

Have you renewed your FSW Membership for 2017 - Our Membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st and it would be very helpful to us if you could pay your 2017 subs as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. Of course, this does not apply to those of you who have standing orders and we thank you for this as it certainly makes our life much easier.

Lost Property Box - Next time you visit the wood take a look in the lost property box on the back of the notice board by the car park - there may be something of yours in there. Currently contents include several gloves and dog leads.

FSW Programme 2017 - Also attached to this email is a copy of the FSW Programme for 2017 showing all guided walks & events, workdays and members' meetings including our AGM, which will be held on Monday March 21st. Please take a look and keep the dates in your diary.

FSW Muddy Paths Project - This has now been completed for the year with all the woodchip and gravel now laid. In summary - 439 bags of gravel and 6 cubic metres of woodchip were spread. The total cost of the materials was £1028.64 - but thanks to generous gifts from the Council and the suppliers, Woodside Timber and Spring Lane Builders Merchants, the cost to FSW was only £297.84. Many thanks yet again to Tony Flecchia for all his work on this project.

We shall keep an eye on developments over the year but currently all the worst puddles seem to be cured. Indeed the tracts of gravel are now the most pleasant places to walk - far more pleasant underfoot than the slippery muddy surface of many of the paths at this time of year. By next winter we may well have identified a number of other locations where gravel would help in which case I am sure we will consider repeating the project.

FSW Linden Glade Project - You may remember that last summer, the Friends undertook repairs of the pond in Linden Glade. Originally the pond was supplied with mains water and during the repair work our team discovered that the tap in Linden Glade was broken. In late October, we met with the Sutton and East Surrey Water Network Inspector, Martin Adcock, who agreed that the tap was faulty and should be replaced. In mid-December, Docwra repaired the stopcock as promised. This has improved the water supply but there still appears to be a leak somewhere between Linden Glade and the incoming supply by the Vincent Avenue Gate. It may be impossible to locate the source of this but our friendly neighbourhood detectorist (see December Newsletter) has agreed to try to help us find the track of the pipe. Watch this space for further information. Many thanks to Neale Fox who has taken the lead on this project.

Sightings - Winter is a quiet time for nature with little new to report. However already this year there have been several sightings of deer and of our famous white squirrel - see this photographs taken by Andy Hart on 7th January. Fungi are the only interesting growths in this season of dormancy but there are a fair few of these about. All recent Sightings are recorded on the Sightings page of our website and the spotters guide overleaf shows some of the more interesting specimens we have seen already this year with a note about their locations.



Visitors - There were considerably more visitors to the wood over the Christmas/New Year holiday period including many newcomers. The snow on Friday 13th January (see this photo of the Great Field) also brought out some of the less frequent users as children tried sledging in Field 3. However, it was 'the wrong sort of snow' - too powdery and not slippery enough so they did not have a great deal of success. However, several snowmen were built and the bodies of some of them lasted for several weeks through the icy weather. This also had the advantage of making the ground very hard and thus improving walking conditions in much of January. A downside of the freeze was a burst pipe in the toilet block. This was fixed by the Council very swiftly but there has been some structural damage.



Winter Fungi

See the FSW website for further information and lots more fungi. All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood in 2017.

Yellow Brain



On an Oak in Field 3 near the bench at the top of the north side.

Turkeytail



In Steven's Larch – and many other locations around the wood.

Jelly Ear



In Steven's Larch.

Blushing Bracket



In Steven's Larch

Candlesnuff



In Greenhill Way.

Beech Barkspot



In Steven's Larch.

Exidia Plana



A relative of Witches Butter off the path in Middle Gorse

King Alfred's Cakes



Widespread.

Olive Oysterling



In Middle Gorse.

Artist's Bracket



Birch Polypore



In Steven's Walk

Velvet Shank



Buttercup



Splitgill



On a log in Broad Walk