

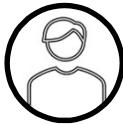


Friends of Croham Hurst Woods



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. 46 – October 2024



Chair's Report

Ian Mitchell

Croham Hurst Woods is a place that provides us with year-round interest. Right now, summer is commencing its fade into autumn which will herald the falling of the leaves. During the winter, the architectural grandeur of the trees becomes more prominent, and I always hope to see snow falling to accentuate the beauty and peacefulness of the woods. Then, the days start to lengthen as we move towards spring, which stimulates fresh growth. What a wonderful place the Hurst is and we're so lucky to have it on our doorstep.

The Friends have had a busy year, working to maintain and enhance the Hurst for the benefit of the wildlife that lives in it and the local community who visit. Our workdays have seen us undertake work to keep well-used paths clear of fallen leaves and encroaching foliage. We also had a very successful litter-pick in the spring, collecting numerous food wrappers and drinks containers, building materials, security devices used by supermarkets for spirits and an old wheelbarrow to mention but a few of the items left by people on the Hurst.



By the time this newsletter has been delivered, the Friends will have spent time on the meadow, raking up the cut grass and fallen crab-apples and preparing it for next summer. One of our members contacted me recently to say he had seen 6 different types of butterfly in the meadow which is surely a great sign.

New benches, funded by the Friends, have been installed on the Hurst and it has been great to see them being used. We are grateful to the Downlands Partnership for their work making and installing the benches.

As we head into the autumn, we are hoping to get some work done on the Hurst and have been co-ordinating with the Council to make this happen. The bank alongside Upper Selsdon Road is due to be cut soon and we are looking to start on some hazel coppicing as well as attend to a couple of sections on the Bridleway where encroaching undergrowth has narrowed the path. In the longer term, the Council is keen to promote biodiversity on the Hurst and we will aim to partner with them in this respect.



At this time, I would like to say thanks to our many loyal members for their continued support and to our hardworking volunteers (particularly those who have helped on our workdays) for all their hard work. I also hope to see many of our members at our AGM.

Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting will be held at on **Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 7:30pm** in the Watney Room, Emmanuel Church, Normanton Road.

We are delighted to welcome Matthew Frith, Director of Policy and Research at the London Wildlife Trust who will be presenting "*The beacon of Croham Hurst; its role in a future nature recovery network*". Please do join us to listen to Matthew and, also hear about our work in the Woods and our future plans. It is always a very interesting evening and refreshments will be provided.





Committee

Chair: Ian Mitchell
Treasurer: Nick Beeson
Secretary: Ann Kellaway
Additional: Nick Gill



Workdays

We, a small group of volunteers, meet at 10am on the last Saturday of each month (except December) to spend a couple of hours doing light work on the Hurst. It's a good opportunity to get some fresh air and do some work in a sociable environment. Invariably, people walking on the Hurst will stop to talk as they pass us. It feels great to be doing something to help the local community as well as conserving an important green space.

Our work in the main is focussed on trying to keep paths clear and accessible to all, which we do by sweeping up leaves and cutting back plants such as brambles, ivy, holly and new growth on various trees and shrubs when this starts to impede on paths. We also pick up rubbish and undertake other pruning/cutting back of plants when required, using shears, loppers and rakes.

If you have some spare time and would like to join us for a workday, please email us on the details below.

Contact details

Website: www.friendsofcrohamhurstwoods.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/thefriendsofcrohamhurstwoods

Email: friendsofcrohamhurstwoods@outlook.com

Newsletter Delivery

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

A note from the Treasurer - Nick Beeson

Following my appointment as Treasurer of the Friends at last year's AGM, I am pleased to provide you with reassurance regarding our financial position. We have seen a notable increase in our bank balance (by £1,100) since 2023 despite a small decline in member numbers and the resultant income. We have welcomed new members and are also confident of continuing to receive annual subscriptions from existing members before our year end, further strengthening our finances.

The bank account currently reflects such a healthy balance despite reduced income due to delays in anticipated projects as a result of ongoing discussions with Croydon Council officials and advisors, and our desire to ensure the wishes of the Friends are in sync with the Council's management plans for the Hurst. Once the projects do occur, we expect expenditure to catch up and our bank balance to reduce.



Upcoming workdays

Saturday 10am

26th October 24

30th November 24

25th January 25

22nd February 25



Subscriptions

If you wish to subscribe, 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 (below). Please put your house number/name and postcode as the reference.

Account: Friends of Croham Hurst Woods
Sort Code: 20-70-15 **Account:** 93924920

Alternatively, if you would like to pay by cheque, please email us and we can arrange for collection or cheques can be brought to our AGM on the 19th November 2024. Cheques should be made payable to 'Friends of Croham Hurst Woods'.

Friends of Croham Hurst Woods Subscription

Name:

Address:

Tel. No:

email:

Subscription enclosed (£10 min)