



# Friends of the Hurtwood

Administrators to the public rights of access to some 3000 acres of land in the parishes of Albury, Cranleigh, Ewhurst and Shere.

Registered Charity 200053

Autumn  
2017  
No.46

## Friends Newsletter



### Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends

As I write this it is fast becoming clear that Autumn is now upon us! The Hurtwood is wet and muddy underfoot again and the bracken has turned. I hope that the path and track renovations that have been undertaken during the summer months will improve the worst areas that were identified by the Walkers Forum following the Annual Meeting in April.

### NEW FLY TIPPING WARNINGS

By the time you read this, new notices will have been put up at a number of locations on the Hurtwood warning of the serious consequences should anyone be caught fly tipping. As you will know, it is the responsibility of the charity to remove rubbish and fly tipping. The cost of this service is escalating as public waste disposal facilities have increased their charges and have become more discriminatory about what they will take. We fully anticipate the removal of fly tip in the current financial year will cost the charity of the order of £3-4000, which is a significant sum for us to find. So, please keep a watch for fly tippers, don't make any approach to the culprits, instead take a note of the number plate of any vehicle involved and also take photographs, if possible, of the fly tipping as it happens.

### LEGACIES

Fortunately we have been in receipt of a number of legacies in recent years including one from Miss J Allen who once lived on Pitch Hill and was famous for her work with under-privileged children. Legacies are becoming increasingly important for any charity as a way of ensuring finances for the long term by strengthening reserves and also providing the opportunity for a charity to embark on otherwise impossible capital projects. While recent legacies have made the medium term future for Friends of the Hurtwood more robust we are by no means totally secure and at this stage have only been able to contemplate relatively small amounts of capital expenditure e.g. on equipment to improve the productivity of the Ranger. If you are considering leaving a legacy to Friends of the Hurtwood please do make contact ([administration@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk](mailto:administration@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk) or speak to the Ranger) and we can explain how this can be done.

### RECRUITMENT

An aspect everyone can help with to bolster our finances is the recruitment of new Friends. Have you ever asked those people you know who use the Hurtwood for exercise, dog walking, horse riding and cycling 'are they a Friend of the Hurtwood'? A recent market test (albeit not very scientific) suggests that at least one in three people asked this question say "no". Many don't even know about the Charity and its work to keep the Hurtwood in good shape. Current membership totals around 440.

If we could increase this only by 10-15% (to say 500) by current Friends recruiting new members, our ability to be proactive on the Hurtwood (as opposed to simply reacting to issues and problems) would be much more robust.

### AGM APRIL 12 2018

Finally please make a note of the next Annual Meeting in your diaries. It will be held at the Duke of Kent School, Ewhurst Rd. on 12 April at 7.30pm. After the formal proceedings we plan to hold interest group meetings along similar lines to those held at this year's Annual Meeting.

**Peter Copping, FotH Chairman**

### Friends of the Hurtwood

#### FotH Office

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#### Contacts:

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I think it's fair to say that Summer this year consisted of June and that was about it! Looking on the bright side though we didn't have to worry too much about the risk of forest fires this year. It has however been a prolific Summer for growing just about anything, and paths we normally cut once a year have had to have extra attention.

#### NEW MOWER

Earlier this year we purchased a new grass mower for the tractor which is capable of cutting areas that previously we had to pay contractors to do by hand. Mechanisation, if used sensibly, can be a very efficient way of making savings. The old mower would only cut directly behind the tractor, meaning we could only cut grass on areas that the tractor could drive on. The new mower is an offset flail mower which now allows me to not only cut banks but also inside the banks of ditches and cutting areas up to 6ft away from the side of the tractor. It's particularly useful for banks like the entrance to No.1 car park, and areas of sloping shrub growth that I can now cut without having to get the tractor at a perilous angle! For anyone interested, it's a Teagle Offset Flail TA/P 1.8M, very heavy and slightly complicated to operate, but the finish cut is far superior.



#### FLY TIPPING - £50,000 FINE

As usual fly tipping takes a significant part of my time, but earlier this year we had a more serious problem - asbestos dumping. So far, we have had seven cases of asbestos roofing sheets being dumped on the Hurtwood. As you can imagine we have to get this cleared by a specialist firm and so far the bill is over £2,500! I'm not sure what the answer is, but we are now in the process of putting in warning signs about fly tipping, advising that anyone caught doing this is liable



to a £50,000 fine. Whether it's a good enough deterrent, time will tell. Tree surgeons' waste is also on the increase, and although we can deal with this ourselves it still takes



a considerable amount of time clearing it up.

#### NO.5 CAR PARK

If you visit Winterfold, you may have noticed that we have made some alterations to No.5 car park. Historically, this car park has always had problems of fly tipping, littering, burnt out cars and general anti-social behaviour, and with the new 'Inspiring Views' seat installation only a few yards away, we could foresee that matters could get worse. So we have moved the car park nearer the road and reduced its size, and we hope this will discourage the late night users from meeting there as now they can more easily be seen.



#### PATH CLEARANCE

After our AGM this year we held two user group meetings, one of which was a Walkers user group. As a result of discussions with the newly formed group, we decided on a plan of actions to improve access for walkers. The priority was to reinstate some of the paths on Bentley Copse that had previously been damaged by the forestry vehicles during operations two years previously. Normally the ruts tend to sort themselves out, but as the geology is slightly different there, that didn't happen. Martin Nicholson came in with his bulldozer and has done a great job of restoring the surfaces whilst creating little disturbance elsewhere. We have



also identified some other paths that need work on both Pitch and Holmbury Hill, as well as parts of Winterfold. So far we have done some work on Pitch Hill restoring a previously very muddy path, with plans to carry out more work later this winter.

#### HOLMBURY HILL

Over on Holmbury Hill we have, once again, managed to secure a grant from Keith Taylor's Members' Allocation budget. This grant has been put towards the cost of opening up the main path from the Holmbury Village Hall up onto the Hurtwood via the Five Ways junction. Over recent years the track has become quite overgrown and the surface heavily eroded from rainfall. This is a popular track with the Holmbury villagers as it's the shortest direct route onto the Hill, and it's great to see it looking open again and with a much better surface. Again, there is more work to do on some paths on Holmbury Hill, which will be carried out over the winter months. By the time you read this, we should have also finished clearing the trees from the view point at the top of the hill. This is a routine task that we carry out every five or so years, depending on how tall they grow and how much of the view they obscure.



I hope you all enjoy your visits to the Hurtwood, and as usual, please do let me know if you see anything untoward or that needs my attention. (See page 1 for contact details)

**Mark Beaumont**



## MONEY, MONEY....

FotH runs on an amazingly tight budget of around £70,000 to cover maintenance of many miles of multi-use trails, rubbish removal and upkeep of 15 car parks plus scrub clearance to open up special views. At the moment about two thirds of our income comes from Friends' donations. We need to increase this sum to cover rising costs and past grants which are not now forthcoming.

The problem is, as the Chairman points out above, that most people who use the Hurtwood don't contribute to its upkeep. Many of them just don't know that FotH exists or what the Hurtwood set-up is. So we all need to

- Make people aware of the unique Hurtwood partnership between landowners, FotH and the public.
- Ask people who use the Hurtwood to pay towards FotH's work by becoming a Friend or donating.

The Management team have been looking at ways of increasing awareness, membership and income, including:

- A re-vamp of the website
- Flyers for car parks and events, summarising what the Hurtwood is and what it offers, and urging people to become Friends.
- Putting a QR code on car park notice boards and Hurtwood publicity material (see page 6)

For the technically challenged, if you hold your smartphone up to this code it puts you straight through to the website donations page and you can sign up online there and then.

- Other means of publicity but, as Peter says, our most effective tool is word of mouth. So make a friend a Friend!

## BECOMING A FRIEND

The most effective way of donating to FotH is to become a Friend through a regular annual or monthly donation by direct debit. A direct debit ensures our administration costs are minimised and if the donor qualifies for Gift Aid, adding this will increase the value of the donation to FotH by 20%.

Those making regular donations become Members of the charity, known informally as Friends. They can attend and vote at AGMs, receive the newsletter and attend other events.

People can become Friends or make a donation:

- By visiting the website <https://friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk/friends/make-a-donation>
- By contacting the office (details on page 1) for the necessary forms.

Online donations go securely through the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and will show up on bank statements as 'charity donation' with your unique reference number. Cheques are always welcome if you prefer traditional ways.

If you have fundraising ideas, please share them with Peter Copping at [chairman@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk](mailto:chairman@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk), Zoe Horton at [administration@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk](mailto:administration@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk) and/or Sue Darling at [communications@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk](mailto:communications@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk).

## NEW DIRECTIONS FOR FOTH? YOUR VIEWS WILL BE APPRECIATED

The main item of business at the 2017 AGM in April was agreement to create a corporate trustee company in place of individual trustees, to be called FotH Trustee Company Ltd. (Details in the Spring newsletter). The necessary papers were filed and the new company is now operating as the sole trustee.

The AGM also marked the first meetings of special interest groups for walkers and bikers. Contact people are Mark for walkers (see first page) and David Clifford for bikers ([fothbikergroup@gmail.com](mailto:fothbikergroup@gmail.com)).

Following on from the Strategic Plan outlined by Richard Green in the Spring 2017 newsletter, the Management Committee is looking at how Friends can best engage with each other and how FotH can engage with people and organisations with similar interests. Possibilities include:

- A re-launch in 2018, to recognise our wider group of landowners and celebrate FotH's unique structure and achievements. This might include a panel discussion with distinguished guest speakers on subjects connected with public access to unspoiled countryside. Let us know what you think and whether you would be likely to come.
- A range of get-together events which Friends would find useful and congenial. Ideas welcome.
- A re-vamp of the newsletter. All suggestions on format and content welcome. It will probably continue to be issued twice a year, with an occasional letter from the Chairman to Friends to fill in the gaps. All thoughts and proposals to Sue Darling at [communications@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk](mailto:communications@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk) please.



## DAMAGED ARTWORK RESTORED TO ORIGINAL BEAUTY

Tragedy struck in July when 'Perspectives,' the newly installed artwork on Winterfold Hill, was vandalised. The pod like structure is covered in hundreds of wooden tiles, many of which are inscribed with peoples' personal messages and words. A substantial number of the tiles had been defaced with graffiti and some removed from the structure entirely in an act of thoughtlessness and destruction.

Local walker Sue Cordery came across the damaged artwork and notified the Surrey Hills. 'As a regular visitor to the artwork, I was so saddened to see the abuse of this most outstanding sculptured seat,' she said. 'Perspectives' is a unique and fascinating sculpture. It certainly encourages conversation regarding the whole structure and provides a peaceful and comfortable setting to sit and contemplate many aspects of everyday life and beyond, especially in relation to the inscriptions on the tiles. I always feel uplifted and inspired after each visit and the view is definitely something to behold.'



To repair the damage and restore the artwork a team of volunteers cleaned off the graffiti and replaced the damaged wooden tiles. Ali Clarke, Surrey Hills Arts Programme Manager said: 'Perspectives has been a particularly popular artwork. It is loved by local people as well as drawing visitors from London and beyond. It is wonderful that people are helping to look after it, clean off the graffiti and maintain its beauty.'



'Perspectives' is one of five artworks installed along the Greensand Way in the Surrey Hills as part of the Inspiring Views project. It can be found at the top of Winterfold Hill. Created by Giles Miller and his team, the pod-like shelter looks out across the South Downs and cocoons you from the elements with unique wooden shingles. Engraved on each shingle are messages and words from the local community, all inspired by the view.

Giles Miller commented: 'This is a beautifully secretive part of the world and I wanted to capture that. I hope that its visitors will live with and love this new installation for years to come'. The artwork still has many blank wooden tiles and Surrey Hills Arts welcome new words and phrases inspired by the location, the view or even the artwork to inscribe on the remaining tiles. Phrases should be no longer than 25 words and emailed to [surreyhillsarts@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreyhillsarts@surreycc.gov.uk) by mid November.



Surrey Hills Arts is a partnership between Surrey Arts, Surrey County Council and the Surrey Hills. It aims to engage and inspire people with the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its unique natural, cultural and industrial heritage through the arts. For more information on Surrey Hills Arts and the

Inspiring Views project visit [www.surreyhillsarts.org](http://www.surreyhillsarts.org) or Caroline Price at [caroline.price@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.price@surreycc.gov.uk) or tel 07979358003.

By **Caroline Price** on behalf of **Surrey Hills Arts**

### SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:

- The Albury Weekend (Produce Show, Barn Dance and Music Festival) for their promised donation from the 2017 event. (Hurtwood Friends helped out with car parking and taking money at the gates)
- Peaslake Village Fair for their donations from the 2017 Fair (Hurtwood Friends helped with car parking at Walking Bottom and Quaker's Orchard and manned our own stand at the Fair)
- Guildford Borough Council for their continued donation of £6,750 this year in recognition of the Hurtwood's value to the Borough's residents.
- The Hon Miss J Allen for her generous legacy in memory of the pleasure she derived from the Hurtwood.
- Councillor Keith Taylor (also a Trustee) for allocating money from his SCC Members' Allowance to Friends of the Hurtwood.
- And a specially big 'thank you' to all the Friends who have generously volunteered their time in 2017 to raise funds and awareness and keep FotH going so well.

## NEWS ROUND THE HURTWOOD

### NEW OWNERS AND PUBLIC ACCESS.

Great news that almost all parts of the Hurtwood which have changed hands remain open to the public, with the new landowners concluding agreements with FotH. The Hurtwood map available on our website has been updated to reflect the new ownership structure. Many thanks to landowners old and new.

### FLY TIPPING

More good news that due to public opposition, Surrey County Council won't now close local refuse sites, although opening days and hours are being severely cut back. This might reduce the feared increase in fly tipping on the Hurtwood but, as Mark reports, large scale rubbish remains a pressing problem. To deter offenders, security cameras may be installed in some Hurtwood car parks on a trial basis.

### ELECTRIC BIKES

Shere Parish Council has raised the issue of electric bikes on the Hurtwood. EAPCs (electrically assisted pedal cycles) can be legally used anywhere by people of 14 years or over on the same basis as a normal pedal bike. To be recognised as an EAPC an electric bike must have pedals capable of propelling the bike and the motor must have

a maximum power output of 240 watts and not be capable of propelling the bike at more than 15.5 mph. Anything beyond this is a motorbike requiring licensing etc and as a motor vehicle not allowed on the Hurtwood.

### PEASLAKE FAIR

An FotH stand at this year's sunny Peaslake Fair resulted in much interest and a chance to tell visitors and local newcomers what the Hurtwood is about. And, of course, to urge them to become Friends too. We need to look at how we can better present ourselves next year and which local events we can cover. All ideas welcome.

### DIARY DATES

Sunday 19 November, 2017 at 10am on Farley Heath: MABAC Running League event  
[www.mabac.org.uk](http://www.mabac.org.uk)

Thursday 14 December, 2017  
FotH Trustees' Meeting (not an open meeting but items for discussion are welcomed. Please let the Chairman know by 1st December)

Thursday 12 April 2018

FotH AGM  
Duke of Kent School

### Note from the editor

Many thanks to Jane Garrett for taking over the newsletter so brilliantly when Sheri Johnson stepped down. I've been co-opted as a Trustee and asked to take on a communications role, including editor of the newsletter. Jane has agreed to continue with the production side and I'll rely greatly on Mark and the Committee. And of course articles and photos from Friends who love and use the Hurtwood are always welcome!

I've lived on the edge of the Hurtwood on and off for over 35 years and walk, ride and drive my horse there. It's a magical place and I feel privileged to be here and to be able to help keep it going.

**Sue Darling**



**PLEASE SUPPORT  
THE FRIENDS OF  
THE HURTWOOD**



**THANK YOU**