

HeadStart Volunteers at Heathfield



HeadStart volunteers came to Heathfield last November. Pictured here gathering the autumn leaves from left to right are: Kate, Victorio, Catarina and Hani. We were so delighted to have them with us (not only to bring our age range down!) but because of their drive and enthusiasm for all the tasks that they were given.

To share with you, HeadStart all starts with giving time. The Charity helps young people find volunteering opportunities that fit their interests and availability and then support them to complete 16+ hours of volunteering. Whether that is choosing

one of hundreds of opportunities HeadStart has found, continuing with existing volunteering, or finding something different.

They are willing to complete 16 hours or more with us as part of this scheme for which we are extremely grateful. They not only brought the sun with them but as an added bonus Kat and Caterina even brought us a lovely cake to eat on one of the Sunday workdays. Yummy!

Bernie Hamill

Newsletter edited and produced for Croydon Ecology Centre by Alan Drummond.

The newsletter of Croydon Ecology Centre

2018 AGM postponed - twice!

The Annual General Meeting, scheduled for March 3rd and then March 17th, has had to be put off to April due to the non-availability of the House at Heathfield.

The snowy weather at the end of February not only made getting there

treacherous, but a flooding incident in the House meant there was no heating or power. Building work on the roof is now being carried out so the venue will not be available until April. Saturday April 14th has been proposed as the new date and members will be advised when we have confirmation.

GoodGym Runners shifted a mountain of sand for us in frosty weather



More at <https://www.goodgym.org/reports/sno-way-we-just-did-that>



The grey heron is an occasional visitor to the round pond at Heathfield, but always leaves disappointed.

Croydon Ecology Centre Events Diary 2018

Please note that all events are free to attend and all are welcome

Saturday April 28 Bluebell Walk in Kingswood

Meet at **11:00** at the entrance to the woods in Orchard Road, off Limpsfield Road (B269). Come and see one of Croydon's bluebell spectaculars! Bring a picnic lunch with you to enjoy in the woods. If the weather looks 'iffy', please ring 07919 652 723 before setting out.

Saturday May 5 Walk on Croham Hurst - Site of Special Scientific Interest

Meet at the Bankside entrance to the woods at **14:00**. Following on from his wonderful talk last year, Heathfield Ecologist and local historian from Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society's Paul Sowan will lead us on this walk to show us the site.

Sunday May 20 Plant and Seedling Sale 12:00 - 16:30

Our annual plant sale is one of our most popular events and we would like to make it even better this year. Can our friends and members help by donating plants to sell? Could you raise some extra trays of seedlings for us? We are very keen to promote plants that will help our pollinators. If you are able to help, please ring Lorraine on 07919 652 723. Our Heathfield Pantry Café will be open for light lunches and cream teas.

More events in the next issue.

Contacting Croydon Ecology Centre

Write to The Old Orchard, Heathfield, Coombe Lane, Croydon CR0 5RH.

Our Warden, Lorraine Chatfield, can be contacted via the Centre mobile: 07919 652 723, or by email: heathfieldec@heathfieldec.plus.com

Other email contacts:

Secretary, Eleanor Cunningham: secretary@croydon-ecology.org.uk

Membership Secretary, Bernie Hamill: membership@croydon-ecology.org.uk

Work days at Heathfield Every first and third Sunday Every Tuesday and Friday

Come along to a work day and join in the fun. Make new friends while doing something good for your environment. No special skills needed as training will be provided where necessary, and you don't have to be a member to volunteer. Come in via the courtyard entrance from 10.30 am onwards.

On Sundays we stop for lunch (which we provide, suitable for vegetarians) in the early afternoon and usually finish mid- to late afternoon, depending on the weather and time of year. Bring your own work gloves if you have them and wear old clothes and sensible footwear. Lunch isn't provided on weekdays so we suggest you bring your own.

Open days

Sunday work days are also open days (but check to see if any events are on), and the public are welcome to visit the orchards, via the walled garden, throughout the time volunteers are present.

Mobility pathway nearly complete

Work on the extension to the disabled pathway is almost finished. Over one hundred paving slabs have been laid by the volunteers to provide this path to allow wheelchairs and buggies into the Great Orchard.

Work involved digging up the old soil and grass, laying the slabs on sand and providing a banked slope both sides to prevent twisted ankles. We are also providing a parking area for wheelchairs and buggies.

We are very grateful to Councillor Margaret Mead for providing the funds to buy the slabs. We wish her a happy retirement in May.

*Mick Hewish
Centre Manager*