

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 43 May 2023

Chair's Report (Councillor Maria Gatland)

Over the years we have always been very appreciative and grateful for the support of the members of the Friends. You have been extremely generous in your donations to support the work we have done in maintaining the character of the Hurst for the benefit of the community. This report outlines the more recent projects that we have been or are working on.

No Cycling Signage

The most complaints we have received relate to cycling in the Hurst and some time ago we started on a project to replace the signs with more up to date versions. Whilst it has taken rather longer than we anticipated the majority of the new No Cycling signs have been installed. These signs have been funded entirely by the Friends from donations made by our members



Holly Clearance

Holly has its place in woodland and provides food for birds but unchecked growth has a major impact on the woodland floor, wild flowers and trees have been losing out. We have carried out a controlled removal of holly and gentle opening of the canopy. As a result wood anemones have started to appear again on the Upper Selsdon Road side of the Hurst.

Maintenance of the Views from the Top of the Hurst

The southern panorama from the top of the Hurst has always been an attraction for the visitors to the site and extends as far as the North Downs. There are two main viewing areas and we have carried out a program of careful maintenance to ensure that visitors can continue to enjoy the spectacular views.



Pudding Stone (Conglomerate)

The hill is formed of Thanet Sand topped with a pebble bed and resting on a surface of chalk, however the hill has suffered from erosion. A natural iron oxide based cement binding the Blackheath Pebble Beds into conglomerate or 'pudding stone' has slowed down the erosion process. The pudding stone is visible on the top of the Hurst. Recently some visitors have set up camp and imported materials to the site and left behind a large amount of rubbish that needed to be taken away. We have arranged for the site to be cleared back to its original state and we are hoping that visitors will respect the history and enable people to enjoy the site as it was.

Steps

Over time the steps that climb from near the meadow to the top of the main clearing have deteriorated. The Friends have funded a program of work to replace and refurbish them. This work is being undertaken by the Downlands Partnership and should be completed by the end of May. Anyone who has climbed to the top will appreciate this essential maintenance!!!



Annual General Meeting 2023

The Annual General Meeting will be held at **7:30pm on Tuesday 14th November 2023** in the Watney Room, Emmanuel Church Hall, Normanton Road, South Croydon. Please come along and hear about our work in the Woods and our future plans. It is always a very interesting evening and refreshments will be provided.

Notes from the Treasurer (Ian Mitchell)

A big thank you to all of our supporters whose generosity enables us to continue to undertake and commission work on the Hurst such as the replacement of the steps. Our financial year started in November 2022 and to-date we have received over £2,200 in subscriptions and donations. If you have forgotten to pay your subscription or would like to join the Friends, we would be very happy to receive payment now.

Work Days

Work days are held at 10:00am on the last Saturday of every month apart from August and December and so a big thank you to all our work day volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome to join us and tools are provided.

For the January work morning we arranged a litter pick. Among the items collected were tyres, cash register, number plates, along with 24 large bags of general rubbish and 4 boxes of local election leaflets.

Newsletter Delivery (Richard Kellaway)

Many thanks indeed to all those who deliver our 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.com

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

Also you can visit our Facebook page for more up-to-date information at

www.facebook.com/thefriendsofcrohamhurstwoods

Committee

Chair.....Councillor Maria Gatland

TreasurerIan Mitchell

Secretary.....Ann Kellaway

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

Subscriptions

Subscriptions may be made either by the completing the Subscription Form below or by internet banking using the Banks Faster Payments Service (FPS).

If you wish to pay by the Banks Faster Payments Service (FPS), please contact Councillor Maria Gatland at **email:** maria.gatland@croydon.gov.uk for details

Subscription

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

Name

Address

Tel. No.

email:

Subscription enclosed (£10 min), cheques payable to **Friends of Croham Hurst Woods**
Send to Councillor Maria Gatland, 33 Whitmead Close, South Croydon CR2 7AS