

# 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



## 20th Anniversary

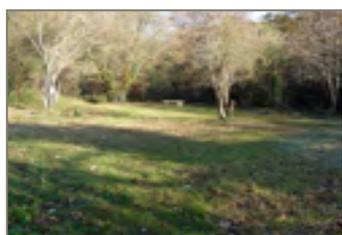
### Newsletter No 42 October 2022

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

The inaugural meeting of the Friends group was held on the 11th November 2002. It was attended by almost 60 people and nearly £400 in subscriptions were received. Since then through the generosity, energy and hard work of members we have helped to maintain and improve Croham Hurst Woods. This report is a synopsis of some of the major projects and activities over the years.

#### Upper Selsdon Road Bank

Over the years the Council had allowed the scrub to grow unchecked along the embankment resulting in the internal path that runs alongside Upper Selsdon Road becoming dark and unsafe for walkers. By clearing the embankment the habitat for the rare St Johns Wart was restored and the path was made safer for walkers.



#### Meadow

With the help of the Downlands Trust the meadow area which had been covered by a canopy of trees for over thirty years was cleared and opened up. Work continues on this area every year and more species of grass and wild flowers are to be seen.

#### Information Boards and Benches

The Croydon Open Spaces Survey of May 2004 highlighted the issue of little or no signage and a lack of interpretation and information displays within the site. The Friends focussed on this and it resulted in the design and subsequent installation of the Information Boards you now see today.



The original benches on the Hurst at various points both on the summit and along the Upper Selsdon Road path were in a poor condition. They were constructed from trees felled in the Hurst, however over the years they had deteriorated. It was decided to replace them. (There are still two of the original benches left on the site)

#### Restoration of the Views from the Top of the Hurst

Over time the stunning southern views from the top of the Hurst in both clearings have been obscured by the growth of trees around their rims. With the careful removal of a limited number of trees the historic southern views have been restored and are a regular viewing point for visitors.



#### Holly Clearance

For many years the growth of holly has changed the character of the Hurst and so removal and control is necessary. We meet with the Council's forestry adviser to assess how to prevent holly regrowth.

#### Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

In October 2014 the Friends were awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2014 and it was formally presented to us by a representative at the AGM in November 2014.

## Annual General Meeting 2022

The Annual General Meeting will be held at **7:30pm on Tuesday 15th November 2022** 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 via their subscriptions and donations enables us to continue to do our work on the Hurst. The current financial year has seen us receive over £4,000 in subscriptions and donations from around 150 households. This has put us in a strong financial position which has enabled us to commission the new signage on the Hurst and to work with the Council to plan further enhancements to the precious woodland space. Our new financial year starts in November 2022, 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. A big thank you to all our work day volunteers, you are the core resource for our work. This year we have been concentrating on keeping the paths clear and accessible, cutting back bramble and holly, and clearing the heathland on the top of the Hurst of invasive plants. New volunteers are always welcome to join us and tools are provided.

## Newsletter Delivery (Richard Kellaway)

As always many thanks to all who deliver our newsletters, your help is very much appreciated. If you wish to help with the deliveries please let Richard Kellaway know on 020 8657 4672 or at [rekellaway@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rekellaway@blueyonder.co.uk)

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

Any appropriate contributions or photos would be welcome.

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

[www.facebook.com/thefriendsofcrohamhurstwoods](http://www.facebook.com/thefriendsofcrohamhurstwoods)

## Committee

Chair.....Councillor Maria Gatland

Treasurer .....Ian Mitchell

Secretary.....Ann Kellaway

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

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due at the beginning of November and again payment this year may be made either by the Bank Faster Payments System or by printing out and completing a copy of the Subscription Form from the website. The form can be found in this newsletter.

If you wish to pay by the Bank Faster Payments System, please contact Councillor Maria Gatland at **email:** [maria.gatland@croydon.gov.uk](mailto: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**