

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 31 October 2016

Chair's Report (Councillor Maria Gatland)

It doesn't take long walking in Croham Hurst Woods to realise how special it is and how lucky we are to have it in our local area. It has always been held in great affection by local residents. Way back in 1901 residents fought off developers, camping out on top of the Hurst for three nights and delivering a huge petition to Croydon Council. The Council bought the Hurst from the Whitgift Foundation for the people of Croydon. In 2002 along with two other people I founded the Friends because of local concerns about the care of the Hurst. Since then we have helped the Hurst by funding the removal of hectares of invasive holly, creating the meadow area shown on old maps with the help of the Downland Trust, cleared the bank on Upper Selsdon Rd, provided Information Boards, benches, painted railings and restored the historic view on the top of the Hurst.

Like all those residents way back in 1901 we care for and support the Hurst. I was saddened and very concerned that the current administration of the Council has downgraded Croham Hurst Woods from Greenbelt to Metropolitan Open Land. It is a wonderful heritage asset for Croydon and should be treated as such. By the time you will read this the second consultation on the Local Plan will have ended. All the objections will have gone to the Government Inspector who will hold an Examination In Public on the Local Plan. I have done all I can to fight this downgrade along with many residents, I hope it will be enough.

I think you will agree that the Friends have done quite a bit for the Hurst. It helped us win the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2014. We hold a work morning on the last Saturday of every month and since 2002 we have had a very loyal band who turn out regularly. Inevitably with the years going by we have lost some of our regular workers so if you would like to join us for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning please just come along. It is advertised by poster and on our website.

Lots of new residents have moved into our area. It's great to see so many discovering the beauty, wildlife, trees and plants of Croham Hurst Woods. It is lovely also to see so many young families enjoying the Hurst, they are the Friends of the future. We all have a responsibility to care for it if we want to protect it for us and future generations. If I can remind everyone to take their litter home with them it's not just unsightly but harmful to wildlife as well. Croham Hurst Woods is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and its geology is very special but the surface is very fragile in places so cycling is only permitted on the Bridleway, that is the path that runs alongside the Golf Course. Nowhere else! Please don't set fires. It can take hold very quickly and is dangerous for wildlife and people. It is also illegal. However there are so many other ways to enjoy this wonderful place on our doorstep as so many do every day.

Message from the Treasurer (Carrie Le)

A big thank you to all who have subscribed to the Friends during the past year. The new financial year starts in November 2016 and so annual subscriptions are now due.

Newsletter Delivery (Richard Kellaway)

As always many thanks to all those who deliver the newsletters. There is vacancy at the present time to deliver 70 newsletters in Camden Road. If you are willing to help please contact Richard Kellaway on 020 8657 4672 or at rekellaway@blueyonder.co.uk.

Website (Ann Kellaway) 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 and if they are suitable we will publish them on the website.

Annual General Meeting 2016

The Annual General Meeting this year will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 8th November 2016 in the Watney Room, Emmanuel Church, Normanton Road. The Watney Room is just over the road from the Church Hall. Please come along and hear about our work in the Woods over the past year. It is always a very interesting evening.

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

Name

Address

Tel. No.

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

ChairCouncillor Maria Gatland

TreasurerCarrie Le

SecretaryAnn Kellaway

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

