



**Signs of Spring** – The mild weather over the last couple of months has resulted in many early signs of spring in our wood. The first Bluebell leaves were seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, earlier than they have ever been spotted before!! There do not appear to be any signs of Bluebell flowers yet, but I would not be surprised to see them peeping in the next couple of weeks. Let's hope they last at least until our Spring Walk on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

A total of 7 species of wildflower and 3 tree flowers have been seen already and there is also frogspawn in the Jubilee pool – **see the gallery on page 2.**

**Work Sessions Last Month** – On the 4<sup>th</sup> February one group stayed in the car park and used an angle grinder to cut up the blue fencing that was found in the wood, to make it easier to dispose of. (This was cleared by the Council in the following week.) They also repaired and replaced the marker post for the start of the Red walk and the end of the Green, which had rotted at the base. Another group dug up several large Laurel clumps and collected rubbish in the Broad Walk area and a third team worked to reduce bramble in the Centenary Plantation. On 25<sup>th</sup> February the team cleared another fall, in Farleigh Border – see the Work Sessions page of the website for details.

On 6<sup>th</sup> of February two of our team worked with a group from the Croydon GrowWild Outreach project. This provides opportunities for adults with disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health challenges to work outdoors helping to maintain the environment. A group visits our wood regularly and this time they helped to clear up a lot of discarded black plastic in one area of the wood so we could throw it away properly - into a litter bin. They then helped to remove some branches from the tree that had fallen across Farleigh Border, making it easier for walkers to pass under it.



The fence at the Yew Tree Way entrance has been broken for some time and lay on the ground looking untidy and neglected. Even before it fell the fence had served very little purpose and a complete replacement would have been expensive, so FSW agreed to ask Mick, of Fab Fencing, to remove it for a small fee. This he did and the area now looks much better – see before and after photos.

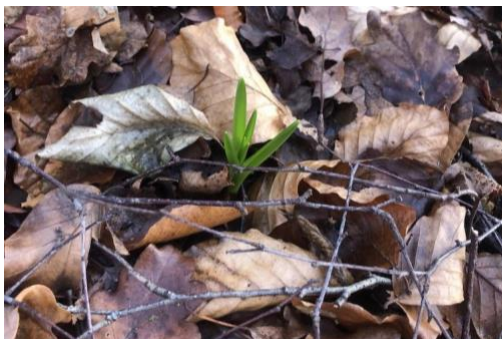
**Work Sessions Next Month** – Our March work sessions are on Sundays 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, meeting at 10am at the car park. The work usually comprises habitat management and general maintenance, all helping to improve our wood! We do need more help and would welcome your assistance. You work for as long as suits you and choose jobs to suit your strengths. Tools are provided and you can bring food and drink if you feel you need them. If you would like to join our team, please contact the Work Sessions organiser Ted Forsyth at [tedforsyth@btinternet.com](mailto:tedforsyth@btinternet.com) or via any of the addresses given at the foot of this page.

An additional task, that we would welcome volunteers for, is work in late Spring or early Summer to clear an area of the Butterfly Bank so that it can be planted with more butterfly-attracting flowers. That work could be done during the week by arrangement with the organiser Valerie Baldry. Please contact her at [valeriebaldry@sky.com](mailto:valeriebaldry@sky.com) if you would like to help.

**Our Walks Programme Starts at the Beginning of Next Month** - with our Spring Walk on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> followed by an early Dawn Chorus walk on April 27<sup>th</sup>. All our walks are slow and easy and we look forward to seeing some of you. After all the rain it is currently very muddy in our wood so do be sure to wear your boots!

**The FSW AGM will be held on Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

2/1/23 – The First Bluebell leaf in Steven's Larch



6/1/24 - Ripe Hazel catkins widespread throughout the wood



25/1/24 - Tiny Bittercress flowers in Middle Gorse



28/1/24 – Wild Strawberry in Middle Gorse



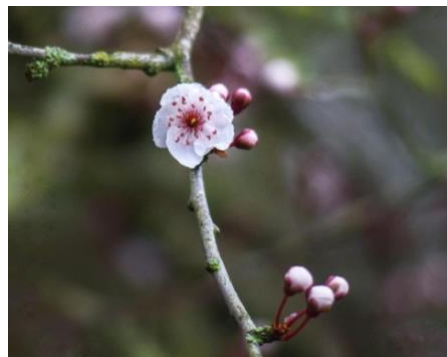
10/2/24 - Crocus by the car park



11/2/24 - Periwinkle in Linden Glade



14/2/24 - Cherry Blossom in Great Field



15/2/24 - Daffodils in Field 2 – a tribute planting by a bench



18/2/24 - Dog's Mercury – strange tiny flowers



18/2/24 - Daisy – in Field 1 looking rather crumpled



18/2/24 - Frogspawn in the Jubilee pool



19/2/24 - Plum blossom in David's Crook

