

Mud in the Wood - There have been many complaints about the felling work that has been undertaken by Council contractors this year and the dreadful muddy mess that it has made of some of the paths. On the FSW Facebook site we had a message (see below) from Mark James McCallum, one of the men involved in the work, which gives some explanation. He told us that the ruts would be repaired after the work was complete and this was done on 25th and 26th February. The photos, from John Zareba, are not of the same area but show the typical condition of the paths before and after the tidying up. There is clearly still much mud but the ground has been flattened. Mud is only to be expected after all the rain we have had so it might be advisable to restrict walks to the field areas until the paths dry out.

I'm one of the Forestry Contractors undertaking the work for Croydon. Feel free to ask any questions re the work we're doing. I just want to reassure everyone that all of the timber (large logs which will be sold to a sawmill) and cord wood (3m lengths that will be sold for firewood) is being moved to the gate at Old Farleigh Road and the brash (branches) is being burnt. At the end of the job, we have a small digger coming in to repair all of the ruts made by our tractor. We will also be following through to do a final tidy up of all of the areas we have cut. We have worked with Croydon for 25 years on returning its beautiful ancient woodland back in to management (Kings Wood, Purley Oaks, Three Halfpenny Wood, Addington Hills). It is essential that woodland is managed and historically, this has always been done (until the end of the Second World War). By felling trees and creating areas of light and shade, biodiversity is maximised as wildflowers, insects and birds flourish in the new lighter areas. Wider rides (tracks) are drier and more pleasant to walk along. The only reason ancient woodland exists is because of human intervention and management. All of the work we do (and have done for the past 25 years) is part of a long term management plan, approved by the Forestry Commission. Croydon sell the wood and all of the proceeds are put back in to properly maintaining the woodlands across the Borough. The link below from The Wildlife Trusts gives further information but please email me at mark@logsforlondon.co.uk if you want to know more.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-advice/how-manage-woodland-wildlife?fbclid=IwAR0GEi-JVKP35SRkbUE8pE8EoTPtSK4fsTM8UWMM8zhPV9plJXvgGJnNEmU4>



This Month's Walk on Saturday 7th March @ 2pm - Family Woodland Walk' with Meike Weiser

Meet Meike Weiser, Community Partnership Officer, for a ramble through the wood: find seasonal things, make leaf crowns, look for animal tracks and maybe build a den or fairy house. Please come dressed for the Outdoors - wellies and waterproofs as well as a drink and a snack to have a mid-afternoon picnic in the woods. 2-3 hour event aimed at children 5+ and their families. For further information please contact biodiversity@croydon.gov.uk or call Parks on 020 8726 6000

FSW AGM - Monday 30th March 2016 8pm at the Forestdale Forum - All members of the FSW are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Selsdon Wood. Agenda items will include: election of Management Committee and Officers, report from Chair, Treasurer's report & approval of 2019 accounts and an annual review of membership arrangements including the proposal that the membership fee should be held at £5 for a further year. The reports from the Chair and Treasurer will also be posted on the FSW website in due course.

Subscription Reminder - Many thanks to everyone who has now paid their subs for 2020. If you have not yet paid do please let us have your £5 asap or better still set up a standing order so that you won't have to give it another thought in future years. Please make the payment to: Friends of Selsdon Wood at Barclays Bank, Croydon Branch, Account No. 80883832, Sort Code 20-24-61 - or by cash or cheque to FSW Treasurer, 68 Greville Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 8NL

There is spawn in the Linden Glade pool and Jubilee pond- see photos.

Sadly, experience from past years suggests that it is unlikely to survive to adult frogs as it seems to be infected with ranavirus.

