

Some early FSW activity

April 2007. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in SW and Kingswood

July 2007. Weasel seen crossing Greenhill Way above Vincent Avenue

Aug 2007. Public meeting in SW to hear plans. Simon Levy, Croydon tree people, Ernie Thomason plus 20 more. Simon pointed out squirrel tree damage and mentioned plan for larch felling in The Gorses and removal of pines from Stevens Larch where it was an initial nursery crop to protect beech saplings.

3 Dec 2007. Larch plantation in The Gorses was felled and some pines removed from Stevens Larch.

Sat 8 Dec 2007. Initial walk with Simon, Meike, Dawn and 17 more. We looked at Stevens Larch and The Gorses and Simon suggested we could start coppicing at junction of Stevens Walk and Leafy Grove.

Mon 4 Jan 2008. First FSW indoor meeting held in Selsdon Library. There had been a previous walk to identify trees in winter when I was on HBk.

Sat 19 Jan 2008. Ernie's bird walk – 7 people.

Sat 9 Feb 2008. BTCV training in coppicing with Dave Johnson. Waste material put on a fire.

Sat 16 Feb 2008. Ernie' trees/shrubs walk. 29 species, 12 people, Buzzard.

Sun Feb 2008. FSW walking the short route checking existing leaflet took 2 hrs.

April 2008. Gordon took photo of white squirrel in leafy Grove (?).

Sat 26 April 2008. Ernie's bluebell walk. 70 people.

Sat 3 May 2008. Ernie dawn chorus 5am. Ernie 10.00am flower walk.

Tues 6 May 2008. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker found on Littleheath.

Sun 18 May 2008. FSW checking green route. Tawny Owl seen by Ted earlier in Bluebell Grove near David's Crook.

Sat 24 June 2008. Ernie bird walk for LNHS.

Sat 5 July 2008. Ernie flower walk.

Sat 26 July 2008. Ernie butterfly walk. Local expert Bernard Skinner attended.

Sun 2 Nov 2008. Cleared bramble near toolstore and uncovered a buried bench. We had been offered 5 new benches by Croydon Council.

Sat 6 Dec 2008. In Jubilee with Simon and Meike clearing Ash saplings. Simon used his chainsaw to fell several trees.

Ted checked positions of all seats and benches and noted the seat dedications.

Sun 4 Jan 2009. Clearing benches in David's Crook with Linda and Gordon.

A dog walker said she had seen a muntjac.

Mon 5 Jan 2009. FSW AGM

Sat 24 Jan 2009. First group coppicing since training

Sun 1 Feb 2009. Another day coppicing

Thurs 19 Feb 2009. With David erecting Tawny Owl box between East Gorse and The Wend

Sun 1 Mar 2009. Third coppicing – 10 people

Thurs 5 Mar 2009. With David putting up Dawn's donated nest box in linen glade. David managed to drop a branch on me then followed it later with the tit box!

Sun 5 April 2009. Clearing ash saplings in Centenary

Sun 26 April 2009. FSW Bluebell Walk which I was persuaded to lead – 20 people. David and Gordon put in two new seats.

Sat 16 May 2009. Ernie bird walk

Sun 7 June 2009. Ash clearing in Centenary

Mon 29 June 2009. I counted Pyramidal orchids. Top right in car park field 175, along top of same field 7, field 2 67, field 3 25, David's Crook 12. Total at least 381

Mon 13 July 2009. With Meike and Andy Williams to discuss the Jubilee Plantation. Afterwards we met Ernie who had discovered the Broad-leaved Helleborine outside the Centenary

Sun 2 Aug 2009. Workday clearing near toolstore and uncovering a buried seat in Linden Glade. Also dealt with a fallen tree

Thurs 17 Sept 2009. The felled larch area was being scraped by a contractor

Mon 24 Sept 2009. With Simon Levy, Richard Edwards, Nigel Browning and Mark Richards (NT) viewing the scrape where young gorse sprigs were appearing. Talk of possibly introducing heather. Looked at Jubilee fence and talked about a new one.

Sun 4 Oct 2009. Workday. David, Ted and two Lindas. Uncovering 4 benches in Field 2 and 3 in Field 3, 2 benches in David's Crook and cleared around the picnic table.

I decided we needed an introductory leaflet and produced an A4 sheet, to be folded in three, with several wildlife pictures and a few words about FSW. Showed it to David who became very enthusiastic and expanded it to double size.

Thurs 15 Oct 2009. With David in Jubilee making a path and removing fallen branches.

Fri 16 Oct 2009. As above.

Mon 19 Oct 2009. David and I repaired old Jubilee fence and an old bird box. Filled large pit with fallen branches.

Sat 31 Oct 2009. Late visit to listen for owls.

Tues 3 Nov 2009. Another owl visit – David in another part of the wood.

Wed 4 Nov 2009. With BTCV cutting laurel in Court Wood. Asked Meike for help in removing but Andy Williams said should have been 50% of time used to move material to top of site to form a dead hedge.

Mon 19 Nov 2009. David and Ted repairing old Jubilee fence again.

Sat 28 Nov 2009. Blocking unused badger hole near pond in Jubilee.

Sat 28 Nov 2009. Rob Sowter's leaflet on Coppicing for Product was modified by David.

Mon 30 Nov 2009. At FSW meeting mention was made of Muntjac outside Bickerstaff's garden.

Sun 6 Dec 2009. Linda Morris and Ted walked red route, Linda Lee and David walked the green route checking the guideposts. I returned later and found Tawny Owl in Middle Gorse and Broom Wood.

Sun 3 Jan 2010. With John Zareba clearing ash in Centenary.

Fri 15 Jan 2010. A2-sized leaflet arrived!

Mon 1 Feb 2010. With David in Jubilee marking trees to be removed, then to the coppice area to clear up branches and make pens for product.

Thurs 4 Feb 2010. Met Simon and David in Jubilee to discuss trees marked for removal.

Sat 6 Feb 2010. Extra workday. David, Ted, Linda Lee, Linda Morris in coppice clearing enormous quantity of fallen branches – produced pile 5' high by 8' wide.

Sunday 7 Feb 2010. Workday. David, Ted, Linda Lee, Rob Turley, Christine Brooks, Dawn Gibbons Coppicing plus fire. Contractors in Beech Grove. Photographed owls in Broom Wood and West Gorse.

Thurs 25 Feb 2010. With David cutting laurel near Addington Border path.

Sat 27 Feb 2010. Janet, David, Ted in Centenary.

Sun 28 Feb 2010. Ted photographed marks on guide posts then produced a report for Meike and Carol yesson for replacement posts.

Fri/Thurs 5/6 March 2010. Littleheath demonstration charcoal burn with Simon. Foxley group brought a log splitter.

Sun 7 March 2010. Workday in coppice area – fire.

Mon 8 March 2010. Contractors cutting down trees in coppice area. David and Ted worked in Centenary.

Sat 13 March 2010. Ted, David, John burning vast quantities of branches left by contractors – they removed the trees they cut, also from Jubilee. Worked for 8 hrs. Janet came later. So much material that John started a second fire.

Wed 17 March 2010. Ted and David in Jubilee 4.5hrs burning.

Thurs 18 March 2010. David and John 3hrs in Jubilee. David writing monthly in Selsdon Gazette.

Fri 19 March 2010. David and Ted in Jubilee for 3 hrs.

Mon 22 March 2010. David and Ted 5hrs in Jubilee.

Tues 23 March 2010. David and Ted 5hrs in Jubilee. Spoke to Simon about a new fence for Jubilee.

Wed 24 March 2010. David and Ted in Jubilee.

Thurs 25 March 2010. David and Ted laying out a grid in Jubilee.

Sat 27 March 2010. Met Rob Sowter who has planted 259 hazel and will plant 400 oaks.

April 2010. Collected owl pellets.

Wed 14 April 2010. Toothwort appearing. Took my guide post document to be given to Carol.

Fri 16 April 2010. Gridding with David in Jubilee.

Tues/Wed/Thurs 20/21/22 April 2010. Working on new guide post. Carol routed numbers and arrows. Ted cut a weather top on posts, painted numbers and arrows and sanded excess paint.

Ted, David, Carol and 5 Downlands volunteers put in the new red route posts. Some of the old posts had a large lump of concrete on the bottom, others had large crossed nails. 7 posts completed.

Tues 27 April 2010. Carol not well so worked with Tom Thorn, Dave Bath, Martin Defreitas to put in 12 more posts.

Thurs 29 April 2010. Carol, Tom, 3 volunteers plus Ted and David put in last 6 posts. We retained some of the old posts to use as legs on repaired benches and stored them behind toilet block.

Fri 4 June Gordon reported finding remains of a picnic and fire in David's Crook with four of our old posts partially burned.

Sat 5 June 2010. I cleared most of the rubbish.

Sun 6 June 2010. Workday clearing around benches, clearing bench buried in bracken in David's Crook, and retrieved the last of the burned posts.