

## SELSDON WOOD

Notes on Meeting of the Management of Selsdon Wood on site, together with administrative officials and other interested parties on Wed. 9th May at 6.30 p.m.

A short Committee Meeting of the Management was held in the car park office prior to a tour of the woods, led by the head keeper.

The policy adopted by the Borough of Croydon in clearing and replanting was outlined by Mr. Upton as we observed the newly-“cleared” zone adjoining Old Farleigh Road. A point was made that most of the trees removed were sycamore—a tree regarded as a menace to any wood owing to its rapid reproductive ratio. Ten acres of what was considered to be unnecessary wood and scrub had been cleared here.

The general policy is to plant 5,000 trees in two years, 1,400 being of hard-wood. This represents five acres of clearance per annum. The young saplings are being and will be planted in *rows*. When querying this as undesirable I was informed by Mr. Upton that this is the most economical way of planting. I expressed the hope, and indeed the necessity, of thinning to irregular clumps later and was assured that this was the intention.

Our tour of the woods was guided by the head keeper who located a number of nest-boxes in use. On the west side of Middle Gorse note was taken of an area of some two to three acres cleared and replanted with larch two years ago. In their new spring-green mantle they looked very beautiful. Ground-cover in other areas is mostly composed of gorse, interspersed by young oaks and beech. These saplings we were told had made 18 inches of growth during the last year.

I called attention to the necessity of leaving some fallen trees and tree-stumps. Agreement on this point was obtained.

The overall policy seems to be in the circumstances a satisfactory one although the felling of so many trees initially did appear to be unnecessary.

A half-dozen copies of the booklet “Wild Life Conservation and Dead Wood” published by the “Doom Trust for Nature Conservation” were distributed to certain members of the party.

I am indebted to our Hon. Sec. for introducing this publication to me and to the helpful correspondence with which he supplied me.

As a final note the head keeper informed us that the greatest menace to wild-life in Selsdon Woods is the the cat. Cat-addicts please note.

T.C.P.

Please see pages 20-23 for the report on other Selsdon Residents' Association matters.