

Dogs in Selsdon Wood - I appreciate that many of you know this, but in light of the tragic incident last month when a woman was mauled to death by dogs it seems a good time to remind you about our rules for dog walkers in Selsdon Wood. The L B Croydon's Dog Control Orders are now out of date, but our woods are owned by the National Trust who offer a Canine Code. Here is a modified version appropriate to Selsdon Wood.

- 1. Scoop that poop** - Picking up your dog's waste keeps the area clean for everyone to enjoy. When you're done, pop it in the bin. Please do not throw it into the bushes making work for our army of volunteer litter pickers.
- 2. Be in control** - Most dogs are free to walk off the lead throughout our wood. However, your dog should be obedient and always under your control even when let off the lead. If your dog is liable to run off, to chase deer or other wild animals, or to bark at or attack other dogs or people, then do please keep it on a lead.
- 3. Be considerate of others** - While lots of us love dogs, some of us don't. That's why it's important to make sure your four-legged friend doesn't run up to other people – especially children - unless you know that it will be welcome.
- 4. No More than Four** - Walk no more than 4 dogs at any one time. It is impossible to follow all the other requirements of the code if you are with more than 4 dogs. How can you watch them all to spot every poo or ensure that none run up to walkers who are not dog-lovers?

Tree Work by Council Contractors - January & February

During the winter pink dots and numbers appeared on a number of trees. Many were suffering from Ash Die Back - a fatal disease of Ash trees. These trees were marked by Council contractors as subject to felling or trimming and a notice was posted in several places throughout the wood. The work was started on 6th February and continued for 3 weeks. The cut timber will lie in place until dry summer conditions make it easier to remove - presumably to the log store by the Vincent Avenue gate which was cleared at the end of January. Although trees were cut throughout the wood the impact has been more dramatic in some places than others. For example, Steven's Walk has been opened up to the Great Field in many places. Probably the largest tree felled is in Middle Gorse - see photo - where it used to carry the Middle Gorse sign. The contractors removed the sign before the felling and kindly took it back to the office for us to await remounting by the work sessions team.



Work Sessions Last Month - Further clearance work in the Gorses area and the Centenary Plantation was carried out. A fallen Bat Box and Bird Box were reinstated as was a David's Path sign. A large tree fall was dealt with and some invasive Laurel removed. The team also removed a broken old bench in readiness for the installation of a new dedicated one.

Sightings of Interest - As usual the Sightings page of the website contains a record of species of animals, plants and fungi seen so far this year. We also now have separate pages for the first sightings of each fungus, flower, bird, other vertebrates. Sadly, the carcass of a deer was spotted in early February. However, it provided good nourishment for some of our woodland residents and was almost entirely consumed 2 days later.

Our Walks Programme Starts at the Beginning of Next Month - with our Spring Walk on Saturday April 8th followed by our annual Bluebells and Birds Walk on Sunday 7th May. It is, of course, impossible to predict exactly when the bluebells will be at their height but we hope they will come good for one of these walks and we would love to see you there. We also have a Bat Walk on Friday May 12th. Although daytime walks are open to everyone, the evening Bat walks are limited to 30 and places must be booked in advance. Registration is by email to Steve Budd at danceswithwolfezs@gmail.com . Please provide your name and mobile contact number.

The FSW AGM will be held on Monday March 27th at 8pm at the Forestdale Forum - The meeting is open to all members of FSW and we would love to see you there. The agenda will be published on the AGM page of the website one week before the meeting.

24 Bird species have been seen so far this year - many on or by the David Malins Memorial Feeding Station

Here are just 8 of them. All can be seen on the Sightings page of the website at <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/bird-sightings-2023.php>

Greater Spotted Woodpecker



Goldcrest



Nuthatch



Long Tailed Tits



Robin



Red Kite



Green Woodpecker



Redwing

