

FSW Open Day - 11th September - We had a beautiful day for it this year, the attendance was steady throughout the 4 hours and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to all the Friends and others who contributed to its success and especially to our secretary and Open Day Organiser, Linda Morris. As usual, refreshments were provided by the Scouts and guest stalls included: East Surrey Badger Protection Society, Friends of the Earth, Beekeepers, Woodturners, RSPB, Selsdon Ceramics, Friends of Littleheath Woods, Epilepsy Society, Vegans, Uncle Ria's Jams, SRA, and Mrs Jess Bates with her ferret. See the Events page of the website for more photographs and a full report.



Cutting of Grass and Paths - I should like to give all credit and many thanks to the contractors, Quadron, who have recently cut the woodland paths in Selsdon Wood. They have been cut very sympathetically yet thoroughly including clearance around all the benches. Moreover, this has been done at exactly the right time of year when the wildflowers and butterflies have finished leaving everything tidy for winter and ready for next spring.

You will also have seen that the grass in the fields has now been cut and a number of people have asked me who cuts the hay and what happens to it. That work was also very impressive this year with everything cut, tossed, baled up and gathered all over the space of a week before the rains came. Quadron are also responsible for this work which they subcontract to a local farmer Ian Bushell. After baling the hay is wrapped in plastic and in about six weeks goes to a beef farmer near Guildford.

Plans for Winter Work – The work on the Linden Glade pond is now complete and we await the winter rains to fill it. Our workdays team hope to start the autumn/winter season with work in the Gorses area to clear some of the growth of bramble and Sycamore saplings. We will also be addressing some of the worst puddles throughout the wood by digging drainage ditches and filling the holes with gravel. Many thanks to our local councilor, Sara Bashford, for agreeing to fund this from her Community Ward Budget. Work by the council contractor, Coombe Forestry, will be a continuation of the coppice in the Wend and also the widening of Leafy Grove and the Wend. Both these rides will be opened up by scalloping rather than linear cutting with a maximum width of 15m. Main trees to be felled have already been marked with a blue dot.

Thanks to Donors - Many thanks to Hugh Benham for his substantial donation. Thanks too to everyone who dropped donations in our bucket on Open Day. The total raised came to just over £60 – a 30% increase on the money collected last year 😊

The FSW Calendar 2017 is now available for a donation of £5 - Phone 020-8657 0423 or e-mail selsdonwood@gmail.com

FSW Logs - We now have available some air-dried logs which we be delighted to let you have 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.

FSW Autumn Walk - Fruit and Fungi on Sunday October 9th @ 10am - Ted and Tony will again lead this walk and have already started the advanced spotting to ensure that there is lots to show.

Our spotters' guide this month shows some fungi you might hope to see on the day. All have been spotted in our wood this autumn.

<p>Lots of Fungi & a Slime Mould Look out for these on our walk on 9th October</p> <p>See the FSW website for further information and lots more fungi. All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood this autumn.</p>	<p>Chicken of the Woods</p>  <p>Seen in Courtwood Grove and Linden Glade.</p>	<p>Hen of the Woods</p>  <p>In Avis Grove at the base of an Oak – a species new to us this year.</p>	<p>Coprinus xanthrotrix</p>  <p>Small very delicate and short lived mushroom seen by the toilet block.</p>	<p>Blushing Bracket</p>  <p>On Birch logs in West Gorse. Stains red when scratched</p>
<p>Flat Oysterling</p>  <p>Seen in Middle Gorse on a well-rotted stump.</p>	<p>Dryad's Saddle</p>  <p>Seen in its usual location in Steven's Walk. This fungus recurs annually.</p>	<p>Artist's Bracket</p>  <p>A sturdy bracket fungus. Seen in Vale Border.</p>	<p>Bay Bolette</p>  <p>Seen in Middle Gorse.</p>	<p>Dog's Vomit Slime Mould</p>  <p>Seen near the junction of Noakes Way and Leafy Grove.</p>
<p>Stinkhorn</p>  <p>In Noakes Way. We have watched the development of this over the past 3 weeks.</p>	<p>Birch Polypore</p>  <p>A common, bracket fungus growing on Birch. The underside is white and has pores not gills.</p>	<p>Birch Woodwart</p>  <p>Seen in Langford's Way.</p>	<p>Turkeytail</p>  <p>A small, widespread fungus with banded colours like the tail of a turkey. Grows on logs and stumps.</p>	<p>Dead Moll's Fingers</p>  <p>Seen in Greenhill Way.</p>