

# 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 35 October 2018

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

Looking around our local area in South Croydon and Sanderstead new development is evident as the intensification of development in the suburbs continues. New homes are needed, however the loss of so much green space, natural habitat and mature trees is very concerning. Here, right in the middle of the suburbs surrounded by housing, we are so lucky to have the beautiful Croham Hurst Woods, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with mature trees, stunning views and a haven for wildlife. Now more than ever we need to care for and respect our local woodland.

It is a place to enjoy peace and solace, to walk your dog, for children to climb trees and learn about nature. It is a place to enjoy stunning sunrises, sunsets and views across Croydon. Yes, there are rules but they are there to protect Croham Hurst Woods for us and future residents. Lighting fires is prohibited, cycling is permitted only along the bridleway, the path that runs alongside the golf course, as the surface of the Hurst is fragile in places. Also camping is prohibited as it is in all Croydon's parks and woods.

While lighting fires has been a problem here for years this year with the glorious weather the problem was worse. In tinder dry conditions fires were lit as well as BBQs and cigarettes discarded. One of these fires destroyed the greater part of scarce heathland on the top of the Hurst wiping out years of effort by many in enlarging the area of heathland. How do we get the message out to all ages that lighting fires is dangerous, irresponsible and illegal as fires continue to be lit as we move into autumn?

Huge thanks to the Fire Brigade who battled for days to bring the fire that had gone underground in places under control. Thanks as well to all the residents that helped on that day and who continue to help by reporting fires and importantly stayed to direct the Fire Brigade to the fire.

Soon I will have a meeting with the Council and others to discuss how best to regenerate the heathland on the top of the Hurst. We will also consider whether we can fund some of the work that may be necessary here. Also I have had a meeting with the Forestry Advisor to the Council to discuss our funding more holly removal and work on the holly regrowth on the Upper Selsdon Road side. Holly removal as we know brings light, warmth and regeneration into the Hurst

While this year there have been more problems than usual in the long hot summer with illegal dumping, rubbish, fires, damage from bikes and mopeds there are lots of positives. Nature always brings beauty and renewal. We have so many dog walkers, walkers, members of local societies, and Friends who quietly often everyday pick up litter, report fires, clean up our Information Boards and advise me of serious problems. I would like to thank every one of these residents for all the work they do caring for Croham Hurst Woods.

I am delighted that we will be hosting the new and local The ARC Centre at our AGM on Tuesday 13th November 2018. They specialise in animal education motivating all to care for animals and the local environment. While I have yet to spot a meerkat in the Hurst we will hear about the care of exotic as well as more familiar animals. It sounds interesting and fun. Our AGM is open to all so please do come along.

## **Message from the Treasurer (Carrie Hay)**

A big thank you to all who have subscribed to the Friends during the past year. The new financial year starts in November 2018 and so annual subscriptions are now due.

## **Newsletter Delivery (Richard Kellaway)**

As always many thanks indeed to all those who deliver the newsletters. Your help is very much appreciated. There is a vacancy to deliver 40 newsletters in Bench Field and Pilgrims Way and other vacancies do occur from time to time. If you are willing to help please contact Richard Kellaway on 020 8657 4672 or [rekellaway@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rekellaway@blueyonder.co.uk)

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

Thank you to all those who have sent in photographs for the website.

## **Annual General Meeting 2018**

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 13th November 2018 in the Watney Room, Emmanuel Church Hall, Normanton Road. The Watney Room is just over the road from the Church Hall.

Our guest speaker will be from The ARC Centre, a rather unique animal education centre based in Selsdon. Please come along to what promises to be a very engaging evening.

## **Committee**

Chair .....Councillor Maria Gatland

Treasurer.....Carrie Hay

Secretary .....Ann Kellaway

Additional Members ...Nick Gill, David Coups

## **Subscriptions**

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

Name

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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

**Tel. No.** 020 8407 1327.

**email:** [maria.gatland@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:maria.gatland@croydon.gov.uk)