

## CREOS AGM

Thursday 15 May 2014 at 8pm

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM will be held at the Hanley LTC clubhouse, which is on the Playing Fields.  
*[entrance in Park Road; walk/drive straight up as far as you can go. The Hanley car park is on the right].*

**Please put the date in your diary.**

This year's Guest Speaker will be Alan Scott. He will address the AGM on "Practical Nature Conservation Management". Please see below for full details. Refreshments will be provided by CREOS – before and after the AGM.

The Committee look forward to welcoming you.

### COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited for the posts of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary & other Members of the Committee. All the 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 12/05/2014.

### Alan Scott's address to CREOS's 2014 AGM

### Practical Nature Conservation Management

We are delighted this year to welcome Alan Scott as our AGM Guest Speaker.

Alan Scott founded Complete Ecology in 1996 and has been and remains its Director and Senior Ecologist to the present day. He has a BSc in Zoology from Nottingham University and an MSc in Ecology from the University College of North Wales. He is also a Chartered Environmentalist.

Alan has over 30 years experience in nature conservation throughout the UK. He has worked for The Nature Conservancy Council, local authorities (he is the lead author for Haringey's Management Plan for Crouch End Open Space) and voluntary bodies including the National Trust.



*Alan Scott*

Alan specialises in nature conservation management, including:

- Management plans for nature reserves & wildlife sites (written over 100).
- Community involvement nature conservation.
- Urban wildlife management.
- Practical nature reserve and land management for nature conservation.

We hope that as many members as possible will attend this year's AGM to hear what will surely be a fascinating and, in light of Haringey's Management Plan for the Open Space (see post), a highly topical presentation by Alan Scott.

# Around the Fields

It has been a busy 6 months for CREOS with achievements members can be truly proud of. Tremendous effort was put into fund-raising for our new Woodland Walk footpath, as £9,000 was needed to match-fund the grant offered by Re-Leaf.

Thanks to donations by members, donations of raffle prizes from local businesses and committee members spending hours selling tickets, we actually raised all the money needed. The work was done on time, despite the terrible conditions in January and February, under the expert guidance of Steve Hooper Design and Landscapes and many valiant CREOS members braved the rain and came along to help. Along with our refurbished wood-chip paths, the new path now provides a pleasant, mud-free walk all the way from Crouch End to Queen's Wood with links to Highgate



tube station. Spring has brought with it a delightful display of daffodils, bluebells, wood anemones and even fritillaries in the woodland and our regular workdays have been well-attended. Passers-by can now identify CREOS members at work in their Hi-Vis jackets, sporting the CREOS logo, and ensuing conversations have lead to a welcome increase in

membership. Two new bird boxes were put up during the April workday and plans are being made to organise a CREOS bird-watching group. Other events planned for 2014 include tidying up the neglected area around Hanley Car Park, more footpath projects and a celebration of CREOS's 30th Anniversary.

Glenys Law, Chair of CREOS

## CREOS 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This year, to mark the 30th anniversary of the foundation of CREOS, all members are cordially invited to a

### PARTY ON THE MEADOW

On Sunday 7th September from 12 noon to 4 pm

Bring a picnic and food to share. Games for children and competitions for dogs. Prizes, fun, a fund-raising raffle and live music!

**Please put this date in your diary**

## Holly Park Tennis Club's giant dome scheme -The Result

Readers will recall the article on the Holly Park Tennis Club Planning Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate for permission to erect a massive three-storey high inflatable 'dome' over three of their tennis courts (CREOS News: November 2013).

The Planning Inspector, accompanied by the Appellant and a Haringey Council Planning Officer, visited the site and surrounding areas towards the end of January 2014. CREOS and Shepherds Cot Trust representatives were also present and made appropriate comments to the Inspector.

Finally, on 24 March 2014, the Inspector's Appeal Decision was published. Holly Park's appeal was roundly dismissed and their application for planning permission for the dome was emphatically refused. Members may have seen the report on this in April 3rd's Broadway Ham & High.

Large parts of CREOS's specific objections on planning policy grounds and our representations on prejudice to the openness of and the character and appearance of the Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) and the area generally were accepted in the Appeal Decision. So was Holly Park's failure, as pointed out by CREOS, to consider properly ecological and wildlife habitat issues. The Inspector considered the proposed dome to be wholly inappropriate for MOL and she said it would be 'an alien intrusion' if allowed.

This a massive victory for Crouch End Open Space, the local community and CREOS. It should put paid to any further attempts to erect such structures on protected land intended for open air sport and recreation.

David Abram



# Management Plan for Crouchend Open Space

CREOS members may be aware that the areas of woodland and meadow around the Open Space's tennis courts and cricket pitches are owned by (and controlled by the Education Committee of) Haringey Council. This has meant that if a tree needs felling, Highgate Wood School has to pay.

Recently however, an ecological survey was commissioned in order to draw up a Plan as to how the area should be managed in the medium term.

Ian Holt, Haringey's Conservation Officer, is grateful for the work CREOS has been doing and has invited us to comment on the proposed management plan and to join with Haringey in putting it into practice. The area is designated as a Borough Grade Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, so has a certain amount of protection from inappropriate development.

The CREOS committee's view is that the Management Plan will help to strengthen that position. The better the area is cared for and the more it is appreciated by the community, the less it will be under threat.

The Council has no budget to implement the Plan, so it is little more than a wish list. However, as a charity, CREOS is in a strong position to apply for grants to improve the area and if what we want to do is part of the Plan then Haringey support will be readily available.

The Management Plan is advising certain changes in the way the the Open Space is managed. For example, the Meadow should be mowed twice a year, in April and in August, but it is recommended that 20% is left uncut each year on rotation in order to encourage invertebrates and birds. 3 to 4 metres of the brambles around the meadow should be cut back every year in the winter, which is rather more than CREOS have been doing .

The Management Plan advises that regular bird monitoring should be carried out on an ongoing basis if suitable volunteers can be found. So do let CREOS know if you would like to join our proposed bird-watching group or contribute to our online forum.

More bird and bat boxes should be installed and loggeries created to provide a habitat for the stag beetles which requires dead wood to complete its lifecycle.

The Management Plan has identified certain rare plants that need protection. There are a number of ancient woodland indicator species such as midland hawthorn, redcurrant and wood melick. However, there are also non-native invasive species such as cherry laurel, Japanese knotweed and variegated yellow archangel. Some, such as Laurustinus, have escaped from nearby gardens and residents whose gardens back onto the Open Space are reminded that it is an offence to dump garden waste over the fence. The dumping of garden waste and unofficial cutting back of trees can interfere with the ecology of the site and cause a lot of problems.

The Plan strongly recommends that the entrance ways are improved and that signs and interpretation boards



Management'.

be installed; CREOS members may have views on this. Further, whilst opinion is divided as to whether the area would benefit from a more cared-for look, many CREOS members like to feel that the Open Space is a "secret place" which we alone have discovered!

The Management Plan is not yet ratified, so if you would like to know more or if you have views or questions you would like to share with CREOS, then do come to our AGM, where Alan Scott from Complete Ecology will be giving a talk entitled 'Practical Nature Conservation

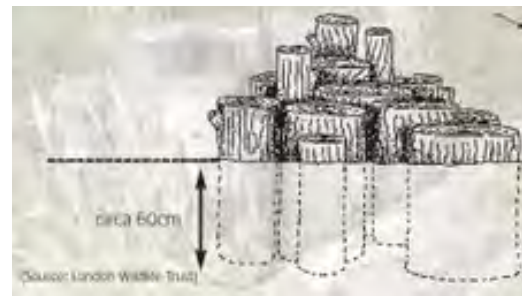
Glenys Law



*Variegated Yellow Archangel*



*Cherry Laurel*



*Loggeries created for stag beetle habitat*

## LETTERS TO CREOS / THE EDITOR

Dear CREOS

I would like to thank you for the superb path through Queens Wood. I sometimes walk through from Highgate Station to Highgate Wood School, where I am a teacher, and it's often quite hard with all the mud! Not only has the path made this wonderful shortcut possible, it's also enhanced the beauty of the wood.

Thank you  
Dev Nayar

*Further letters from CREOS members (and the public) are welcome for inclusion in future editions.*

*Send to: [info@crouchendopenspace.org](mailto:info@crouchendopenspace.org)*

# CREOS FINANCIAL NOTES

The 2013/14 accounts are currently being finalised but I am pleased to report that we received nearly £1,800 from members in response to the footpath fundraising drive in the autumn.

Members have also responded to the request for Gift Aid

declarations. We have now accounted for nearly everyone. We have also received £14,000 in grants from external bodies in 2013/14 – a magnificent exercise in fundraising. There appears to be more money available for good causes than we realise.

Julian Sherwood - Hon. Treasurer

## WILD GARLIC SOUP - RECIPE

Wild garlic (*Allium ursinum*) grows in woodland, often near bluebells, and can be identified by its garlic-like smell and long-lush leaves, similar in appearance to Lily of the Valley. It can be seen from late winter throughout spring and towards the end of the season it produces white flowers. We have wild garlic growing in the CREOS area, both on the Wood Vale side of Hanley car park and in the coppiced area towards the allotments. This garlic is used for its leaves rather than its bulbs. These are delicious raw or cooked and work well in salads, sauces and soups.

Happy foraging!

Here is a recipe for Wild Garlic Soup with pesto by Clodagh McKenna:

Serves 6

Prep time 10 mins Cooking time 20 mins

### Ingredients for the soup

50g butter

100g onions, peeled and roughly chopped

200g potatoes, peeled and roughly chopped

300g hot chicken or vegetable stock

1 bunch of fresh wild garlic leaves

2 tbsp double cream

**Pesto recipe;** You can either make your own pesto or buy it in a jar!

2 handfuls of wild garlic leaves, chopped

extra virgin olive oil

50g hazelnuts, skins removed and toasted

50g parmesan, roughly cubed

### Method

1 *For the soup:* melt the butter in a heavy-bottomed saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onions and potatoes, lightly fry, then season with salt and pepper. Cover the pan with a lid and cook for 10 minutes.

2 Add the stock slowly to the potato and onion mixture. Once it has all been added, bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and cook until vegetables are tender.

3 Stir in the wild garlic leaves and cook for one more minute. Add the double cream and stir.

4 Transfer the soup to a food processor and blend to a smooth consistency. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

5 *for the pesto:* crush together the hazelnuts, parmesan and wild garlic leaves in a pestle and mortar or food processor. Season with some pepper and a drizzle of olive oil and mix well. Set aside.

6 Serve the soup in bowls with the pesto drizzled over the top. Croutons make a nice addition.

Jacky Wedgwood



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