



Planting of Whips - February 2016 - Our work teams are often noticed when we are cutting back and coppicing but we also do some planting which is perhaps less visible. Management of the woodland is overseen by The Council's Forestry Advisor, Simon Levy who advises the FSW on suitable work for us to undertake and also supplies whips, small tree saplings, for us to plant. On 17th February Simon delivered to us 100 Hazel, 6 disease-resistant Elm and 6 Wild Service whips, plus 25 large stakes and 25 plastic tubes. Ted Forsyth organised the planting in the FSW coppice area next to Stevens Walk, assisted by David Malins and Alan Bushnell. The whips were planted over two days later in the same week and at the same time a check was made on the existing Elms that were planted couple of years ago. Only one seemed to have vanished and even those not protected by a plastic tube seemed to be OK. On the first day the new Elms were planted and stakes and tubes put on the old ones that had no protection. Rootgrow was used when planting. This is mycorrhizal fungi in granular form intended to give a good start to newly planted trees. They will form a close relationship with the tree roots and spread out to bring in nutrients from greater distances than the tree's roots can reach. 75 Hazel whips were also planted on the first day. On the second day Alan and David planted the remaining 25 Hazel whips while Ted dealt with the 6 Wild Service trees. Eight remaining plastic tubes and ten stakes were spread around arbitrarily to protect a few of the planted Hazel - most of the Hazel has no protection. Before leaving the deer fence was re-erected to protect the planting.

















FSW Logs - We have 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

This Month's Walk on Saturday 5th March @ 2pm - Family Woodland Walk' with Meike Weiser - Be a Wildlife Detective on this 1½ hour family walk led by Croydon's Community Partnership Officer. Participants will look for clues like tracks, footprints, feathers, bones or scat that animals have left behind to find out what lives in the woods. The event is aimed at families with children 5+. After the walk pop in to the FSW "museum" in the toilet block to look at our collection of clues found in the wood over the years including:- skulls of squirrels, foxes, badgers and deer; deer antlers; birds egg shells; a hornets nest; and some owl pellets. For further information please contact biodiversity@croydon.gov.uk or call Parks on 020 8726 6000

FSW AGM - Monday 21st March 2016 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 2015 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.

Subscription Reminder - Many thanks to everyone who has now paid their subs for 2016. If you have not yet paid do please let us have your £5 asap or better still set up a standing order so that you won't have to give it another thought of future years. Please make the payment to: Friends of Selsdon Wood at Barclays Bank, Croydon Branch, Account No. 80883832, Sort Code 20-24-61 - or by cash or cheque to FSW Treasurer, 68 Greville Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 8NL.

An Early Spring - The mild winter has produced some very early signs of spring this year - including the first open bluebell spotted on 13th February almost two months earlier than last year. Take a look at the photograph in the spotters' gallery overleaf for 14 photographs - all taken in Selsdon Wood in 2016.

<p>Signs of Spring!!!</p> <p>Spring is coming early this year. Here are a few of the signs of spring we have spotted in Selsdon Wood so far in 2016 with a note in brackets showing when similar signs were seen in 2015.</p>	<p>Primrose</p>  <p>First open flowers near the north-western corner of David's Crook. January 20th (7/3/15)</p>	<p>Cherry Blossom</p>  <p>In the Great Field by the cut through to David's Crook. January 29th (19/3/15)</p>	<p>Common Daisies</p>  <p>In the overspill car park. January 31st (7/3/15)</p>	<p>Buttercup</p>  <p>In Field 2, Vale Meadow near Jubilee Plantation. Seen on February 3rd. (2/5/15)</p>
<p>Celandine</p>  <p>Beside Courtwood Lane Gate. Seen on February 9th. (31/3/15)</p>	<p>Periwinkle</p>  <p>In Linden Glade. Seen on February 9th. (23/3/15)</p>	<p>Dandelion</p>  <p>In Langford's Way near the Courtwood Lane gate. Seen on February 12th (25/3/15).</p>	<p>Laurel</p>  <p>Path from Greenhill Way to David's Crook. Seen on February 13th (no date recorded last year).</p>	<p>Bluebell</p>  <p>In Smith Grove near field end. Seen on February 13th. (3/4/15). Must be the earliest sighting ever.</p>
<p>Crocus</p>  <p>Behind poo bin by Courtwood Lane Gate. Seen on February 21st. (7/3/15)</p>	<p>Bullace</p>  <p>In Field 1 in Vale Border. Seen on February 22nd 16 (no date recorded last year).</p>	<p>Plum</p>  <p>In David's Crook. Seen on February 23rd (no date recorded last year).</p>	<p>Barren Strawberry</p>  <p>In Langford's Way. Seen on February 23rd (1/4/15)</p>	<p>Hoverfly</p>  <p>On pollen-rich Hazel catkin in David's Crook. Seen on February 23rd (no date recorded last year).</p>