

## Chairman's Letter

### Dear Friends

#### Chairman's Letter

Over recent months a small team of volunteers led by Alex MacKinnon has been beavering away to agree the design and write new content for our new website. Hopefully by now many of you will have visited the new site. We hope you feel the new look is appropriate and, especially, an improvement over the old site for mobile and tablet users. The website has been developed by Alastair Dodwell of Taybridge Consulting. Alastair and his team are quite well known locally, having developed several websites for other local organisations. My thanks to Mark Beaumont, Sue Darling and Nancy Loates-Taylor for their contributions to this exercise.

With this development we have taken the opportunity to register an abbreviated domain name foth.co.uk. The old location friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk will still work but now you can find the website by using foth.co.uk. Importantly for anyone emailing us regularly, our email addresses will now respond if you use the suffix @foth.co.uk instead of @friendsofthehurtwood.co.uk. To ensure you receive emails from us now, rather than them ending up in your Spam Folder, please add memberships@foth.co.uk to your email address book.

We have been working up a plan designed to encourage more local organisations and businesses to support Foth. In return we will give each business appropriate recognition on our website and in our annual report. If you are the owner of a business and would like to consider taking part in this initiative please email sponsors@foth.co.uk and we will be in touch.

Mark Beaumont has been very busy during the winter months, not just clearing up after the many storms but also continuing with the clearance, started last year, of the Holmbury Hill Fort. Mark says more about this and other things he has been up to in his report.

I would like to remind you about our Annual Meeting, which will be on 9th April at the Duke of Kent School, Ewhurst Road, Peaslake. Because we are restricted to use of the school during school holidays I apologise again for having to schedule the meeting just before Easter. On a more positive note, a similar date for the meeting last year didn't stop around 50 Foth members attending! Further details of the meeting will be made available separately.

Finally, I would like to extend our grateful thanks to Robin Gates who, although retiring from the Committee many years ago, has continued to clamber to the tops of Pitch Hill and Holmbury Hill to collect donations deposited in our two collection cairns. So for the second time in the last decade – Happy Retirement Robin!

**Peter Copping, Foth Chairman**

### Friends of the Hurtwood

Administrators to the public rights of access to 2,500 acres of land in the parishes of Albury, Cranleigh, Ewhurst and Shere

Registered Charity 2000053

#### Foth

The Parish Office  
St Mark's Churchyard  
Peaslake GU5 9RR

01306 730100 (office answerphone)  
07920 705070 (Ranger mobile)

[www.foth.co.uk](http://www.foth.co.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofthehurtwood>

#### Contacts:

Mark@foth.co.uk  
chairman@foth.co.uk  
administration@foth.co.uk  
communications@foth.co.uk



### Season of Storms

Since our last newsletter we've been seeing some very windy weather, not only last autumn but very recently too. Quite a few trees have come down blocking paths and falling in car parks but I work my way round clearing the trees in order of how big a disturbance they pose. On Holmbury Hill we had a large 70 year-old sweet chestnut come down right across the fire road completely blocking it, during the night of Storm Ciara. It's always a shame to see older trees down, but I'm hoping we can do something positive with the larger pieces of wood. As I write this, I've just come back from clearing birch trees down on Winterfold from Storm Dennis. Let's hope that's the last storm for a while.



### Our Maps

Many people have commented throughout the year about the lovely maps we have on the notice boards, so I'm very pleased to say that signed print copies are available from Peaslake Village Stores, as well as postcards.



### The new Tractor

The tractor continues to earn its keep and the new improved lighting has been a big help in the winter months, enabling me to carry on working without the rush to finish before it gets dark.



### Dogs need to be under control

We've had some recent incidents of deer being attacked by dogs in the area around Mackies Hill in Peaslake. Whilst your dog does not have to be on a lead whilst walking in the Hurtwood, it does have to be under control. This means keeping it within your sight and being able to recall it if it should chase anything. Please could all dog walkers bear this in mind.

### Holmbury Hill Fort

Work continues on the clearance of trees and shrubs from the Iron Age Hill Fort on Holmbury Hill, and you can now start to see the ditch and banks on the North Eastern edge again. Unfortunately, this part of the clearance work is slow and very labour intensive because everything has to be cut and cleared by hand as the whole site is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This imposes various restrictions on what we can do, such as not using the tractor on the ditches and banks as the surface is so fragile.



All the work we do in this area has been approved by Historic England.

Whilst clearance work continues, I'll be mowing the main areas within the banks using the tractor and flail mower to keep down the bracken re-growth. We will have to do some spraying of the rhododendron to prevent that from taking over again.

My aim over the next few years is to have all the ditches and banks cleared, including the ones visible on the southern slopes that previously hadn't been cleared. The Fort is one of the most important historical sites in Surrey and we really should be showing it off. Many school parties already visit the site but it has much more potential if it could be seen more clearly.



### ***Because the Night***

We had a film crew on Winterfold for two weeks at the end of November which hopefully didn't cause too much disruption for our visitors. There were a few delays on the Winterfold road whilst they were shooting scenes, but these were mostly at night. As I'm involved in coordinating film crews for the landowners, it does take up some of my time, but this is covered by the film companies, and does add to our income. The filming on Winterfold was for a new ITV drama which will be shown later this year called "Because the Night", so keep an eye out for it.

As always please do let me know if you see anything you think deserves my attention, no matter what, it all helps.



And inevitably this includes fly-tipping. Here is the latest load of builders' rubbish.



Please note my new email address (mark@foth.co.uk), though the old one will still work too.

**Mark Beaumont**  
**Mob: 07920 705070**  
**Office: 01306 730100**  
**Mark@foth.co.uk**

### **WHY NOT MAKE A FRIEND A FRIEND!**

Visit our website: <https://foth.co.uk/friends>

And become a Friend through a regular annual or monthly donation by direct debit. A direct debit ensures that our administration costs are minimised and if the donor qualifies for Gift Aid, this adds an extra 25% to the donation.

## DIARY DATES FOR 2019-2020



**THURSDAY**  
**9th APRIL**  
**7 for 7.30pm**

### FRIENDS OF THE HURTWOOD ANNUAL MEETING

Duke of Kent School, Peaslake Road, Ewhurst  
All Friends welcome



**SUNDAY**  
**10th MAY**  
**2.30pm**

### HORSEMAN'S SUNDAY

St Martha's  
(See article for details)



**SATURDAY**  
**18th JULY**  
**2-5pm**

### \* ALBURY PRODUCE SHOW

Albury Heath Sports Ground  
Produce show, stands and food stalls, games - a great day out



**SUNDAY**  
**19th JULY**  
**2-8pm**

### ALBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Albury Heath Sports Ground



**SUNDAY**  
**26th JULY**  
**From 9am**

### MABAC running event

Surrey Slog half marathon including Holmbury Hill



**MONDAY**  
**31st AUGUST**  
**1-4.30pm**

### \* PEASLAKE FAIR

Peaslake Village.  
Stalls, food, competitions, entertainment. Road closures



**SATURDAY**  
**7th NOVEMBER**

### \* HOLMBURY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

Details will be in the Autumn Newsletter and the Foth facebook page

\* The organisers of these events give generous donations to Foth.  
Please support them.

### Willing helpers make us all winners!

Albury Produce Show and Peaslake Fair are two outstanding local events. They are also generous supporters of Friends of the Hurtwood, whose donations help us to keep the Hurtwood such a great place to enjoy.



But they can only help Friends if we help them. The help they give Friends is money; the help they need from us is time on the day to make the event run smoothly.

Can you spare two hours on Saturday 18th July at Albury Heath and/or Monday 31 August at Peaslake?

Jobs are tailored to volunteers, whatever your levels of strength and mobility.

For the Albury Produce Show, please contact [georginafield@icloud.com](mailto:georginafield@icloud.com).

For the Peaslake Fair it's [administration@foth.co.uk](mailto:administration@foth.co.uk), or leave a message at the Friends office on 01306 730100. And it's important to say you're volunteering on behalf of Friends of the Hurtwood. Whatever you can do will be much appreciated.

### Stationery essentials

Hurtwood postcards and prints are available to purchase at Peaslake Stores. Perfect for thank you notes and helping to raise the profile of this beautiful area.

## Inspiration and legacy on Winterfold

Walkers on Winterfold may have come across the sculpture known as **Perspectives**, a stunning pod-like shelter nestling in the woods overlooking Cranleigh which offers a place to sit and enjoy the views across the Weald to the South Downs.

Created by artist Giles Miller, **Perspectives** was inspired by personal and commemorative messages often left for loved ones in areas of natural beauty. It's made up of over 400 wooden tiles,



many of which have inspirational words inscribed, such as "And into the wood I go, to lose my mind and find my soul" and 'I sit and stare in wonderment, my heart and mind and soul content'.

### Your chance to add an inspirational message

About 200 tiles have nothing engraved on them yet, and for a suggested donation of £50 you can have your own message on permanent display in this lovely spot. Donations go to the Surrey Hills Trust Fund which helps to support a wide range of local projects from landscape conservation to community schemes. Visit [www.surreyhillstrustfund.org](http://www.surreyhillstrustfund.org) to find out more.

Ali Clarke, Inspiring Views Programme Manager for Surrey Hills Arts, said: 'We are looking for inspiring quotes that encapsulate the thoughts and feelings of people's experience in areas of beauty and nature .... Quotes can also

be dedicated to loved ones, which would make a unique and lasting gift."

The deadline for ordering your engraved wooden tile is Monday 30 March and the finished tiles will be installed on the shelter at the beginning of April. For further information and to purchase your engraved wooden tile, please visit; <https://www.surreyhills.org/your-words-engraved-on-sculpture>. Just fill in the online form and follow the link to make your donation.



**Perspectives** is part of the Inspiring Views programme which has seen six artists commissioned to produce unique and practical artworks in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Each of the pieces responds to the location and provides a reason to visit, pause and appreciate the area. To find out more about the Inspiring Views project visit [www.inspiringviews.org](http://www.inspiringviews.org) or pick up a booklet from your local library or arts venue.

## Membership – we want to increase it!

Here are three suggestions for YOU to help us raise more funds from those folk who enjoy and use the Hurtwood.

**1-** If you have a neighbour, friend, relative or colleague who uses the Hurtwood and isn't yet a Friend, please ask them to join. It is so easy to do on our new website – [www.foth.co.uk](http://www.foth.co.uk). Our monthly income from Friends helps fund our work in the Hurtwood. Every £ helps!

**2-** Help out at our regular Car Park Blitzes. Teams of two to five Friends engage with people parked at the most popular spots and ask them to donate online or right then. We provide instructions, high viz jackets and leaflets. You will have interesting conversations with a broad range of Hurtwood visitors as people come from all over the South East.

**3-** In 2020 our aim is to get more Business Friends. These will be businesses and organisations that directly benefit from visitors to the Hurtwood. If you know someone who has a business that profits from regular footfall and tread of tyres here, let us know at [sponsors@foth.co.uk](mailto:sponsors@foth.co.uk).

## What3words – the App that could save your life

You are somewhere on Winterfold, on a path not necessarily blessed with a right of way number that you have to hand, and you need help. A twisted ankle... you've come across a concussed mountain biker... you've fallen off your horse. Anyway, you are stuck there somewhere in the woods but - thank goodness - you have a signal on your mobile phone.

AND you have the best app on the market! **What3words** is a simple and accurate way to identify location. It has the world divided into a grid of 3m x 3m squares, with each one assigned a unique 3 word code. It's free to individuals and could be a life saver, so check it out in your App Store.

It pinpoints your location wherever you are and gives you the 3 word ID which you can then pass to the emergency services. They all use it now. They can see where you are to within a single 3m square and get help straight to you. After the recent storms a Friend of the Hurtwood was able to tell the Ranger the exact location of a large tree down across a major footpath so he could swiftly deal with it. Do let us know how it works for you.



## Horseman's Sunday on May 10

For the third year running, horses, riders and spectators will celebrate Horseman's Sunday at St Martha's Church at the top of St Martha's Hill, continuing a tradition that was hugely popular in the 1960s.

Rev Stephanie Sokolowski will conduct the special equestrian service at 2.30pm from the churchyard outside St Martha's, when all horses are blessed and receive a commemorative rosette.

The event is free, but riders are asked to register at <https://www.surreyhill.org/events/horseman-sunday-2020/> and a collection will be taken for St Martha's Church. Walkers and dogs on leads are very welcome.

## Social media – getting the word out

Back in May 2019 we launched onto Instagram to help showcase the work that Friends of the Hurtwood do in and around the Hurtwood. The response has been tremendous, with hundreds of people following our activities and thousands interacting with our posts. There has also been great support from a range of local businesses and organisations.

This has been really good to see and we look forward to posting more material and getting more responses. If you haven't seen us out there already, please have a look for #friendsofthehurtwood.

We've also been sending more updates to Facebook and Twitter, so you can see what we're doing there too.



## FRIENDS OF THE HURTWOOD

- Provide a full time Ranger, **Mark Beaumont**
- Manage 30 miles of registered footpaths and bridleways, 30 miles of unofficial tracks, a network of firebreaks and 14 car parks, to provide unrivalled public access across the Hurtwood.
- Protect and conserve the natural environment.
- Create and preserve wildlife habitats.
- Maintain the panoramic views from the tops of the Hurtwood hills.
- Clear and prevent litter and fly tipping.
- Protect three scheduled monuments including Holmbury Hill Iron Age Hill Fort.
- Promote educational activities to encourage children to treasure the countryside.



**Please  
support  
FotH**

**Thank  
you!**

