

Friends of Selsdon Wood Newsletter

November 2022

FSW Work in the Wood - Although the workday at the beginning of the month was cancelled due to rain, there was plenty of work done this month by the bench installation team. Three dedicated benches were installed dedicated to 1) Jennifer Clay, 2) Anthony William Morris & Janet Evelyn Morris, and 3) Evelyn Rae LeMasurier-O'Sullivan. Heartbreakingly this last was a 1-day-old baby and her bench was decked with ribbons in the week after installation to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week. Full information and photographs can be seen on the Seats & Benches page of the website <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/seats-and-benches.php>

Later in the month we met with Oliver Connolly, Director of Grow Wild Outreach a support service that supports people with disabilities and mental health needs to help them contribute and take part in local environmental projects. They support people from Croydon Monday to Friday and would like to support Selsdon Wood in any way possible. With Oliver was a carer and his 22-year-old client who was shown how to use our loppers to clear bracken. The session went very well and we hope to arrange more similar activities in the coming months.

On Sunday 30th October we stopped by the Butterfly Bank to make a temporary repair to the partially collapsed fence, then carried on to David's Crook to plant the 4 donated Junipers. After the saplings were in position they were staked for support and the roll of Netlon was sufficient to provide a cage around each of two of the four to dissuade deer from nibbling. We will see how the uncaged pair survive.

The party then moved via Pool Grove to retrieve a fallen name board and a bird box before arriving at the far end of Leafy Grove where the large fallen tree branch was cut up and placed by the side of paths to provide habitats for fungi in later years



The Vanguard Way – The Vanguard Way Association is now open for membership for £7 per person per year. I have joined as we have an interest as the VW runs through our wood on its way from Croydon to the south coast. If you are interested in joining contact Colin Saunders, Chair of Vanguard Way Association at colin@vanguardway.org.uk or by phone 020 8886 8285 or 07768 453159.

Last Month's Walk – Fungus Hunt – Ted Forsyth led the walk on 29th October. Over the previous weeks Ted, Tony and others had been searching the woods for fungi and recording every new species seen. Over 100 species had been spotted so far this year and we were afraid that many would not last, but our fears proved unfounded with even more species being found just a few days before the walk.

An extraordinary 47 people attended the event - including a number of children. The weather was lovely - very warm for the time of year with intermittent sun. Ted led the group up Greenhill Way and along Steven's Walk where they met up with Tony. The walk continued past the corner of Steven's Larch, along Leafy Grove, Noakes Way, Beech Grove and The Wend where it ended at 12.30pm leaving the group to return to the car park in their own time. A total of 46 species of fungi were seen! And also a frog! (See the Walks page of the website <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/walks.php> for details.)

This Month's Walk – Autumn/Winter Trees on Saturday November 12th @ 1pm – Join us at the car park for a 2 hour walk to enjoy the autumn colours. This is our last guided walk of the year, so we hope to see you there.

The FSW Calendar 2023 is available for a donation of £5 - To get your copy phone 020-8657-0423 or email govierh@gmail.com or contact us on the addresses given in the footer below - See overleaf for some of the beautiful photographs included in next year's calendar.

FSW Calendar 2023

Cover Photo - They're not in - can I take a message? by Steve Budd



January

You are beautiful! by John Zareba



February

Sunrise Over Snow by Kylie Butcher



March

Mr & Mrs by Ruth Budd



May

Carpet of Blue by Balázs Dukát



June

Fox Stargazing by Neale Fox



August

Painted Lady by Daniel Bound



December

Frosted Holly Berries by Linda Morris

