

**CREOS CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY!**

**It is now 30 years** since Tim and Sheila Denby-Wood, Peter Barber, and Hilda Johnson gathered together the residents of Crouch End in a valiant effort to save the Crouch End Playing Fields from development. In 1984, after canvassing local households, they held a meeting in the secondary school which previously stood at the bottom of Wolseley Road. Residents turned out in large numbers in response to the three-pronged threat to the Open Space. Builders wanted to develop it for housing, the council wanted it for the new secondary school and another developer wanted to buy up all the sports clubs to create what could have been an inner city theme park! Against opposition like this it is amazing that our predecessors succeeded in their mission and that the open space remains for us all to enjoy today. Many battles have been fought and won during the 30 years of CREOS's existence and despite all the odds the playing fields and open space remain unspoiled. With all the pressures of the modern world, people are beginning to realise that it is more important than ever to treasure this oasis of calm and beauty on our doorsteps.

To celebrate 30 years of CREOS's work and campaigning, a summer picnic was organised on the Meadow. August however brought an unusual amount of rain, so plans for the anniversary celebration had to be postponed from Bank Holiday Monday to the following Sunday. The new date proved to be a good choice and, despite the short notice, fifty or more people turned up to share a generous picnic of barbecued burgers, salads, cheeses and cakes. Children of all ages went off in search of leaves and learned to identify a few of our trees and shrubs, there was a giant game of snakes and ladders and lots of prizes. Dogs too did their tricks and won treats, kindly donated by the Broadway Pet Store. The delicious CREOS anniversary cake, cleverly crafted by Christianne Lichtenhof was the high point of the afternoon. At the end of the afternoon everyone gathered round for the drawing of the raffle prizes, all generously donated by CREOS members. A big thank you is owed to those committee members who organised, cooked, advertised and assembled things for this event, as to those who gave up their time to pack everything away afterwards. Disassembling and packing away the gazebos is not a task for the fainthearted!

Many said how much they enjoyed being part of such a worthwhile cause. Here's to CREOS surviving for another 30 years, if not more!



Fun with children and dogs



Anniversary cake



Raffle winners

## WHO LOVES STINGING NETTLES?

**Has anyone noticed** the large patch of stinging nettles next to the Hanley Car Park? They are not there because we haven't got round to strimming them yet. They are there because Alan Scott, our AGM speaker and environmental advisor, mentioned how good nettles can be for wildlife. Then wildlife presenter Chris Packham announced the same thing: that nettles are probably Britain's most unpopular plants, but one of his favourites.

Chris tells us that nettles support an amazing community of insects, from caterpillars and things that suck the juices

from the plants, to all the predators that eat them like spiders and damsel-flies.

Nettles are also an important food source for many of our favourite butterflies, not least small tortoiseshells, which are in decline.

If you can tolerate these at the back of your garden, you might make a difference to Britain's butterflies.

And if you want something back, they are edible. They can even be used to make a nutritious soup. Fold the leaves inward and you'll never get stung.

## TO ALL CREOS MEMBERS

You are cordially invited to the 2014

## CREOS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Kindly hosted by Jane Bywaters and John Groom  
at 169 Park Road N8 8JJ.

The party is on Sunday 7 December 2014 from 12:30 to 15:30.

Buffet lunch, with wine and soft drinks.

Although there will be no charge, donations towards the cost of CREOS activities will be much appreciated.

## ART IN THE PARK

Last month the Crouch End Playing Fields and nearby paths were chosen by Islington Arts Society for one of their Art in The Park excursions. Some of the works, including this delightful picture of the meadow, are on show in the Society's Autumn Exhibition in the Hornsey Library in Crouch End, on until 22nd November, Monday 15:00–19:00, Tuesday–Friday 13:00–19:00, Saturday 13:00–17:00 and Sunday 12:00–16:00.



The CREOS Meadow, watercolour by Janet Payne

## AUTUMN FINANCE 2014

The year to March 2014 has been a very good year for CREOS

- Income was a record £18,400
- Expenditure was a record £20,600.

We now have a first class path through the woods.

Members subscriptions and donations totalled £1,500.

We applied for and received £14,000 of grants from third parties for the Woodland Walk project – £9,000 from the GLA, £4,000 from The Big Lottery Fund, and £1,000 from the Haringey Council Small Grants fund.

Project fundraising and sponsorship activities totalled nearly £3,000.

**At our financial year-end in March, CREOS funds totalled £7,500.**

Julian Sherwood, Hon. Treasurer.

## AROUND THE FIELDS

**What a summer!** It has been a record year for temperatures and unsurprisingly a record year for the number of visitors to the fields. There seem to be more dog walkers and joggers this year and an increasing use of the space for young people to meet. (Sadly this also means an increase in graffiti which CREOS members have had to remove). CREOS workdays, on the third Sunday of each month, have seen a steady increase in numbers, with a dozen or so regulars attending each time.

This summer also saw two special volunteering days where large numbers of volunteers flocked to the meadow to do what they could to help. On the worldwide "Day of Hope" on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July individuals and families from a number of nearby churches came to rake off the grass cuttings and pick up litter. For some of these youngsters it was not only a chance to help, but also an opportunity to play in a field, chasing butterflies and dogs. A rather different band of volunteers came on 18<sup>th</sup> July: we were fortunate to have 18 young employees from the Bank of America attending a corporate workday. Luckily it was a sunny day which helped them to stay in good spirits as they worked hard to clear a little glade with natural log seating near the Woodland Walk, laid new paths into the meadow and filled in the dips in the allotments access road. It was an enjoyable day and



Laying the new paths

the volunteers were pleased with what they had achieved. Corporate workdays like these are a great way of getting a lot done in one day and also bring with them a welcome amount of funding, so hopefully this might become a regular event. Most people are unaware that although the Meadow and wooded areas of the Crouch



Enjoying the woodland glade


End Open Space belong to the Borough of Haringey, they fall under the management of the borough's Educational Premises Department, as Highgate Wood School is the official tenant of the land. The school has little time or money to spend on the open space, so, after a brief meeting at the beginning of the school holidays, it was agreed that an annual donation would be made to CREOS funds in return for the maintenance undertaken by CREOS employees and volunteers. In addition the school agreed to pay for the installation of much needed dog waste bins. Six new dog waste bins have duly been provided in the area and the public are now eagerly using them. The only downside of this is that provision has not yet been made for the emptying of these bins! Whether it will be done by school employees, Veolia, or volunteers remains to be seen, but if emptying dog waste bins is the job of your dreams, do let us know... **Stop press:** Veolia have now offered to do this job as a gesture of good will.

An ongoing problem of the Open Space being so open is that there is little or no control over who uses it and 

## HELP GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP

**We always need a larger core** of active members to support our continuing efforts to maintain the character of our local area. So when you've read this edition do pass it on to anyone you think may be interested in joining us to help preserve our 'rural' areas as a nature haven for wildlife and walkers.

**Please return this completed form with your subscription to our Treasurer Julian Sherwood at: 23 Berkeley Road, N8 8RU.**

If you pay UK income tax, we can claim Gift Aid. This is 25% of your subscription. When you send your membership form we will ask you to complete a Gift Aid form. 

I wish to join CREOS  I wish to renew my membership

I enclose payment for: Family membership £12  Individual membership £9  Unwaged or Senior Citizen £3

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

what for. Fly tipping has always been a problem, as has joyriding on motorbikes and noisy night-time partying. As a result of complaints from nearby residents and the depressing amount of litter in the Hanley Tennis Club car park, CREOS committee members and representatives of the Shepherds Cot Trust got together this summer to instigate a trial night-time closure of the Park Road gates. For six weeks, beginning on August 18th, a private security firm was employed by SCT to clear unauthorized vehicles from the site and lock the gates at 11 pm. A rota of CREOS volunteers then opened the gates again at 7am each morning. During the course of the six weeks, car and van drivers, looking for a quiet place to park at nights, gradually began

to get the idea that they had to leave. As a result residents of Wood Vale had 6 weeks of peaceful sleep at nights and there was no further fly tipping. Needless to say, as soon as the trial was over, the partying started again. It has however been a useful exercise and HWS, SCT and CREOS are now looking at whether the scheme can be continued in some form or another. If you have experienced disturbance from night-time activities on the Open Space do get in touch as this could help in the planning of what to do next.

Finally I hope you like the new design of our Newsletter. I would like to thank Alice Shaell, a new CREOS member, who has given up her time to allow CREOS to benefit from her professional design services. **Glenys Law, Chair.**

## Recipe card... AUTUMN APPLE CAKE

It's been a good summer for fruit this autumn. Apples have hung heavily off the trees and this National Trust recipe has been a wonderfully useful way of using up some of the surplus cooking apples from our allotment in Shepherds Hill. It's moist and gooey and very shareable.

### Ingredients

225g butter softened  
450g Bramley apples  
Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lemon  
225g caster sugar  
3 large eggs  
225g self-raising flour  
2 teasp. baking powder  
25g ground almonds  
1 tbsp demerara sugar

### Method

Pre-heat oven to 180C/fan160C/gas mark 4. Grease and line 23-24cm loose-bottom cake tin. Cream together the

butter, caster sugar and lemon zest until pale and fluffy. Peel, core and cut apples into 1cm pieces and toss with the lemon juice. Beat in the eggs one at a time, adding a little flour each time. Sift the remaining flour and baking powder into the bowl and fold in with the ground almonds. Drain the apple pieces well and stir into the mixture. Spoon into the prepared cake tin, lightly level the top and sprinkle with the demerara sugar. Bake in the oven for about 1 hour, until well-risen, brown and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin 10 minutes before removing. Dredge with caster sugar and serve. Double or clotted cream an optional extra.

## CREOS COMMITTEE

### Chair:

#### Glenys Law

36 Wood Vale. N10 3DP  
020 8883 6930  
glenyselaw@hotmail.com

### Secretary:

#### Paul Secher

80 Wood Vale. N10 3DN  
020 8444 4518  
info@crouchendopenspace.org

### Treasurer:

#### Julian Sherwood

23 Berkeley Road. N8 8RU  
020 8348 4268  
juliansherwood@hotmail.com

### David Abram

(CREOS News editor)  
77 Wood Vale. N10 3DL  
020 8444 8565

### Rosalind Abrams

97 Wood Vale. N10 3DL  
020 8883 2392

### Jane Bywaters

169 Park Road. N8 8JJ  
020 8341 3640  
jane.bywaters2@hotmail.com

### Mel Cairns

67 Glasslyn Road. N8 8RG  
020 8341 0903 (office)  
mcairns@waitrose.com

### Steve Hooper

6 Barrington Road. N8 8QS  
020 8341 9837  
stevehooperlandscapes@hotmail.co.uk

### Rob Jackson

63 Glasslyn Road. N8 8RJ  
020 8348 8728  
rob.jackson63@btinternet.com

### Emma Prinsley

74 Wood Vale. N10 3DN  
020 365 4602  
emmaprinsley@hotmail.com

### Susan Secher

80 Wood Vale. N10 3DN  
020 8444 4518  
susiesecher@gmail.com

### Bryan Torfeh

Flat 26, Greenaway House  
Fernsbury Street. WC1 XoH  
020 7689 5192  
btorfeh@yahoo.co.uk

### Jacky Wedgwood

1a Coolhurst Road. N8 8EP  
020 8348 5481  
jwedgwood@talktalk.net