website if they are suitable.

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

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Subscription enclosed (£10 min), cheques payable to **Friends of Croham Hurst Woods**

Send to Councillor Maria Gatland, 33 Whitmead Close, South Croydon CR2 7AS

### Committee

Chair .....Councillor Maria Gatland

Treasurer .....Carrie Le

Secretary .....Ann Kellaway

Additional Members .....Nick Gill, David Coups

