



Litter Pick in Court Wood - Those of you who live in Courtwood Lane may well have noticed that the stretch of Selsdon Wood running beside the road from Cascades to the end of Markfield is a real magnet for litter - see the "before" photograph top right. The main culprits seem to be those households who persist in putting general rubbish in the street bins and the foxes that pull this into the wood and spread it about the area known as Court Wood. The litter is especially visible at this season of the year when the trees are bare and so this was a perfect time to get in there and clear it up.



The FSW organised a community clean up in the area at 10 am on Saturday February 7th. Croydon's Clean & Green team were eager to support us by supplying posters to advertise the event. News got out via the Forestdale Forward group and we also notified the Head at the nearby Courtwood Primary School. As a result we were approached by several individuals keen to help and also by the leader of the 5th Selsdon & Addington Scout Group and the Pinewood Seahorses Explorer Scouts who offered the support of his young charges working toward their Community Challenge badges.



It was a great success - see the "after" photograph!! We had around 20 volunteers and managed to clear up Court Wood really well:-) There was an unbelievable amount of litter - see the photograph below showing what we collected. Tracy Bellamy, Croydon's Clean and Green Street Champion Coordinator, and a squad of Enforcement Officers set up a table with posters and T-shirts and provided litter pickers, gloves, bags and bag holders for the volunteers to use and even T-shirts for all who wanted them. The Enforcement Officers also delivered fliers around the neighborhood with information about the Don't Mess with Croydon campaign. There was a caged vehicle where the collected rubbish could be deposited and we more than half filled it! The event was scheduled for 2 hours but most of the work was completed by 11.30 am when we all got together for the group photograph showing what we had achieved. There was a total of half a ton of litter, which was taken away to landfill.



Thank you so much to everyone who came to help😊 I have had complementary remarks from many local residents who have noticed our lovely clean woods.

New Bins in the Car Park

- While on the subject of litter, I am happy to report that the Council have now installed two new bins in the car park - although the old ones have not yet been removed. There is no separate slot for dog poo - it all goes in together but there is a cigarette stubber on the top. It remains to be seen whether the slot is narrow enough to prevent the dumping of household waste or stop foxes raiding the bins and spreading mess.



QR Trails

- Users of smartphones among you may be interested to learn that the FSW have set up two trails in Selsdon Wood which are accessible on your phone by way of QR codes. These codes are square patterns of dots which work in much the same way as the barcodes used for stock control in shops. For many years there have been two trails (red and green) both marked by wooden posts and starting at the car park. The numbered posts on each route now have QR codes attached and if you scan these with your smartphone you will be taken to pages of seasonal information about the trail and an accompanying map. The original paper guide and the QR trails may also be accessed from the Walks page of our website. If you use the QR trails we would be very interested in your feedback - do please get in touch via phone, email or website.

Dedicated Benches

- There are a number of dedicated benches around Selsdon Wood and on my walks I often notice the names on them and wonder who these people were. I thought it might be nice if we could provide some information about all these men and women by putting a brief obituary for each of them on the web site with an image of the seat (and even a photograph of the person if possible). The dedications are to Miss Margaret Horn, Millie Dinnick, Murray Silverstone, Marjorie Howard, Sarah Purvis 1970 -1992, Clive Little 10.7.1935 – 7.11.1989, Nicola Jane Bailey, Eric Saines 1901 – 1987 and Nicki (no surname given). Do any of you know anything about any of these people? If so do please get in touch.

Work in the Centenary Plantation

- The Centenary Plantation was created in 1983, when Councillor Dudley Mead helped to raise a fund to plant 100 oaks to commemorate the Centenary of Croydon Council - see photograph taken in 1986. This area also was subject to a Council Management & Action Plan to be implemented by the Friends of Selsdon Wood in partnership with the Council's Community Partnership Officer and Forestry Adviser. Although the Friends have helped maintain this area in years past, the growth of a huge number of Ash saplings has defeated us and so the Council stepped in this spring to clear these by machine. They are also likely to be thinning the Oaks in the near future, removing sickly specimens to leave more room for the others to grow. In the past couple of years we have noticed the emergence of a large number of white helleborines and a solitary clump of broad-leaved helleborines. These are uncommon plants, relatives of the orchid family and we shall be looking for them again this spring.



This Month's Walk - Family Woodland Wander - Saturday 7th March 2015 - 2pm - 3.30pm - Join Meike Weiser, Croydon's Community Partnership Officer, for a spring time, forest school inspired ramble aimed at families with children aged 5+. Meet at 2pm by the Bear in the Selsdon Wood car park. Wellies are recommended, as paths will be muddy. For more information please contact biodiversity@croydon.gov.uk.

New Notice Boards

- Eagle-eyed walkers amongst you may have noticed that our newly refurbished notice boards are beginning to appear at all the entrances to the wood. Watch out for a full report on that project in the April issue of the Newsletter.

FSW AGM - Monday 2nd March 2015 8pm at the Forestdale Forum

- All members of the FSW are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Selsdon Wood. Agenda items will include: election of Management Committee and Officers, report from Chair, Treasurer's report & approval of 2014 accounts and an annual review of membership arrangements including the proposal that the membership fee should be held at £5 for a further year. The reports from the Chair and Treasurer will also be posted on the FSW website in due course.

There is no room for a spotters' guide this month but by April we hope to have a guide to some of the signs of spring seen in our wood this year.