

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported our work in 2016, whether becoming a member of the Trust, attending public walks and talks or simply contributing to the conservation movement in London. For those of us who lead the events, whether that be a member of staff or a volunteer, it is an immense pleasure listening to how much local wildlife means to you and seeing how a connection to nature benefits our community. It is also a fact that we learn from **your knowledge and passion for wildlife!**

2016 has been **our biggest year** for events in over a decade at Sydenham Hill Wood with a massive **1600 attendees** joining us to learn about birds, trees and the cultural history of the Great North Wood. You have helped us to raise £1500 for wildlife. Thank you!

We are also **making progress** in our aims of conserving wildlife not just in Sydenham Hill Wood but in the surrounding area as well. In November we signed a 25-year lease with the Dulwich Estate **to take on Beechgrove**, the final piece in the Victorian jigsaw puzzle of Sydenham Hill Wood, bringing the old mansion grounds into the remit of the 34-year-old nature reserve.

Further to this we have submitted **our Great North Wood project** bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund which, if successful, will unlock a massive funding boost in undertaking conservation management in more of the Great North Wood's remnant woodlands like Dulwich Wood, Beaulieu Heights and Streatham Common woodlands.

More relevant to those of your walking in Sydenham Hill Wood this Christmas will be the completion of **the path enhancement works on Lapsewood Walk**. Thanks to a grant from Southwark Council's Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund, we were able to rebuild the path meaning it will no longer be so muddy in the winter months.

As for the most important visitors to Sydenham Hill Wood (no offence intended!) in September **we observed juvenile hobbies** flying over the main glade, meaning that these rare breeding birds have nested in the Dulwich Wood complex in 2015 and 2016. It is amazing to think that they will spending Christmas in western or southern Africa! We hope they will be back in June next year.

2016 may be drawing to a close but **plans are already in place** for lots of great wildlife walks, talks and activities in 2017:

Date	Event	Time	Location	Description	Contact
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	<a href="#">Wonderful Woodland</a>	10:30am – 12:30pm	Biggin Wood (meet by the Tennis Courts off Biggin Hill)	A fun family friendly event with games and activities about Wonderful Woodland.	<a href="mailto:sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk">sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk</a>
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	<a href="#">Winter Tree Walk</a>	2pm – 3:30pm	Streatham Common (meet outside the Rookery Café)	Learn about this ancient green space by identifying its trees and uncover the natural and cultural history of Streatham Common.	<a href="mailto:sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk">sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk</a>
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	<a href="#">Winter tree ID</a>	1:30pm-3:30pm	Sydenham Hill Wood (meet inside the Crescent Wood Road Gate)	Learn about the history of Sydenham Hill Wood through its trees and uncover the story of how London's civilisation and industry developed from oak, hornbeam and hazel	<a href="mailto:dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk">dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk</a>
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	<a href="#">New Cross Gate Cutting Open Day</a>	1pm - 4pm	New Cross Gate Cutting (entrance on Vesta Road)	A chance to explore this nature reserve which is usually closed to the public.	<a href="mailto:sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk">sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk</a>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<a href="#">Great North Wood talk</a>	7pm - 8pm	<a href="#">South London Botanical Institute</a>	A more in depth look at the plants of the Great North Wood and the role they've played in the development of London. Tickets available at the SLBI website.	<a href="mailto:sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk">sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk</a>
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	<a href="#">Winter Tree Walk</a>	11am - 12:30pm	Crystal Palace Park (meet outside the rail station)	Join us for a guided walk to explore the miraculous world of trees. Discover the history of Crystal Palace Park as a part of the once vast <a href="#">Great North Wood</a> and learn how to identify some of the many tree species which inhabit it.	<a href="mailto:sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk">sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk</a>
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	<a href="#">Wonderful</a>	2pm -	The Lawns (Spa	A fun family friendly event with games and activities about	<a href="mailto:sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk">sbtoon@wildlondon.org.uk</a>

	<a href="#">Woodland</a>	4pm	Wood) (meet by the children's playground off Spa Hill)	Wonderful Woodland.	
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<a href="#">Winter bird walk</a>	9am-10:30am	Sydenham Hill Wood (meet inside the Crescent Wood Road gate)	Join our search for firecrest, redwing, fieldfare and winter finches	<a href="mailto:dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk">dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk</a>
<b>March: Date TBC</b>	Trees of Dulwich	2pm-3:30pm	Dulwich Library	Discover the importance of London's trees and woods, both in their environmental impact and how our towns and cities were founded upon them	<a href="mailto:dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk">dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk</a>
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Spring walk	11:00am-12:30	Sydenham Hill Wood (meet inside the Crescent Wood Road gate)	This is your chance to learn about the ancient woodland wildflowers that pop up from the soil in Sydenham Hill Wood in spring	<a href="mailto:dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk">dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk</a>
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Dawn chorus	4:45am-6:30am	Sydenham Hill Wood (meet inside the Crescent Wood Road gate)	Our traditional dawn chorus walk will take you through an ocean of blackbird, robin and song thrush song, with the outside chance of a hunting owl or kestrel to be seen	<a href="mailto:dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk">dgreenwood@wildlondon.org.uk</a>

We look forward to seeing you again in 2017!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from London Wildlife Trust staff and volunteers.

Daniel

**Daniel Greenwood**  
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**Sydenham Hill Wood**

**London Wildlife Trust** - Protecting London's wildlife for the future

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***All our lives are better when they're a bit wild. Share why wildlife and wild places matter to us all at [www.mywildlife.org.uk](http://www.mywildlife.org.uk)***



The London Wildlife Trust is part of a network of 47 local Wildlife Trusts across the UK, working under the umbrella of The Wildlife Trust Partnership, the UK's leading conservation charity dedicated to wildlife protection.

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