

**Treasurer's Report: Financial Year 1.1.16 to 31.12.16**

Friends of Selsdon Wood (FSW) ended 2016 with a healthy credit balance of £3,259.51, of which approximately £2K is earmarked for Chainsaw training and the extensive repair of pathways within Selsdon Woods.

**MEMBERSHIP**

At the close of the financial year there were 157 members + 19 Honorary plus 4 Chair's members (individuals who have donated significant sums during 2016) + 69 household members giving a total of 249 supporters.

**INCOME**

The bulk of the income arises from Membership Fees, Donations, Gift Aid, Grants and the Open Day Event. Once again during 2016 there were three additional activities which generated income for FSW.

- **2016 Calendars** (Led by Heather Govier)

For the fifth year FSW has produced a Calendar. 70 Calendars were ordered in July. All the Calendars were taken by local people for a donation of £5 and generated additional income of £150.

- **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. This activity raised £156 and as there was sufficient stock of sacks etc. there was no expenditure.

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

During 2016 there was not the usual Charcoal Weekend when friends help to make Charcoal. However, there were a few bags of Charcoal left over from previous years and these raised £15.

**Open Day** (Led by Linda Morris)

This event, held in September 2016, continues to have a major positive impact on FSW's finances as well as being an opportunity to launch the new FSW Calendar and encourage local residents to support the Friends activities.

**Stalls:** A total of £163.00 was raised through the FSW Tombola stall (all goods are donated), including donations from 5 stall holders.

**Calendar:** 25 visitors purchased one of these beautiful calendars showing photographs taken during the previous year(s) in Selsdon Wood.

**Membership:** 24 new/existing members took the opportunity to join/renew their membership of FSW

**Photo Competition:** This is a bi-annual event and submitted photos taken in Selsdon Woods between August 2015 to July 2017 will be judged at Open Day September 2017.

**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 2015 which raised £334.49. The Claim for 2016 will be submitted shortly and it is expected to raise approximately £400. 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 £373.75 to cover the cost of Public Liability and loss of Tools Insurance for the year Aug 16/17.

Heather Govier made an application to the Councilor's discretionary Community Budget for £432 towards the cost of repairing the pathways throughout Selsdon Woods. I am pleased to report that this was also successful – giving an overall sum of £805.75 raised during 2016 via Grants

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

**EXPENDITURE**

Expenditure continues to impact on the upkeep of the woods. £754 was spent on tools for workdays and other equipment associated with organized Walks and Open Day.

£714 was spent on the repair of pathways throughout the woods, and our thanks to Tony Flecchia who managed this project and undertook most of the work.

FSW paid the Forum Residents Association £88 in 2016 to cover the cost of hiring their meeting room between Jan – Nov 16.

Committee members continue to be reimbursed for stationery costs (£181) that have risen due to the high cost of colour cartridges and the inclusion of postage charges within this heading.

It should be noted that Barclays Bank paid £109 to a company that FSW has no dealings with. This was reimbursed into FSW's account on the same day as the original transaction.

Other notable expenditure related to the purchase of the 2017 Calendars (£215) and the Insurance cover (£273), both of which were reimbursed through Donations and a Croydon Grant respectively.

<b>Opening Balance</b> Jan 2016	£ 991.78
<b>Total income</b> Jan-Dec 2016	£4,760.92
<b>Total expenditure</b> Jan-Dec 2016	£2,483.19
<b>Bank Balance</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2016	£3,269.51

**Plans for 2017**

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.