

Have you renewed your FSW Membership for 2019 - Our Membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st and it would be very helpful to us if you could pay your 2019 subs as soon as possible. Many thanks to those of you who have already done so and to those of you who have standing orders - 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 a mixed bag of hats, dog leads, pedometer, earrings, sunglasses etc. Please retrieve anything that is yours. The box also contained a key which we have removed for safe keeping. It has a distinctive blue ID tag, a bottle opener and a stitched mascot on the key ring. Do contact the FSW if you recognise this description.

Winter Walks – A couple of years ago the paths were so bad that we decided to abandon guided walks in the winter months as the paths were too muddy and slippery. However, this winter has been remarkably mild and dry so the paths are far less muddy than they usually are at this time of year. If you fancy a walk you would still be well advised to wear boots but you will not need to do too much cleaning up afterwards. There are information sheets about the Red and Green Walking Routes on the website and a version of the guides may be accessed on your smartphone using the QR codes attached to the numbered wooden posts.

Signs of Spring – As last year, the mild winter has produced many early signs of Spring. Again Bluebell shoots are peeping through the leaf litter and many other plants are throwing up new leaves, such as Cow Parsley, Clover, Honeysuckle and even Wild Strawberry and Early Purple Orchids.

Yellow Bird's Nest – It is unusual to spot a plant species not before seen in the wood at any time of year but especially in the winter - and even more amazing that it is a very rare plant. In mid-January we heard from Michael Waller who had found a Yellow Birds Nest - a very curious saprophytic plant that entirely lacks chlorophyll. It has declined quite significantly in south-east England and new sites are rare plus there is only one other site for it in Greater London at High Elms Country Park in Bromley. To see the photos look at the Wildflowers page on the FSW website.

White Squirrel – One of our famous white squirrels was spotted on the very last day of 2018 in its usual place at the junction of Langford's Way and Beech Grove. However a much more interesting sighting came on 12th of January when a white squirrel was spotted at the junction of Bluebell Grove and The Wend - a considerable distance from the regular territory (see photo right from FSW member Tamsin Reeve.)

Litter Pick – The local Scouts will be conducting a community litter pick in the Court Wood area of Selsdon Wood (adjacent to Courtwood Lane) from 10 -11.30 am on Saturday 2nd February. This is being supported by the Council Clean and Green Team who will provide resources and clear away the rubbish collected. We would love you to join us if you are free.

Last February we commemorated the fallen Oak in Farleigh Border with a page 2 article about the Oaks in Selsdon Wood. Oak is the dominant tree and the oldest of the deciduous trees but there are evergreens that are probably even older - the Yews.



