

Please renew your membership for 2019 if you have not already done so.

Chair's Report to AGM – The FSW AGM was held on Monday 25th March. The minutes are available in the AGM section of the website. As usual The Chair's report was structured with regard to the aims of our group as stated in the constitution. The full report is available on the website – these are the key points covered.

Aim 1) To ensure that Selsdon wood is maintained for the benefit of the flora and fauna so that no one species shall threaten the survival of another and for the enjoyment and well being of the public - Summer workdays focussed on regular maintenance, such as the clearance of areas around benches and marker posts and information boards. We also repaired and replaced path name boards and removed some invasive Laurel and Holly. A large Oak in Farleigh Border had fallen and been cut by Croydon council but large sections of trunk were blocking the path. These were rolled aside by the workdays team. We cleared some Yew, Hazel, and Sycamore from one of the few areas in the wood where Herb Paris grows (Court Wood) to let in more light as the plants had failed to flower. We will be hoping for increased flowering this year. The major project this winter was coppicing and clearance work in the area along Stevens Walk from the Langford's Way junction. Most of our winter workdays were devoted to this project. Larger pieces were retained for possible charcoal making and for fence posts but much of the other material was burned. An electric chainsaw was purchased in January 2019 which will help with this work.

Five new seats, purchased in early 2018 were set in place in late spring once ground conditions were suitable for their transport to the sites.

In February 2019 FSW submitted a response to the Council planning committee about the proposed development in Quail Gardens and its impact on Selsdon Wood. The issue currently remains unresolved.

Aim 2) To carry out programmes of practical work, especially sustainable conservation and restoration work - We were unable to cure the leak in the pool in Linden Glade but with the help of Sutton and East Surrey Water we did manage to trace the water supply. We cleared one of the manholes and fitted a blank end to a pipe that had been leaking water. This meant that we were able to restore a slow feed of water to the bird bath above the pool. However, subsequent vandalism damaged the access point in Linden Glade. We are currently investigating how this and the pool leak can be addressed















Aim 3) To educate volunteers of all ages in the principles and practices of nature conservation and encourage the public interest in Selsdon Wood - Our guided walks have been well attended and all the presenters have provisionally agreed to come back this year when we plan to run a similar programme. A litter pick in Court Wood alongside Courtwood Lane was organised with the Scouts in February 2019, supported by the Council Clean and Green team. This was well attended and very fruitful. A full report was given in the March 2019 Newsletter and is available on the Events page of the website. As last year we organised a Community Picnic in July 2018 in conjunction with the Selsdon Residents Association (SRA) and our Open Day in September was well attended.

Aim 4) To act as a forum for discussion on issues that may affect the aims and activities - As much work of the FSW can be done by email we now meet in alternate months only (as from the start of 2018). Meetings rarely attract many members beyond the core team but this does have the advantage of keeping them tightly focused. All members are welcome to attend - location and times are advertised on the website. The website and newsletters provide a forum with a wider reach and the FSW have maintained liaison with other local groups through the ACCS. There is also a FSW Facebook page which is increasingly popular and well used.

Aim 5) To raise money as necessary for the carrying out of its work - Open Day was a fruitful money raiser and we have successfully applied for grants to support our work. Membership fees are another valuable source of income and we currently have 200 members. Most memberships are eligible for Gift Aid, which adds to our funds. We are supported by a number of regular donors and distribution of our annual calendar also raises money for the group's activities.

At the end of the report the Chair offered thanks to all members of the management group for their commitment and for all the work they have done throughout the year.☺

This Month's Walk on Saturday 6th April @ 2pm - Spring walk with the FSW

<p>Signs of Spring</p> <p>Notes in brackets show when similar signs were seen in previous years (earliest sightings in bold). Look out for all of these on our</p> <p>Spring Walk on Saturday 6th April @ 2pm.</p>	<p>First Bluebell - 17/3/19</p>  <p>In Farleigh Border. (7/4/18) (28/3/17) (13/2/16) (3/4/15) (19/3/14) (24/4/13)</p>	<p>Dog's Mercury - 28/2/19</p>  <p>In Vale Border. (16/3/18) (13/3/17) (1/3/16) (29/3/15)</p>	<p>Wood Anemone - 6/3/19</p>  <p>In Beech Grove. (14/3/18) (12/3/17) (1/3/16) (22/3/15) (10/3/14)</p>	<p>Periwinkle - 28/2/19</p>  <p>Avis Grove/Langford's Way intersection. (26/3/18) (9/2/16) (23/3/15) (28/2/14)</p>
<p>Daffodil - 6/3/19</p>  <p>By Millie Dinnock's seat in F2. (13/3/18) (15/3/17) (15/3/16) (19/3/15) (10/3/14)</p>	<p>Plum blossom - 3/3/19</p>  <p>In David's Crook. (21/3/18) (5/3/17) (23/2/16)</p>	<p>Primrose - 6/3/19</p>  <p>In David's Crook. (13/3/18) (15/3/17) (20/1/16) (7/3/15) (5/3/14)</p>	<p>Blackthorn blossom - 14/3/19</p>  <p>In David's Crook. (5/4/18) (17/3/17) (19/3/16)</p>	<p>Brimstone Butterfly - 14/2/19</p>  <p>(28/3/18) (22/2/17) (22/3/16)</p>
<p>Hawthorn leaves - 2/3/19</p>  <p>(28/3/18) (26/2/17) (19/3/16)</p>	<p>Goat Willow catkins - 10/3/19</p>  <p>In Langford's Way near the Courtwood Lane gate. (21/3/18) (14/3/17) (23/2/16)</p>	<p>Sycamore leaves - 17/3/19</p>  <p>In Steven's Walk. (31/3/18) (23/3/17) (25/3/16)</p>	<p>Comma butterfly - 23/2/19</p>  <p>In David's Crook (5/5/18) (9/3/17)</p>	<p>Dog Violet - 12/3/19</p>  <p>In Langford's Way. (31/3/18) (15/3/17) (25/3/16) (29/3/15) (7/3/14)</p>