



# 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

Spring  
2018  
No.47

## Friends Newsletter



### Chairman's Letter

#### Dear Friends

A wet and windy winter! It is an unfortunate coincidence that with the arrival of almost unprecedented wet winter conditions, forestry work has again been taking place on Holmbury Hill. We are assured by Shere Manor Estate that this is all part of a much needed long-term strategy to create a sustainable forest and that very soon fire-roads impacted by heavy forestry equipment will be cleared of mud and restored to their previous condition.

The first signs of early spring are now appearing with the emergence of the first snowdrops – very soon the first cuckoos will be heard on the Hurtwood, new bracken will emerge to be followed by the Hurts.

#### DIARY DATES

There are two special dates for your diaries **a)** the Annual Meeting of the charity will take place on Thursday 12th April – more details will be found in this newsletter and **b)** the Holmbury Bonfire Boys (who organise the annual fireworks display on the greensward opposite Holmbury Village Hall) plan to hold a summer barbecue on Saturday 30th June, more details are to be announced.

#### THANK YOU TO THE HOLMBURY BONFIRE BOYS

Whilst mentioning the HBB I should thank them for sponsoring the costs of production of this and at least one subsequent Newsletter and also earlier this year, printing of FotH campaign flyers which we will be using to promote FotH in our car parks in early summer. (See below).

#### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS...

Picking up on this last point, we are seeking volunteers to be present in car parks at weekends to place these flyers on parked cars and wherever possible to speak to visitors to encourage them to join FotH. This initiative, first carried out several years ago when it produced a good increase in membership, will kick off in early summer.

Anyone interested in joining in should contact Zoe Horton by email at [administration@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk](mailto:administration@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk) or by phone on 01483 277960.

#### AND TRUSTEES...

Finally we continue to welcome expressions of interest from committed volunteers to join the board of trustees of the charity, which has responsibility for the overall management of FotH. Directors only meet formally twice a year but it presents an opportunity to help shape the future of FotH.

Should anyone be able to devote more time, there could be opportunities to get more closely involved by taking on a specific role, for example fund-raising or organising events. Anyone interested can contact me by email at [chairman@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk](mailto:chairman@friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk) or call me on 01306730396.

**Peter Copping, FotH Chairman**

#### Friends of the Hurtwood

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## Ranger's Report



As I'm writing this it's currently minus 2 degrees outside with a wind chill of minus 15, so I think I've made the right choice to stay indoors and get on with some paperwork. Sadly we've had a very wet winter which I'm sure you will have noticed, especially if you visit Holmbury Hill and experienced the mud, and it was just bad timing that meant the forestry operations took place during two of the wettest months. I recall the rain started literally on the day they arrived!

### FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

Modern large forestry machinery, though excellent at getting the job done in the most productive way, does come with a few consequences, namely damage to the ground and mud! It's fair to say the machines have made a bit of a mess this year, simply due to the amount of rain. As I'm sure you know FotH are not responsible for any of the forestry operations, however we do liaise closely with the landowners to try and limit damage where possible. On Holmbury Hill, which is owned by the Shere Manor Estate, they will be repairing the damage to the tracks once all the operations have finished later this spring.

### TRACK CLEARANCE

Also on Holmbury Hill, we've had Martin Nicholson in with the larger excavator to help remove some of the naturally occurring mud on the paths on the southern side of the hill, mostly between car park No.1 and the summit. We also got him to re-grade a few of the larger tracks that had become damaged due to water erosion over the years. Whilst he was there we took the opportunity to completely resurface the main path that leads from the YHA car park towards the bottom ponds. This turned out to be



a very economical job, due to some bargain price chalk from Gatwick, which just happens to make a great porous base for path work. This is the same chalk we used at the Roman Temple car park on Farley Heath to fill in the large holes that seem to endlessly appear at the two entrances.



Over on Pitch Hill Martin has done a great job of clearing away the muddy areas around the new gate we put in at the far end of Walking Bottom car park too. If you've visited there recently you may have noticed the new piece of oak I've put on the stone plinth at the back grassy area just beyond that gate. It had been one of those jobs I'd been meaning to do

for ages, and as I had to make an order for some wood products from Norbury Park Sawmill, it seemed the ideal opportunity to get a suitable piece of wood. That and a prompt from our long term Friend Trasna Palmer. It used to have a wooden seat on it many years ago, but I don't recall it being there for at least the last ten or so years, nice to have it back again.

### FLY TIPPING UPDATE



The new fly tip warning notices have gone up in the most troublesome car parks and on each end of Winterfold Heath Road, but it's probably too early to tell if it will make much difference. Unfortunately so far it's clear some fly tippers are not concerned about the warnings, as we have recently had our largest single incident of fly tipping, in No.4 car park at the top of Horse Block Hollow.



It actually took two days to clear it all up to a state that the car park could be used again. It was the usual large pile of building materials, but this time, making the job a lot more unpleasant, it included about 50 half-used and opened 5lt tins of paint. As you can imagine there was paint everywhere, and I ended up shovelling it up in the car park by hand in order to get the paint cleared away so visitors wouldn't find themselves with paint on their boots. Our trailer is now sporting a new multi coloured paint job as a result.



### HOLMBURY HILL VIEWPOINT

Work is now almost finished on restoring the view from the top of Holmbury Hill. Whilst we regularly cut back the birch regrowth every three or four years, it's been some time since we've cut any of the trees lower down the hill. They had grown so tall they were starting to obscure the view. If you get a chance to go and have a look, I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at how good the view now is.

### MYSTERY AT FARLEY HEATH

Oh and before I go, just last week one of the stranger things to get dumped on the Hurtwood, this

time on Farley Heath, was an ATM machine, complete with its concrete base, safe and "Police Caution" tape....Hey ho, all in a day's work! Apparently, though, this was not the one ripped from Gomshall Garage

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.

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## LET'S BAG IT AND BIN IT!

Calling all Hurtwood Walkers! Let's bag it and bin it, even if it's not ours, as not only fly tipping, but litter too is a perennial problem along the trails, especially when the weather improves.



Sweet wrappers, crisp packets, plastic bottles etc are all a problem.

It would make a huge difference if everyone could take a bag with them when they're walking on the Hurtwood, to collect small items of litter.

This would have a fourfold benefit!

- Keeping the Hurtwood clear
- Protecting wildlife,
- Discouraging others from adding to the pile
- Plus - bending down exercises even more muscles...Who needs a gym?

## DIARY DATES FOR 2018



**THURSDAY**  
**12 APRIL**  
**7.00pm for**  
**7.30pm**

The Big One! **FRIENDS OF THE HURTWOOD ANNUAL MEETING** at the Duke of Kent School, Peaslake Road, Ewhurst, GU6 7NS. Followed by walker and biker groups, all welcome. (Please see also the Chairman's separate letter and Annual Meeting papers). Pre-meeting drinks will kindly be provided by Handa Bray



**SATURDAY**  
**30 JUNE**

**HOLMBURY BONFIRE BOYS' SUMMER BBQ**  
Details to follow.



**SATURDAY**  
**21 JULY**

**ALBURY PRODUCE SHOW** on Albury Heath  
Our volunteers help staff the entry gates and show tent and Foth receives a generous donation from the show



**SUNDAY**  
**22 JULY**

**ALBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL** on Albury Heath  
This is a great day out but not recommended for horse riders with nervous mounts.

**MABAC SURREY SLOG HALF MARATHON**

The race starts from the Duke of Kent School and the route covers Holmbury and Pitch Hills



**MONDAY**  
**27 AUGUST**

**PEASLAKE FAIR**

This is another generous donor to Foth. We provide volunteers to help with parking and the fair lets us have a stall to promote the Hurtwood – again volunteers are needed for an hour or two. It is great fun and you never know who you might meet!



**SATURDAY**  
**3 NOVEMBER**  
**tbc**

**HOLMBURY BONFIRE** The Bonfire Boys, who assure us they include girls too, mark another bonfire night with a firework spectacular. (Date to be confirmed)



## OLYMPIC MEDALLIST LAUNCHES HACKING TRAILS IN THE SURREY HILLS

Three time Olympic medallist and Surrey Hills resident Pippa Funnell MBE took to the saddle recently to help promote horse riding in the Surrey Hills with the launch of a series of new hacking trails linking up local lanes and bridleways. Some of these trails cross the Hurtwood, including Farley Heath and Pitch and Holmbury Hills.

Based just outside Dorking, Pippa is keen to raise the profile of horse riding in the area. "We are so lucky to live and work in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a wonderful asset and so close to London. The hills are perfect for keeping our horses fit and the variety of terrain keeps them mentally alert, which is important on the eventing circuit. I feel proud to live in such a beautiful part of the country".



The Surrey Hills Board established an equestrian working group two years ago, and members work hard not only to promote horse riding opportunities in the Surrey Hills but also to educate other users on the importance of caring for and sharing the landscape.

Vice Chairman of the Surrey Hills Board, Councillor David Mir comments; "The Surrey Hills offers a truly spectacular venue to horse ride. With extensive rights of way, open commons, sunken lanes, easy access, attractive market towns and villages and outstanding scenery, it is a must destination for any rider. We work proactively with the mountain bike community to ensure a safe environment both for cyclists and equestrians".

For details of the hacking trails and more information on horse riding opportunities in the Surrey Hills please see <http://www.surreyhills.org/route/horse-riding/>.