

Whatever Happened to the Seasonal Pond? - Those of you who know Selsdon Wood well may be interested to know the answer to the mystery of what happened to the seasonal pond. In the winter there was always a pond in a dell opposite the farmer's field close to the junction of Farleigh Border with Broom Path. For the past two years this dell has not filled with water. I had surmised that some change to the field such as different planting or ploughing had reduced the runoff but when I was there on the very rainy 3rd January I could see that this is not in fact the case. The water was gushing off the field but it was diverting to the left (see photo) and running down Broom Path instead of to the right to fill the hollow. The reason seems to be a change in the contour of the path, probably caused by a large tree root that has raised a ridge across the path diverting the water away from the dell. I suspect it means that we shall not see the seasonal pond again.



FSW Logs - We have a few air-dried logs available for a donation of £4 per sack. Please contact Neale Fox for information or to arrange collection – phone 020-8657 0384 or e-mail logs.selsdonwood@btinternet.com.

Our next Workday is on Sunday 7th February - Meet at the car park at 10am. For further information contact our Workdays leader, Ted Forsyth, at tedforsyth@btinternet.com

Last Month's Winter Trees Walk on Saturday 9th January - The Tree Walk planned for 09/1/16 sadly had to be cancelled due to poor conditions - the mud was everywhere and dangerously slippery. I contacted Friends with email addresses to let them know in advance but 3 people did turn up on the day. I was sorry to disappoint them but really felt that it would not be safe to go. The next scheduled walk is not until March 5th but if conditions improve in the few weeks I will be very happy to lead a walk on some alternative Saturday. If you would like to be kept informed about any such walk please contact me via the Contact Us page on the website or via email and I will put you on a circulation list for news.

New Dedicated Seats - Three new dedicated seats were installed in 2015 - two by the FSW and one by the family themselves after consultation with Croydon Council. The family installation is a custom-made seat at the top of Field 3 dedicated to **Jan Stupes Martin 1963-2014**. We have been unable to make contact with the family and so know very little about this. If you are able to help do please get in touch. The seat dedicated to **Michael J Boyd 18.09.36 - 09.12.14** was donated by his widow Dorothy and installed last summer. We are awaiting further information from Dorothy about Michael's life. The final seat, which was installed last autumn, commemorates **Vera May Cannon 1910 – 2010** and was donated by her son Harold. He has supplied a tribute and biography which is on the Seats page of the FSW website where there are also details and photographs of all the other seats. Vera died just short of her 100th Birthday, which makes her the longest-lived person of all those commemorated by seats in Selsdon Wood. She was a lover of our bluebells and her seat has been sited in Bluebell Grove. We hope that you will all enjoy sitting on it when bluebell time comes round again.

Lost Property Box - I have had a new year clear out of the lost property box. A number of soggy and mouldy items such as hats and unpaired gloves were in too poor a condition to keep. However, I have dried out and cleaned up the rest and photographs of all the items are shown overleaf. I have not put them back in the box where they would just get wet and dirty again but if you recognise any of the items and would like them back please contact me by phone or email and I will be happy to arrange to get them to you. (OK so the ladybirds aren't exactly lost property. A large number of them seem to be overwintering in the box and the fact that all seem to have different patterns shows that they are Harlequin Ladybirds - an invasive species which is causing a decline of our native species and is considered unwelcome and out of control.)

Items from the Selsdon Wood Lost Property Box - January 2016

<p>Child's Gloves</p> 	<p>Earring</p> 	<p>Door Key</p> 	<p>Adult Sunglasses</p> 
<p>Child's Sunglasses</p> 	<p>Bag</p> 	<p>Toy Police Helmet</p> 	<p>Camera attachment Canon ET-67B</p> 
<p>Dog Lead</p> 	<p>Women's Thermal Gloves</p> 	<p>Dog Tags with the names Beauty & Wilson</p> 	<p>Ladybirds</p> 