

There is not a lot to report in the last 12 months and essentially no news is good news.

Our open space has continued to provide a green haven for wildlife and a place of peace and tranquillity for all to enjoy. The wood chip paths have remained in good repair, the meadow has been less muddy than usual and there has been an abundance of fungi and wild flowers.

Several improvements have been made to the entrances of the CREOS site this year. At last the railings along the Greenway route from Wood Vale to Park Road have been painted and had their dangerous spikes removed, thanks to a small grant obtained from Haringey. These black railings now match the two big bollards that lead towards the Hanley tennis club. At the allotments access road coming down from Wood Vale the spikes have also been removed from the railings and here, with the help of the Conservation Volunteers, a new hedge of hazel and wild rose saplings has been planted to complement the existing bushes of elder and hawthorn. The idea is that this will provide a haven for wildlife and also eventually conceal the railings.

It is at this location that, after several years in the planning, there will soon be a welcome sign that finally puts the CREOS woodland walks on the map. Work on these signs has already begun and any comments from our members before the final designs go to the manufacturers would be very welcome. The main entrance sign will have a map of the entire Crouch End Open Space the same map that will feature on the new signs being produced by the Shepherd's Cot Trust. It will also have a notice board where events can be advertised. In addition to the main entrance sign, there are plans for information about our woodland walks to be put on the reverse side of three smaller signs which will be erected by the Shepherd's Cot Trust at the boundaries of the cot.

Questions have been asked about the words "private land" appearing on temporary notices put up by the cot. The public should be reassured that this is not a change of use: the tennis and cricket on this site has always been for club members only and there is no attempt to restrict access to walkers other than on the playing fields themselves. There is no restriction on access to the upper field, the school playing field. The new SCT signs are being designed to deter vehicle access and those whose behaviour is a threat to the environment and our safety in it. SCT and CREOS have been working closely together with the police and the Neighbourhood Watch to combat anti-social and criminal behaviour in the area. Since the installation of the gate on the lane leading to the Hanley car park there has been no fly-tipping there and the car park has been much cleaner and safer. The closure of this gate has been a great success. There has however been a knock-on effect of more drug dealing and other unwanted activity in the North London Cricket Club car park and in the area around the bungalow next to the Greenway. There was also a huge dump of builder's waste on the access lane to the school field at the bottom of Montenotte road. Thanks to the SCT, progress is being made to deter these unwanted visits and a new vehicle gate has now also been installed at the bottom of Montenotte Road which is now closed at nights. There is also discussion of closing the Park Road gate at nights in the near future too. SCT is very grateful to members of CREOS for clearing up litter around the car parks on our April workday and our "Big Tidy Up" day in March. This was a successful enterprise that will hopefully become a permanent feature on the CREOS calendar. Our recently set-up neighbourhood watch has also been busy reporting anti-social behaviour, fly tipping and other crimes.

The social side of CREOS activities has continued in time-honoured tradition. We had a wonderful Christmas party, hosted this year by Paul and Deborah Perlin, with delicious food and plentiful drinks. Next up is our now annual Summer Event, which this year takes place on the meadow on Sunday 9th July. I hope to see all of you there for family fun, BBQ, picnics and some more great music from "All shook up".