

Friends of Selsdon Wood

Working to improve our wood



Phone: 020-8657-0423 e-mail: selsdonwood@gmail.com website: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk



We wish the Friends a very happy Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

FSW Calendar 2013 (21x29.7cm)

We still have a few copies. Each month beautifully depicts a different aspect of Selsdon Wood.

To obtain one phone 020-8657 0423 or e-mail selsdonwood@gmail.com.
£5 inc. envelope (p&p £1.20).



FSW 'Yuletide' Logs for Sale

To make use of a little of the timber felled in coppicing and by contractors, we can offer bags of logs for a donation of £4 each. If you, or anyone you know, would like to obtain logs from us please contact Neale Fox for information or to arrange collection – phone 020-8657 0384 or e-mail logs.selsdonwood@btinternet.com.

Don't forget to use a fireguard when burning logs that can spark.

We are very grateful to Neale & Karen for their enterprise and effort in making the Sale of Logs such a successful project. And we must not forget to thank Cyril with his chainsaw and the rest of our Work Parties, who have put in so much effort. It is becoming a significant source of funds for the Friend's other projects.

FSW Nest Boxes

Your subscriptions and donations enabled us to buy 5 tit and 2 tawny owl cedarwood nest boxes. During the past month John, Allan and David have put them up in the wood. We were pleased to observe that within 3 days a Great tit was prospecting one of the boxes.



Nature Notes

Bird watching in winter woodland can be frustrating as there can seem to be a lack of birds. However, with patience and listening carefully, you may be able to hear occasional squeaks and calls from small birds like blue tits which can lead you to a flock of mixed species which wander around the woods at this time of the year. While it might be difficult to count them unless they fly across an open area, it would not be unusual to encounter more than 100 birds involving blue, great, coal, marsh and long-tailed tits, in company with a selection of treecreepers, nuthatches and woodpeckers. In addition to these flocks of small birds, there are the winter thrushes - redwing and fieldfare - which can be found feeding on berry-bearing shrubs or on the ground, particularly in the field next to Farleigh Border. Finch flocks of one or more of siskin, redpoll, greenfinch and goldfinch tend to prefer feeding from the seeds of birch, alder or larch, though they can also congregate on other species.

In trying to identify trees in winter examine the characteristics of the bark, bearing in mind that the bark of young and old trees will often differ remarkably. The shape, colour and layout of buds along twigs can lead to an identification - are the buds in pairs or spaced out singly. Seek out the Nature Detectives website for information on identification or look at the details on the Friends website.

If there is snow on the ground look for animal prints and try to separate those of dogs from wild animals. It is usually possible to find the two parallel slots made by roe deer and you might be lucky and find a track left by a fox, badger, stoat, weasel, rabbit or woodmouse.

FSW Publications

Obtainable from Selsdon Library or contact us - see above.

FSW Colour Information Leaflet.

FSW Selsdon Wood Map.

FSW Red & Green Walks leaflet.

Croydon Beekeepers - February 22nd 2013

Croydon Beekeepers have a forthcoming event that may be of interest to FSW members. It is a talk on ***Planting for Pollination*** given by Karen Alton of Sussex University, which will have a special emphasis on wild flowers. The talk will be held at Warlingham Methodist Church Hall, Limpsfield Road CR6 9HA at 7.30pm on Friday February 22nd. There will be a small £2 charge to cover expenses.

Dates for your diary – see website for full programme.

Work days – Sundays: Dec 30th & Jan 27th.

Meet at 10am in Selsdon Wood car park off Old Farleigh Road. You choose jobs to suit your strength. You soon warm up on a cold day, so don't let the weather deter you. Tools are provided but please bring a drink and food if you feel you need them. You work for as long as suits you - some of us work until about 2.30pm, others leave earlier. If you need more information please contact Ted closer to the time on 020-8651 0558 or e-mail: tedforsyth@btinternet.com

As last year, we hope to make the December 30th work day a post Christmas social event, so please bring along any left over turkey, sausages, mince pies, cake etc plus potatoes to bake in the fire.

Members meetings – Mondays: Jan 7th AGM with an exhibition of Selsdon Wood photographs, Jan 28th, Feb 25th.

From 8 to 10pm in The Forum, Forestdale.

Guided Walks of Discovery – Walks meet at Old Farleigh Road car park. Our Walks are slow and easy - lasting about 2 hours, looking at all flora & fauna. **Feb Sun 12th 10.30am – 'Winter trees before the buds burst'** with Meike Weiser (Croydon Community Partnership Officer).

See the FSW website: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk It is full of information about Selsdon Wood and what the Friends do to maintain it and has all the latest news about our beloved woods.

FSW Editor David Malins