

Treasurer's Report: Financial Year 1.1.15 to 31.12.15

Friends of Selsdon Wood (FSW) ended 2015 with a healthy credit balance of £991.78. At the close of the financial year there were 146 members + 10 Honorary plus 3 Chair's members (individuals who have donated significant sums during 2015) giving a total of 159 members.

INCOME

The bulk of the income arises from Membership Fees, Donations, Gift Aid, Grants and the Open Day Event. Once again during 2015 there were three additional activities which generated income for FSW.

- **2015 Calendars** (Led by Heather Govier)

For the fourth year FSW has produced a Calendar. 50 Calendars were ordered in July with a further 20 purchased in November. All the Calendars were sold and generated additional income approx. £70.

- **Logs** (Led by Neale Fox)

The logs are a by-product of coppicing. Work was undertaken to prepare logs and disposed of for a donation. 4 bags of finings were donated to Malcolm Bridge for the extensive help he gave to FSW. This activity raised £280 and as there was sufficient stock of sacks etc. there was no expenditure.

- **Charcoal** (Led by Neale Fox)

During 2015 Charcoal from 2014 raised £38.

Open Day (Led by Linda Morris)

This event continues to have a major positive impact on FSW's finances as well as being an opportunity to launch the new FSW Calendar.

Stalls: A total of £303.00 was raised through the FSW Bric-a-Brac and Tombola stalls (all goods are donated), together with donations from 5 other stall holders. (£271 was raised in 2014).

Calendar: 16 visitors purchased one of these beautiful calendars showing photographs taken during the previous year in Selsdon Wood.

Membership: 14 new members and 1 existing members took the opportunity to renew their membership at Open Day.

Photo Competition: The winners of this annual event is decided via a public vote at Open Day, and FSW is grateful to an anonymous donor who kindly donated £80 as prizes in 2015. Our thanks also to Happy Snaps for donating photographic vouchers.

Gift Aid

FSW is eligible for a grant from HM Revenue & Customs on all donations from individuals who have signed a Gift Aid form. Gift Aid was claimed for 2014 which raised £211.85. The Claim for 2015 will be submitted shortly and it is expected to raise approximately £275. We continue to encourage members to sign Gift Aid forms.

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Grants – Croydon Council

FSW successfully submitted an application to Croydon Council's Nature Conservation Grant for £399 to cover the cost of Public Liability Insurance and loss of Tools for the year Aug 15/16. A further application to this fund for £160 as a contribution towards the cost of tools purchased in February 2015 was submitted – this was also successful.

Heather Govier made an application to the Councilor's discretionary Community Budget to cover the cost of Display Boards for the new Display Room adjacent to the Selsdon Wood Car Park. I am pleased to report that this was also successful – giving an overall sum of £665.20 raised during 2015 via Grants

FSW is grateful to Croydon Council for their significant contribution towards its activities during the past year.

EXPENDITURE

Management of the Wood

Benches

Five benches were installed throughout 2015. Two benches were installed following the deaths of Rob Sowter, who had the coppicing contract for Selsdon Wood, and Janet Bickerstaff a founder member of the FSW. The committee felt that it would be appropriate to install benches to commemorate the outstanding work and support they gave to the Friends. Three dedicated benches were installed in the Autumn 2015 to commemorate the lives of local people at the request of their families, who covered the costs.

FSW paid the Forum Residents Association £44 in 2015 to cover the cost of hiring their meeting room between Nov 2015/16. Committee members have been reimbursed for stationery costs that have risen due to the high cost of colour cartridges and the inclusion of postage charges within this heading.

Opening Balance Jan 2015	£2,581.63
Total income Jan-Dec 2015	£5,397.72
Total expenditure Jan-Dec 2015	£6,987.57
Bank Balance <u>31st Dec 2015</u>	£991.78

Plans for 2016

FSW needs to maintain sufficient funds to cover essentials such as insurance cover, should grants not be available to reimburse these costs. While being mindful of this, FSW's Committee is drawing up a realistic plan to ensure the available funds are used in Selsdon Wood to the benefit of its flora and fauna and to enhance the enjoyment of the many people who support and visit it.

FSW is grateful once again to Alan Williams for scrutinising the annual accounts on which this report is based.