



Toilet block leak – Sadly there was another leak in the toilet block after the frost last month.

Fortunately, the Friends were able to turn off the water supply before much damage was done. The Council have fixed one of the bursts but a second is awaiting attention before the water can be turned on again.

Lost Property – If you have lost anything in Selsdon Wood do not forget to take a peep in the lost property box behind the notice board in the car park. Current contents include several hats and gloves, a Yale key with green cover and a Sony Ericcson phone – tatty with missing back plate. A PetSafe has also been found – if you have lost this phone us with a description and arrangements will be made for you to collect it.

New Gate at Cascades Entrance – Many thanks to Croydon Council who have fitted a new gate at the Cascades entrance to the wood. The old one had been repaired many times and was certainly on its last legs but as you can see the new one should serve for many a long year. This photo is also a reminder of what the woods looked like just last month – thanks to John Zareba.



FSW AGM – The 2018 AGM was held on Monday 26th March at the Forestdale Forum. The full set of papers for the meeting is available on the AGM page of the website. From the Treasurers Report it can be seen that at the close of the financial year we had 180 members and a credit balance of £3355 – of which approximately £2K is earmarked for training courses and continuing improvement of paths.

The report from the Chair covered the last year's work & projects and all that we do to encourage public interest in the woods through our walks, activities and publications.

Work and projects included: erecting new paths name boards (and replacing fallen ones); cutting back invasive Laurel and Holly; erecting nest boxes for Owls; laying over 60 tonnes of gravel to improve the paths and purchasing 5 new seats – currently awaiting installation when the conditions are suitable. The FSW also acts as eyes and ears for the Council and we reported the leak and dilapidated gate – see above – and several fallen trees that were too large for us to deal with that were promptly cleared by Council contractors. The Chair thanked all the regular volunteers and the youngsters on Duke of Edinburgh schemes who have joined us on workdays over the year.

The FSW organised eight walks in 2017, four of which were led by guest leaders. All were well attended and will be repeated in 2018. In July we ran a Community Litter Pick in conjunction with the Council Clean and Green team and local Beaver groups and we also contributed to the SRA picnic. In September, we held the usual Open Day including the Photo Competition in which 71 people voted, and we again produced a FSW Calendar which was well received.

Our publications include this monthly newsletter, maps of the wood and leaflets of information including the red and green walks. We have an active website and Facebook group and a small "museum" of objects found in the wood which is on display to visitors at walks and events.

The FSW have had a busy and successful year and the Chair thanked all members of the management group for their commitment to the FSW and for all the work they have done throughout the year. In return she was thanked for her work as Chair, litter picker and website manager ☺

Hopefully by the time this goes out we shall be experiencing some spring weather. Overleaf is a reminder of what the woods looked like just last month.

March Snow & Signs of Spring

The snows of early and mid March do not seem to have slowed the arrival of spring too much. Here are some snowy images to look back on and some recent spring sightings. Dates in brackets show the first sightings in previous years.



Above – Great Hill (Field 3) seen from Broad Walk by John Zareba 20/3/18

Left – Selsdon seen from Field 1 (the car park field) by Andy Campbell 17/3/18

Right – Smiling through by Neale Fox 18/3/18.

Thanks to all the photographers☺

Crocus



Tribute planting by Heather Creamer's seat in F2 13/3/18 (1/3/17) (21/2/16) (7/3/15)

Dandelion



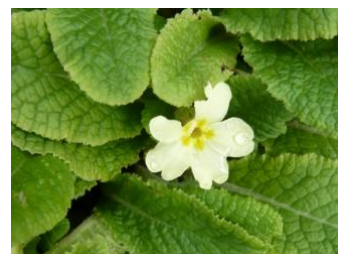
In Field 1 16/3/18 (17/3/17) (12/2/16) (25/3/15).

Mirabelle Plum



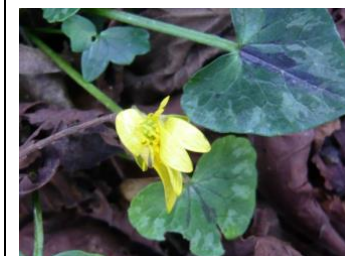
In David's Crook 21/3/18 (5/3/17) (23/2/16) (no 2015 date recorded)

Primrose



In David's Crook 13/3/18 (15/3/17) (9/2/16) (23/3/15)

Celandine



Beside Yew Tree Way Gate 14/3/18 (14/3/17) (9/2/16) (31/3/15)