

Our Autumn Leaves Walk – Ten people came to the walk on a damp day. There had been heavy rain the night before so the ground was very wet but the rain held off for the 2 hours of our walk. The route took us through Fields 1, 2, 3, Stevens' Larch, The Wend, Middle Gorse, West Gorse, Pool Grove, David's Crook, Stevens' Walk, Great Field then back through Fields 2 and 1 to the car park. We saw and identified 33 species of trees and bushes and 7 species of fungus including some massive Trooping Funnels seen in Steven's Larch. For a full list of species seen with photographs see the Walks page on the website.

Muddy Puddles Project – In the September Newsletter we reported on the first phase of this project which involved laying gravel from 25 kilo bags. The ten and a half tonnes of gravel spread dealt with some of the worst puddle and mud spots, but the work involved in loading, unloading, and lifting the bags for spreading was exhausting while still being inadequate to deal with the scale of the problem. Furthermore, the potential cost of future treatment using these methods was too high - had it not been for the generous donation from Woodside Timber and a cash grant from the budget of Councillor Sara Bashford that ten and a half tonnes would have cost around £1000.



Tony Flecchia provided a pickup truck, at his own expense, that could deal with both issues. This enabled gravel to be collected in loose one tonne loads, cutting out delivery charges and enabling twenty five tonnes to be bought per £1000 instead of around ten tonnes. And the loose gravel could simply be raked off the pickup straight onto the paths, cutting out all the exhausting heavy lifting. With that solution to hand the Friends allocated £1000 of donated money for twenty-five tonnes and that was generously matched again with a Council grant meaning we could go ahead with spreading fifty further tonnes.

Over a five-month period in 2017 all that was spread with almost all the paths being treated to varying degrees according to need, making it possible for the first time to walk throughout the reserve this Autumn without the necessity for wellington boots. When it is first laid, walking on the gravel feels like being on a shingle beach, but as the gravel beds into the earth it forms a hard and lasting surface that is comfortable to walk on while looking natural.

The ground has got too soft now for further work this year but we will be back on the case in the spring.

Our sincere thanks to Tony who has done all the work on this second phase of the project and made an enormous difference to the walking conditions. The photograph shows the repairs to Linden Glade and map overleaf shows green lines in all the places where gravel has been laid in both phases of the project to date.

The FSW Calendar 2017 is still available for a donation of £5 - Phone 020-8657 0423 or e-mail selsdonwood@gmail.com

Friends of Selsdon Wood
Working to improve our wood 

‘FOUND’

NOVEMBER 2017

**LOST PROPERTY in BOX below the
Car Park Information Board 2.11.17.**

**If valuable, interesting or bulky look for card
in box. Also see website www.friendsofselsdonwood.com**

We cannot keep items indefinitely.

We will scrap or give away items below after 31.12.17

Leads & collars

1. Halti harness.
2. Collar with phone no. - (Owner informed)

Keys:

3. 2 keys - 'brass' 'yale' type key cut by Mr Dry Clean & dead lock type.
4. 'Silver yale type key, 'Winlock' make.

Glasses:

5. Adult rimless dark.
6. Child pink frame dark.
7. Child 'Spiderman' frame dark.

Miscellaneous:

8. Ladies watch found in Gorses - working. (phone 07949 36882 to describe it and collect from Peacock Gardens area.)

