

Your Membership Subscription is now due for renewal - Our Membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st and it would be very helpful to us if you could pay your 2016 subs as soon as possible. Of course, this does not apply to those of you who have standing orders and we thank you for this as it certainly makes our life much easier.

FSW Logs and Charcoal - We now have available some air-dried logs and there is still a very small amount of the charcoal we made last year. We will be delighted to let you have bags of charcoal (3 kilos) now for a discounted donation of £5 each and sacks of logs for £4 each. Please contact Neale Fox for information or to arrange collection – phone 020-8657 0384 or e-mail logs.selsdonwood@btinternet.com.

New Commemorative Seats - You may have spotted a new commemorative seat in Great Field, donated by Dorothy Boyd in memory of her husband Michael. The bench was installed in the autumn and photos of it can be seen on our website. There is also a new seat at the junction of The Wend and Bluebell Grove. This has been installed in commemoration of Vera May Cannon by her son Harold. There is a full tribute to her on our website with photos of the bench.

Our next Guided walk - entitled Winter Trees - is on Saturday 9th January 2016 at 1pm. - We shall be looking at how bark and twigs can be used to identify trees in winter. Do join us to walk off some of the Xmas excess. Our spotters guide overleaf shows 14 identifiable twigs. You may also be interested to take a look at the guide in the Newsletter for January 2014, which showed 14 identifiable barks and that for December 2014, which highlighted our 7 evergreens. Both may be downloaded from the Newsletters page of the website.

Visitor Room Display - We have been granted permission by L B Croydon to use the old mess room in the toilet block as a visitors' room where we can set up displays to accompany our walks and events. We currently have a display on the identification of trees in winter which we will be delighted to show before we set off on our walk on 9th January - or on any other occasion when you can catch one of the FSW Committee members at the car park. We have our local Councillor Sara Bashford to thank for the board, which was purchased with a grant from the Councillors' Ward Budget. Many thanks Sara☺

Lost Property Box - Next time you visit the wood take a look in the lost property box on the back of the notice board by the car park - there may be something of yours in there. Currently contents include several hats and gloves and a child's toy police helmet.

FSW Programme 2016 - Also attached to this email is a copy of the FSW Programme for 2016 showing all guided walks & events, workdays and members' meetings including our AGM, which will be held on Monday March 21st. Please take a look and keep the dates in your diary.



On behalf of the FSW, I wish you and yours a very healthy and happy 2016.

Identifying Winter Trees by their twigs

The colour and distribution of buds provide clues to the identification of twigs in winter. Buds of most trees alternate along the twig but those shown in the top row here are borne in opposite pairs. All can be seen in Selsdon Wood.

Ash Buds



Very distinctive black buds arranged in opposite pairs on grey twigs with a large stubby terminal bud.

Sycamore Buds



Pinkish-green buds on brown twigs arranged in opposite pairs with a single terminal bud which may start to open very early in the year.

Field Maple Buds



Similar to Sycamore but twigs are more green and buds more elongated. Buds have a furred appearance similar to Beech - see below.

English Oak Buds



Buds brown and stubby arranged alternately along the twig with a cluster of terminal buds.

Turkey Oak Buds



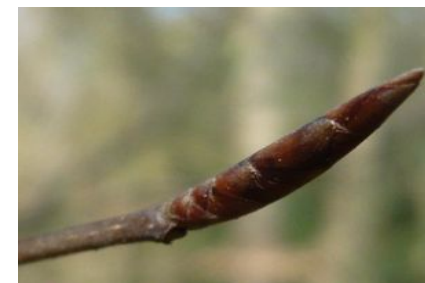
Weird, hairy terminal buds that are very different from those of the English Oak.

Sweet Chestnut Buds



Greeny brown buds arranged alternately along the twig with a single terminal bud.

Beech Buds



Copper coloured, long and pointed like a rolled cigar. Last year's leaves often still adhere to the twig.

Hazel Catkins



Hazel is dominant in the understorey and the catkins are at head height and easily spotted

Dogwood Osiers



Red twigs and branches make the Red Osier Dogwood stand out in the hedgerow of F3.

Dog Rose



The spiny twigs of the Dog Rose in field borders may also still be dotted with bright red rose hips.

Blackthorn



There may be some black fruits (sloes) attached to the dense thorny twigs of the Blackthorn in many of the field hedgerows.