

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 44 October 2023

Chair's Report (Councillor Maria Gatland)

After 21 years it seems very strange to be writing my last report as Chair of the Friends of Croham Hurst Woods. During those years I learned a lot about nature, met interesting people and made some great friends, sadly some no longer with us. The kindness, support, dedication of so many who have volunteered their time during those years are too many to list but never forgotten. I hope too with support of the committee and members we made a positive difference to the very special Croham Hurst Woods.



Of course there have been some low points for me over the years, vandalism of our benches and information boards, anti social behaviour, damage to the Pudding Stone, the awful fire that damaged the heathland but these are outweighed by some lovely memories. Here are just a few of the memories that live with me.

I still recall the sheer enthusiasm of the first public meeting called after a promise I made that if elected to the Council in 2002 I would start a Friends Group, that enthusiasm remains to this day.



With the fantastic support of our members we have delivered many projects that have been beneficial to the Hurst. Some residents will not know just how dark the Hurst had become over the years. Arriving at Bankside with my dogs early one morning after the first major holly removal and seeing for the first time the light pouring down from the top of the Hurst highlighting the tree trunks was breathtaking.



Clearing 30 years of scrub and recreating a meadow was special for me. Just after my husband died the work helped me to deal with bereavement. Now it is a sunny place full of bees and butterflies, praised by Natural England for its diversity. This year we saw our very first orchid, a real highlight for me.



In 2014 the Friends of Croham Hurst Woods was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. I was interviewed for the award and throughout the long and intensive process I was concerned that I was doing justice to the brilliant work of our volunteers. We had a lovely day at a garden party in Buckingham Palace a memory I will treasure.

Now it is time for me to step away and our current Treasurer Ian Mitchell will take on the role of Chair. He has been a great support to me and most importantly he shares the same passion for Croham Hurst Woods. I look forward to his endorsement at our AGM in November.

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 do our work to preserve and maintain the Hurst. The current financial year has so far seen us receive over £3,000 in subscriptions and donations from around 140 households. This has kept our financial position strong and has allowed us to undertake projects such as the replacement of the steps on the Hurst. Our new financial year starts on the 2nd November so we would be grateful to receive subscriptions for the new year.

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.

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

Due to a vacancy occurring for running the website, we are looking for a volunteer to manage it. It is not an onerous task, just a few hours every month to keep it up to date. Please let me know if you are interested, Ann Kellaway 020 8657 4672. Thank you, we are hoping that we will be overrun with volunteers!!!

You can visit our Facebook page for more up-to-date information on the Friends at www.facebook.com/thefriendsofcrohamhurstwoods

Committee

Chair.....Councillor Maria Gatland

TreasurerIan Mitchell

Secretary.....Ann Kellaway

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

Subscriptions

If you wish to subscribe to the Friends of Croham Hurst Woods we would like a minimum payment of £10. You can pay via Faster Payments/Internet Banking or set up a standing order with our bank details shown on our website www.friendsofcrohamhurstwoods.com in the Members Section. Please put your house number (or house name) and postcode as the reference for such payments.

Alternatively you can pay by cheque payable to **Friends of Croham Hurst Woods**. Cheques may either be sent to sent to **Councillor Maria Gatland**, 33 Whitmead Close, South Croydon CR2 7AS or can be brought to our AGM on the 14th November 2023.

Friends of Croham Hurst Woods Subscription

Name

Address

Tel. No.

email:

Subscription enclosed (£10 min)