



News

April 2013

CREOS is a voluntary organisation with many local members. It was formed over 25 years ago to protect and improve the open space and playing fields bordered by Park Road, Wood Vale, Cranley Gardens and Shepherds Hill. Most of our members live on roads bordering the site.

CREOS AGM

Tuesday 7 May 2013 at 8pm

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held at Christ Church Hall, which is at the junction of Crouch End Hill and Crescent Road, N8 [entrance in Crescent Road].

Please put the date in your diary.

This year's Guest Speaker will be Edward Milner, who will address the AGM on "Native Trees and Climate Change". Please see below for full details. Refreshments will be provided by CREOS – before and after the AGM – and the Committee look forward to welcoming you.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited for the posts of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and other Members of the Committee. Our long-serving Chairman, Mel Cairns, has stated that he wishes to resign at the AGM and will not be standing for re-election. All the other Committee Officers and Members are offering themselves for re-election.

CREOS always welcomes new, enthusiastic

Committee Members interested in preserving and enhancing the local open spaces. So, do please stand for election and encourage other CREOS members to do so. All nominations must be in writing, 'signed' by a proposer and seconder and must be received by the Secretary, Paul Secher, 80 Wood Vale, N10 3DN; email: paul.secher@jsbonline.com no later than 5 May 2013.

Ed Milner's address to CREOS AGM "Native Trees and Climate Change"

We are delighted this year to welcome J. Edward Milner as our AGM Guest Speaker. Ed Milner is a professional ecologist with over 40 years' experience, writing and making films about the natural world and environmental issues. At the BBC, he produced films for the Natural History Unit and BBC Open University, including programmes for the first OU Ecology Course. He has also made films for ITV and Channel 4, as an independent producer, including 'Spirit of Trees', which has been shown in many countries and is available on DVD.



Edward Milner

Ed Milner is a Patron of The Tree Trust for Haringey, a member of the Environmental Research Group at the University of East London, and is also 'Spider Recorder for London'. His latest book is: 'Trees of Britain and Ireland', published by the Natural History Museum. Ed Milner has been a member of CREOS since its earliest days. The title of his address to the AGM is: "Native Trees and Climate Change".

We hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend this year's AGM, to hear what will surely be a fascinating and highly topical presentation by Ed Milner.



Pipistrelle Bat



Long Eared Bat

Bat Survey

CREOS is about to commission a bat survey which should be useful in our fight against the tennis dome and The Pavilion's extension plans. CREOS will be instructing Arbtech Consulting Ltd.

On their website, they refer to the five rules of bat surveys which are:

1. Bats and their roosts are protected by the full weight of UK and European law.
2. Your local planning authority doesn't have any say in the matter (and neither do we.) Planning authorities will not leave matters such as bat surveys or mitigation to planning conditions.
3. Ask to see proof of your surveyor's ecological qualifications, training and most importantly, a roost visitor's licence for bats issued by a Statutory Nature

Conservation Organisation, in our case Natural England. Professional Indemnity insurance of £1m wouldn't be a bad thing, either.

4. Scoping bat surveys (stage 1) can be done any time of the year. Only in the case that we can exclude the presence of bats, evidence of their activity and access to features suitable for roosting, does this complete the survey effort. If evidence of the presence of bats is found, Emergence surveys (stage 2) can be undertaken when climatic conditions are conducive to bat activity; normally this means May through to September.

5. A planning application should be supported by a Scoping survey report and/or Emergence survey report to help gain planning consent or to support opposition to a planning application. Arbtech said that although the survey is unlikely to prevent planning consent being issued, it may make the development more expensive and less economic, or, hopefully, not possible at all.

Steve Hooper

ASH DIEBACK UPDATE

I've been doing some research and, according to the BBC and the Forestry Commission, there are no confirmed incidences of Ash Dieback disease in London. However, there are a number of less reliable reports circulating in the press. I did hear a rumour that it had been discovered on Hampstead Heath. I rang them and, although I didn't manage to speak to the person who would definitely know, they had no knowledge of a confirmed outbreak. There is nothing mentioned on their website although the City of London, who manage Hampstead Heath, did host a pest and disease conference on the 24th January 2013. Henley, St Albans and Leatherhead are the closest confirmed sightings.

The University of East Anglia has set up the AshTag app and is encouraging people to send photos and samples to them which are then analysed by their experts.

The government is apparently offering grants to landowners to replace recently planted ash saplings with other species in an attempt to stop the disease spreading further west.

CREOS proposes, in May and June when the leaves are out, to take photos and to collect samples from the many ash trees and shoots around the playing fields area and send them off to get them analysed.

Steve Hooper



Glenys Law and Emma Prinsley at the Hornsey Sunday Farmer's market distributing CREOS letters regarding the Holly Park Dome planning application.

CROUCH END OPEN SPACE ...

AROUND THE FIELDS...

“Plans by Holly Park / Georgians Tennis Club to erect a three-storey high inflatable ‘dome’ over three of their courts has shocked and dismayed many CREOS members.”

Plans by Holly Park /Georgians Tennis Club to erect a three-storey high inflatable ‘dome’ over three of their courts has shocked and dismayed CREOS members. We commissioned illustrations of the scheme, superimposed on photos of the courts and views beyond and around them, to give an impression of the visual impact of such an enormous structure (see comment entry no. 346 on the Haringey Planning website). The consultation on the planning application has attracted an unprecedented number of responses for, and against, the scheme, including of course our own long detailed letter of objection (See comment entry no. 337 on the Haringey planning website).

The CREOS Committee took the view that such a structure would be wholly out of place and out of character in an open area designated as ‘Metropolitan Open Land’. A very similar application in 2001 was unceremoniously rejected by Haringey because of the clear clash with MOL principles and Haringey’s planning policies and hopefully it will take the same view now. The club appears to have drawn a veil over the special planning and environmental protections that exist for this site and pro submissions have focused almost exclusively on the benefits of year-round tennis for its members. Thankfully many tennis players actually share our view that such a structure would massively detract from the character and environmental value of the fields, and have also sent in objections. The various submissions can be viewed on Haringey’s website (application number HGY/2013/0039). At the time of writing, the Council has yet to announce the date when this will be going to Committee but CREOS will certainly be attending to strongly argue the case for rejecting the scheme.

Where is Spring?

On a rare sunny Sunday recently I took a walk around the fields. There was a strong sense of nature waiting for the starting gun, blossom trees covered in unopened buds, leaves ready to unfurl, daffodils waiting to show. The prolonged wet weather has also caused considerable damage to pathways. Cancelled workdays have meant we were

unable to replenish woodchip paths which in places now resemble muddy ploughed fields and are impassable in parts. Walkers have created new ways around those sections, inadvertently flattening other plants and saplings. Litter has also built up, some trees have fallen and our fly tippers have again dumped their building scrap in two car park areas! We have a lot to do in coming months....

On the positive side, Shepherd’s Cot Trust have improved the drainage and surfacing to the access path from the pedestrian entrance off the Wood Vale/Park Road footpath. It is also clear that a good number of the trees we planted in recent years have survived and await their chance to add to our landscape.

Mel Cairns. CREOS Chairman



Well maintained paths before and after the rains of 2012-13 - now a muddy quagmire.

FINANCIAL REPORT SPRING 2013

CREOS continues to maintain a strong membership base in Muswell Hill, Crouch End and surrounding areas. The accounts for the year to March 2012 were bolstered by two years of Gift Aid recoveries, £757. Members' subscriptions and donations totalled £1,584, up 18 per cent from 2011. Owing to topsyturvy weather conditions we were unable to progress the work on the paths and this

has been deferred until 2013. If we had been able to do more work, the surplus of £982 would have been lower. Cash resources remain healthy with £9,900 in the bank as at March 2012. Part of this balance has been earmarked for maintenance and development work this year.

Julian Sherwood, Hon. Treasurer

Steve's Stuffed Mushrooms

INGREDIENTS

6 - 10 large dark gilled mushrooms
75g butter
1 packet of stuffing mix (whichever mix you like - about 170g)
300ml milk
1 egg, whisked
1/2 lemon, juiced
2 tomatoes, sliced
115g Red Leicester cheese, grated

PREPARATION METHOD

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees or gas mark 6.
Melt about three quarters of the butter. Use the remaining butter to grease medium sized roasting tray.
Remove the mushroom stalks. Chop the stalks quite finely and place in a mixing bowl.
Put the mushrooms upside down in the roasting tray and brush the gills with the melted butter.
Add the stuffing mix, egg and lemon juice to the chopped mushroom stalks and mix.

Heat the milk. When it comes to the boil pour into the stuffing mix and combine.

Spread the stuffing mix on top of the mushrooms and press down with a fork. Slice the tomatoes and place on top. Cover with grated Red Leicester

Place in the oven for half an hour to forty minutes.

Steve Hooper



Seen in the meadow last year - Peacock butterfly

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