

THE FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS



Invitation To AGM and Chairs Newsletter for 23/24

Dear Friend, Our AGM this year will be held at St Johns Church, Upper Selsdon Road, in their Garden Room on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 commencing 8pm. We look forward to seeing you there. We will receive a Chairs Report, attached here:

1 Work Party Activity

a We are delighted to report that our work party numbers are healthy although some of us, after some 20 odd years of Workpartys are feeling our age. Chris continues to organise us with a seemingly never ending series of tasks. Unfortunately we lost many work party days due to weather: 1 cancelled due to heat, 4 were rained off and 2 cut short due to rain, Snow was not an issue for us. We did manage to carry out the following work:

b We planted more Hazel along Croham Valley Path, adjacent to the power lines to create another coppice block and we started to prepare another area for a further coppice block along the path.

c Several weeks were spent on our Ponds & boggy area, clearing back the sides and overhanging vegetation plus control of Iris and planting of marginal plants.

d We continued with holly control in various locations as well as controlling "woodland creep" along the edges of both fields.

e The butterfly scrape in Fallen Oak Field has surprised us with its variety of healthy wildflower plants and we continue to monitor how this experiment develops. We will continue to cut the grass and control any invasive flora.

f We cut back Bramble and Cleavers on the Bluebell Banks down Fields Path and along Foxearth Path.

g Croydon Council forestry contractors made an appearance around November 2023 to carry out safety felling of numerous Ash trees which had succumbed to Chalara (Ash Die Back) and to take down many time expired Silver Birch. Unfortunately much debris and timber was left on wildflower and planted areas and many felled trees created collateral damage. Our work on 'tidying up' will continue well into 2024.

h We have embarked on an exercise to plant Silver Birch in the woods to replace the old Birch which have now been lost. 2 stands have been planted and more are planned. Two areas of planting which suffered from Drought and vandalism were also replanted.

i We now publish on our website a monthly diary of our workparty activities.

2 Looking forward:

a With Croydon Council in financial difficulties we are ever more reliant on membership subscriptions, donations and Easyfundraising. Please remember to go through www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select 'Friends of Littleheath Woods' before you make any on-line purchases.

b At our AGM we will be proposing to keep our household membership at £5. If you wish to renew your membership for the year 24 / 25 you can complete the form attached and deliver to either Chris at 51 Foxearth, Ian at 53 Queenhill or Shirley at 42 Farley Road. You may prefer to complete our Standing Order (SO) form, attached or enclosed, or subscribe via online banking. Our banking details are on the SO form.

e You can keep up to date with us via our website (www.folw.co.uk) and our Facebook page (Friends of Littleheath Woods)

Kind Regards,

Ian Leggatt. Chair, Friends of Littleheath Woods

THE FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS
Agenda for Annual General Meeting.
St Johns Church, Garden Room, Upper Selsdon Road,
Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024 @ 8.00pm.

1. Welcome and Apologies for absence.
2. Adoption of last AGM Minutes.
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Treasurers Report.
6. Election of Committee.
7. Agreement of Annual Subscription for Membership.
8. Any other business.
9. Close

Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting of
THE FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS
St Johns, Garden Room Suite , Selsdon,
Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 8.00pm.

Those Present:

Chris & Adrian Hyde, Brian Stone, Shirley Shephard, , Malcolm Macleod, Kathy & Ian Leggatt, Chris Struthers, Mr A & Joyce Atkinson, Keith and Linda Sinclair, Valerie & Jeff Bayton, Martin Taylor, Cyril Watmore, Cllr Joseph Lee, Peter Underwood, John Gallagher, Richard Morley-Smith, Fiona and Marc Stas.

Apologies for absence:

Sean Walsh, Micky Wheeler, Frank Bellairs, Sheila Childs

Item 1, Welcome.

Ian Leggatt chaired the meeting. Ian thanked everyone for coming, and explained the agenda.

Item 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The adoption of the minutes of the 2022 AGM was proposed by Adrian Hyde, seconded by Martin Taylor and agreed by vote.

Item 3, Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 4. Chairman's Report.

Ian referred to his 2023 Newsletter which accompanied the invitation to the AGM.

Item 5. Treasurers Report.

Chris distributed copies and explained the accounts for year ending 9th April 2023 which showed we will carry forward a balance of £5,44139.. It was noted that whilst our Donations were significantly down on last year (due to reduced Log disposals) our Subscriptions were up. It was noted that Croydon Council had eventually refunded our Public Liability insurance premium cost leaving us to fund the remaining £270 costs of Tool and Personal Liability costs. The balance being carried forward was viewed as prudent financial management bearing in mind Croydon Council budgetary issues. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Peter Underwood, seconded by Kathy Leggatt and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks was passed to Jeff Bayton for his review of the accounts.

Item 6. Election of Committee.

Ian noted that our Constitution allows for 7 and up to 9 Committee members, including Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Thus there were vacancies for three further Committee members. Ian reported that the current Committee were all willing to stand again. There were no nominations from the floor for their positions and their re-election was proposed by Keith

Sinclair seconded by John Gallagher and carried unanimously. It was noted that Jeff Bayton and John Gallagher were willing to join the Committee. They were elected unanimously. Your committee comprises, Ian Leggatt (Chair) Chris Hyde (Treasurer), Brian Stone, Peter Underwood (Secretary), Sean Walsh, Shirley Shephard (Membership & Flora / Fauna Surveys), Jeff Bayton and John Gallagher. It was noted that Jeffs election to the Committee would preclude him from reviewing our accounts. An accounts reviewer would need to be sought.

Item 7. Annual Subscription.

It was suggested that this should remain at £5 per family per year. Proposed by Peter Underwood, seconded by Cyril Watmore, and agreed by vote.

Item 8 AOB

.Martin Taylor reported that he had replanted some home grown but indigenous Wood Sorrel from his garden into Littleheath Woods.

.The Butterfly Scrape in Fallen Oak Field was discussed.

.Ian recommended the Council app 'Love Clean Streets' which members of the public can use to record and report issues such as overflowing bins, non collection of refuse, blocked drains or fly-tipping directly to the Council. He explained that his experience of using the app was positive.

.Ian explained the fundraising tool that FoLW subscribe to: at no cost to the group Easyfundraising pay us a nominal percentage of online shopping carried out by our Friends who nominate The Friends of Littleheath Woods as their chosen beneficiary. At no cost to the purchaser typically 1 or 2% (dependent on retailer and purchase) of an online purchase is paid back to FoLW.

.Chris Hyde described our planned work regarding the control of invasive Holly, ponds and the Bog area

.Peter Underwood gave a short presentation on TCV (Trust for Conservation Volunteers) and their work.

Item 9. Close

Ian Leggatt again thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at approximately 8.45 pm.

Create your account at

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

and nominate Friends of Littleheath Woods as your chosen beneficiary.

Please don't forget to add Easyfundraising to your toolbar to automatically raise funds when you do any online shopping with participating retailers.