

Newsletter Distribution – The monthly newsletters are delivered to all members who have e-mail addresses with a few clicks. However, we also deliver 21 copies by hand or post which is more expensive in time, effort and money. We are proposing to drop the monthly hand/postal delivery after next month and batch up the newsletters to deliver them quarterly which will save on postage and/or shoe leather. Those with email addresses will continue to receive a monthly newsletter.

FSW Facebook Group – There has been a FSW Group in Facebook for some years but we would love to see it more active. There has been a recent flurry of joins and there are now two short videos, one showing our famous White Squirrel and the other a pair of Buzzards soaring over David's Crook. We also have a link to a BBC News article about what to do with dog poo and several photos of recent sightings. If you use Facebook please take a look and better still join the group and post your own news and sightings.

Chair's Report to AGM – The FSW AGM was held on Monday 27th March. The minutes are available in the AGM section of the website. As usual The Chair's report was structured with regard to the aims of our group as stated in the constitution. The full report is available on the website – these are the key points covered.

Aim 1) To ensure that Selsdon wood is maintained for the benefit of the flora and fauna so that no one species shall threaten the survival of another and for the enjoyment and well being of the public - Summer workdays focused on general maintenance such as clearing round benches while winter workdays involved cutting back in the Gorse area. An additional major project was our assault on muddy puddles in paths throughout the wood by filling with gravel and woodchip.

Aim 2) To carry out programmes of practical work, especially sustainable conservation and restoration work - The major project this year was the restoration of the Bird Pool in Linden Glade. We hope to see the pond populated with flora and fauna in the coming years.

Aim 3) To educate volunteers of all ages in the principles and practices of nature conservation and encourage the public interest in Selsdon Wood - Our guided walks have been well attended and all the presenters have provisionally agreed to come back in 2017 when we plan to run a similar programme. Last year we also held a Community Picnic in conjunction with the Selsdon Residents Association and our annual Open Day. We produce this monthly newsletter and a number of maps and leaflets (Membership Application, General Information, Red & Green Walks) to support visitors. The red and green route walks are also supported by QR codes sited on the posts which can be read with smartphones and similar devices. We advertise all events in the Selsdon Gazette and Local Link and also on posters around the wood and the local community and have an active website and Facebook group.















Aim 4) To act as a forum for discussion on issues that may affect the aims and activities - Monthly meetings rarely attract many members beyond the core team but this does have the advantage of keeping them tightly focused. All members are welcome to attend - location and times are advertised on the website. The website and newsletters provide a forum with a wider reach and the FSW have maintained liaison with other local groups through the ACCS.

Aim 5) To raise money as necessary for the carrying out of its work - Open Day was a fruitful money raiser and we have successfully applied for grants to support our work. Membership fees are another valuable source of income and most memberships are eligible for Gift Aid, which adds to our funds. Distribution of logs, charcoal and our annual calendar also raise money for the group's activities.

At the end of the report the Chair offered thanks to all members of the management group for their commitment and for all the work they have done throughout the year.☺

Get snapping now for the 2016/7 Photo Competition!! – We were sorry not to be able to run the annual Photo Competition in 2016 as there were too few entries. We have decided to make this a biennial event and photos from 2016 and 2017 will be eligible for entry this year. With spring bursting forth now 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 19th August 2017. As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day in September 2017. 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 Oward, Courtwood Lane, Croydon. CR0 9HG.

Relocation of Rubbish Bin – The bin has now been re-sited on the opposite site of the green overspill car park, next to the hedge.

<p>More Signs of Spring!!!</p> <p>Although spring was slow in coming this year, things are more or less back on a normal timetable. Notes in brackets show when similar signs were seen in previous years. Look out for all of these on our</p> <p>Spring Walk on Sunday 2nd April @ 2pm.</p>	<p>Bluebell</p>  <p>First flowers seen in Farleigh Border. (28/3/17) (26/2/16) (3/4/15).</p>	<p>Dog's Mercury</p>  <p>In Vale Border. (9/3/17) (1/3/16) (29/3/15).</p>	<p>Wood Anemone</p>  <p>In Beech Grove. (10/3/17) (1/3/16) (22/3/15).</p>	<p>Cow Parsley</p>  <p>In Vale Border by Kingfisher gate. (20/3/17) (15/3/16) (28/4/15)</p>
<p>Daffodil</p>  <p>By Millie Dinnock's seat in F2. (15/3/17) (15/3/16) (19/3/15)</p>	<p>Plum</p>  <p>In David's Crook. First flowers spotted (5/3/17) (23/2/16)</p>	<p>Primrose</p>  <p>Also in David's Crook. First flowers seen (15/3/17) (20/1/16)</p>	<p>Blackthorn</p>  <p>In David's Crook. (17/3/17) (19/3/16)</p>	<p>Brimstone Butterfly</p>  <p>2017 date is earlier than 2016 (22/2/17) (22/3/16)</p>
<p>Hawthorn leaves</p>  <p>2017 date is earlier than 2016 In Courtwood Grove. (26/2/17) (19/3/16)</p>	<p>Goat Willow catkins</p>  <p>In Langford's way near the Courtwood Lane gate. (14/7/17) (23/2/17)</p>	<p>Sycamore leaves</p>  <p>In Steven's Walk. (23/3/17) (25/3/16)</p>	<p>Comma butterfly</p>  <p>In David's Crook (9/3/17) no previous years' dates noted</p>	<p>Dog Violet</p>  <p>In Langford's way. (15/3/17) (25/3/16).</p>