

One Green Bottle - The daily litter collection in Selsdon Wood is one chore we could happily do without but just occasionally something interesting comes to light. One of our committee members, Neale Fox, picked this bottle up in Linden Glade on a March Workday. He thought it was a modern beer bottle at first but after looking a bit closer (and giving it a good wash) he discovered that it is an R Whites screw top bottle and the 35 on the stopper may indicate that it dates from 1935 - soon after the wood was purchased for the community by a group of philanthropists (see the website History page for details). The top is either a lightweight non-ferrous metal or ceramic with a rather deteriorated rubber seal. Research suggests that such bottles were made in clear glass as well and contained lemonade or possibly ginger beer. Originally R Whites made only ginger beer that was sold in stoneware bottles. Mineral water and soft drinks came later. Although I suspect Lemonade did become their staple by the early twentieth century. They are now part of Britvic and the original Camberwell factories are long gone. The bottle was probably reused many times, as well into the 60s soft drink bottles were returnable for a small payment. Bottles like this sell for around £5 or £6 on eBay but most have no stopper and no trace of the rubber seal so ours may be worth a little more. The early glass Codd bottles (with a marble closure) are worth considerably more money especially in nice colours. If you find any in our wood we would love to see them.



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 Sunday 3rd April @ 2pm - Spring walk with the FSW - Join us for a leisurely walk to look for signs of spring. Our spotters gallery overleaf shows some of the flowers seen in March and last month's newsletter showed 14 of the very earliest openers, including the first open bluebell spotted on 13th February almost two months earlier than last year. The trees will now be bursting into leaf and we may well spot butterflies and other insects and hear the songs of our native birds. The mud does appear to have dried up at last and walking conditions are now much easier.

Linden Glade Tidy - One Workday activity in March involved some clearance in Linden Glade. The mud there has been especially bad this year - probably made worse by the shade from nearby trees - so we spent most of our time trimming branches to encourage evaporation from the soil. It will not solve all the problems but might help. While we were there a Green Woodpecker laughed at our efforts, several Great Spotted Woodpeckers had a drumming battle in the surrounding trees, and we saw two calling Buzzards soaring overhead.

Get snapping now for the 2016 Photo Competition!! - Since 2010 we have held an annual Photographic Competition and details of last year's winners can be seen on the website. There are cash prizes to be won and now that the woods are looking so lovely with the Bluebells it is a good time to get out there with your cameras. Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Woods between 20th August 2015 and 20th August 2016. As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day in September 2016. Please submit your photographs to our competition organiser, Heather Govier, either in electronic format by email to selsdonwood@gmail.com or as prints to 219 Oswald, Courtwood Lane, Croydon. CR0 9HG.

FSW AGM - Monday 21st March 2016 - The meeting was conducted in difficult circumstances as the Forum had double booked us and we were relegated to the "pool" room - a mezzanine open to the noisy bar. However, we coped and the minutes of the meeting and the reports from the Chair and Treasurer are available on the AGM page of the FSW website.

<p>More Signs of Spring!!!</p> <p>Although there were many early signs of spring in February and early March, things have slowed down now and are more or less back on a normal timetable. Notes in brackets show when similar signs were seen in 2015 (where known).</p>	<p>Bluebell - first fully open bells</p>  <p>In Bluebell Grove. Seen on 26th February (3/4/15).</p>	<p>Dog's Mercury</p>  <p>In vale Border. Seen on 1st March (29/3/15).</p>	<p>Wood Anemone</p>  <p>In Beech Grove. Seen on 1st March (22/3/15).</p>	<p>Cow Parsley</p>  <p>In Vale Border by Kingfisher gate. Seen on 15th March. (28/4/15)</p>
<p>Daffodil</p>  <p>By Millie Dinnock's seat in F2. Seen on 15th March. (19/3/15)</p>	<p>Plum in full bloom</p>  <p>Plum in David's Crook. In full bloom on 18th March. First flowers spotted on 23rd February 2016.</p>	<p>Primrose in full bloom</p>  <p>Also in David's Crook. Seen on 18th March. First flowers peeped through on 20th January 2016.</p>	<p>Blackthorn</p>  <p>In F2. Seen on 19th March. Similar to Bullace but stems are blacker and thorny.</p>	<p>Frogspawn</p>  <p>In pond in the Jubilee. Seen on 19th March (20/3/15). In past years this has failed to hatch in situ.</p>
<p>Hawthorn leaves</p>  <p>In Courtwood Grove. Seen on 19th March.</p>	<p>Ladybird</p>  <p>In David's Crook. Seen on 22nd March.</p>	<p>Anemones now more profuse</p>  <p>In Broad Walk. Seen on 22nd March..</p>	<p>Brimstone Butterfly</p>  <p>In East Gorse. Seen on 22nd March..</p>	<p>Dog Violet</p>  <p>In Langford's way. Seen on 25th Match.</p>