

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 32 March 2017

Chair's Report (Councillor Maria Gatland)

We were pleased to hold a successful AGM once again last November in the Watney Room, Emmanuel Church. A big thank you to all those residents who braved the cold weather to support the Friends. All your support helps give us fresh enthusiasm as we move into our 15th year. Our speaker Catherine Pleasance gave a fascinating and well received talk about the work of Canine Partners. The evening was rounded off having a glass of wine and chatting to all our members and friends.

At the AGM I spoke about the considerable achievements of the Friends over the years, as well as the works we hoped to achieve this year. Lots of residents have commented or emailed me on the huge improvements brought about by the removal of hectares of holly on the golf course side of the Hurst. The light and warmth has brought regeneration and stunning views with the light pouring through all our wonderful trees.

While holly has its place in woodland and provides food for birds the unchecked growth for so many years had made the woodland floor dark and cold. We were losing our wildflowers and views of some majestic trees. For a long time we had wanted to clear holly from the Upper Selsdon Road side of the Hurst. The difficulty was that there was no easy access for contractors machinery unless part of the railings were removed. With so many children and dogs in the Hurst this was never an option due to the very busy Upper Selsdon Road. However we were recommended contractors who do not use such heavy machinery and that work is now ongoing.

One project that has pleased me most was the restoration of the historic view from the top of the Hurst. As well as maintaining that view we wanted to provide 'glimpses' of the view over South Croydon along the top and that work has started as well. We have had great advice and support, and some matched funding, from the Forestry Advisor to Croydon Council. However it is fair to say that without the Friends and the generosity of our members we would have had few improvements to the Hurst. From information boards, benches and our many projects, we can be proud of what has been achieved so far. It is worth remembering that Croham Hurst Woods is owned by and is the responsibility of Croydon Council, although there have been a few who think the Friends own it!

We hold a monthly work morning except for August and December on the last Saturday of the month. It was lovely to welcome a new volunteer in January but we need a few more. It is just a few hours and that makes a big difference. Last month we cleared leaves and winter debris from the path that runs alongside Upper Selsdon Road. I lobbied for this path to be repaired some years ago as it is an easy path for those who may not wish to walk further and is less muddy than the rest of the Hurst.

Croham Hurst Woods is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and almost everyone who uses it respects and loves it. If anyone knows the teenager who rips up the surface on the top of the Hurst on his motorcycle please let me know since the surface on the top is particularly fragile. Mountain bikes too are damaging and cycling is only permitted on the bridleway.

Thanks to all of you who responded to the second consultation from Croydon Council on the downgrading of the Hurst from Greenbelt to Metropolitan Open Land in the Local Plan. This Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State who will appoint a Government Inspector to hold an Examination in Public and I expect a date will be announced soon. If you have

objected to the second consultation you will be permitted to attend the Public Examination of the Local Plan and I hope some of you will be able to attend.

Finally my thanks for all your generosity, support and encouragement. All your help is much appreciated by the Friends.

Message from the Treasurer (Carrie Le)

A big thank you to all who have paid a subscription for the 2016/2017 year. The new financial year started in November 2016 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.

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.

Subscriptions

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

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Committee

ChairCouncillor Maria Gatland

TreasurerCarrie Le

SecretaryAnn Kellaway

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

View from Public Footpath 148 looking towards Upper Selsdon Road

