

The Friends of the Hurtwood are looking for a new Chair

Feb 1st 2021

The incumbent is moving out of the area, so a new Chair is sought for the charity the Friends of the Hurtwood (FotH). The main task of the FotH is to preserve and manage public access and protect and improve the environment of the area known as the Hurtwood - over 2000 acres of heath and woodland in the Surrey Hills to the south of the Tillingbourne Valley between Wotton and Albury, with panoramic views, hill forts and scheduled monuments.

The Hurtwood is privately owned common land with public access granted by the landowners. It is crossed by 60 miles of registered footpaths, bridleways and unofficial tracks plus 14 car parks, popular with walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers.

The Trust's £90,000 annual budget is funded by member subscriptions, local Councils, legacies, increasing public donations and the landowners themselves. It is governed by a Board of Directors who are local volunteers and landowners. They meet twice a year and organise an AGM. The Chair also leads the Management Committee, which meets every two months to oversee operations and advise the Board, including the management of the impact of the increasing and often conflicted public use. Day to day maintenance is done by an efficient and resourceful full time Ranger equipped with appropriate machinery who uses specialist sub-contractors as necessary. A twice-yearly newsletter is produced for supporters.

Qualities/skills sought.

- local knowledge
- a demonstrated commitment to the charity's objectives
- energy and enthusiasm
- time, including meetings and activity in and out of office hours
- the ability to work constructively with the FoTH team and its supporters
- a strategic thinker able to inspire and manage change
- the ability to communicate effectively, including across generations
- some familiarity with social media
- an understanding of company and charity governance and finance

If you are interested in this very worthwhile charitable venture and want to know more, you can get in touch with either David Wright on 01483 222464 or Richard Green on 01483 273632 or Sue Darling on 01483 203420 for a chat without commitment.