

Muddy Puddles Project - Update July & August 2017 - No work was done in July since it was too dry. The wet spell in early August exposed all the worst puddle areas, enabling 6 gravel work days during the 3rd to the 11th period when 10 one tonne loads of gravel were used. The two major puddles in Greenhill Way, the three in Farleigh Border and the second dip in East Gorse were filled, together with some mud covering on that route. That means the entire western and southern border path route from Field 1 through to the junction of Noakes Way with East Gorse has had all major repairs completed. Additionally, Middle Gorse, Linden Glade and Pool Grove had gravel added to existing repair areas. The major puddle in Leafy Grove and the puddle in the grass on the southern flank of Great Field have been filled. Special attention has been paid to the extensive damage the contractors caused at the West Gorse - Smith Grove junction. The huge ridges of earth have been broken down to fill the deep ruts, with raking plus rolling using the pickup tyres to level the ground. Then some two and a half tonnes of gravel has been used to surface the extensive mud over a large area. Since there is a persistent puddle there, a reservoir has been left at the rear to take up surpluses of rain, but this has been disguised by a log pile constructed over it. Finally, on an additional work day the log pile has been landscaped with grasses and woodland plants taken from the area and planted around it to enhance the appearance and establish root systems to take up water surpluses. [The photo shows the log-filled and landscaped puddle.](#) Many thanks to [Tony Flecchia](#) for all his work on this.



Minibeast Hunt - Wednesday 16th August 2017 - led by Roger Hawkins & Vic Wallace

A couple of dozen children (with accompanying adults) came to our hunt on a warm, fair day with some sunny spells. After a brief introduction from Roger, the children were issued with collecting pots, nets and catching sheets and they set off around the car park field with their parents and grandparents to see what could be found. As in previous years, the sharp eared children were able to find the chirruping crickets and were much quicker and more skilled than the adults at spotting and catching even the tiniest spiders. To finish the session several groups walked up into David's Crook to look for butterflies on the marjoram patch and to beat the hedgerows with sticks to knock the minibeasts lurking there onto a catching sheet. There is a full list of over 30 different species identified on the Walks page of the FSW website. We were told that the event had been advertised on Hoop, a website showing activities for children. We did not put it up there but were glad to see that it had been effective.

News of an 18th Century Local Bryologist – We received a message last month from Margaret Forbes-Hamilton who told us about a local 18th Century bryologist, James Dickson. We understand that he recorded and illustrated many of the mosses in our area. We have set up a page on the website covering all the information we have about him but if anyone knows anything further about James Dickson or has access to any of his papers we would love to hear from you.

FSW Open Day - Sunday September 10th - 12noon - 4pm – Don't forget to keep this date free for our Open Day – see overleaf for details. We always need as much help as possible on the day so please get in touch on 020 8651 4010 if you can offer some of your time. We are also looking for items suitable for tombola prizes - perhaps you have put away somewhere some unwanted gifts still in pristine condition you could donate? All sorts of things are acceptable, just as long as they are obviously new and unused and not out of date. We can arrange collection if you give us a call.

Lost Property Box – letter to an unknown finder from Fred Jaques – Just a thank you to the person who found a Halti and put it in the lost property box ☺ My friend Val is very grateful.

F.S.W. 10th Anniversary OPEN DAY

Sunday 10th September 12 noon to 4pm

Selsdon Wood Car Park off Old Farleigh Road



We hope to welcome a variety of Stalls & Displays including East Surrey Badger Protection Society, a Potter, RSPB-Natures Home, East Surrey Wood Turners, Beekeepers & Meet a Ferret!



FSW Tombola with lots of prizes.



White Elephant stall with books, and the FSW 2018 Calendar.



Judge our Photographic competition.

Guided Walks: 12.30 & 2.30 for about an hour

FSW Scavenger hunt & items of interest for children & a storytime session for them from 1.45 to 2.15pm.



Refreshments & Games provided by local Scouts;



Activities by local Brownies.



Friends of Selsdon Wood
Calendar 2018

Parking is limited - Bus 433 stops nearby.