

Brilliant Butterflies Project to Create New Butterfly Habitat at Selsdon Wood - A delay with the chalk supply due to wet weather has meant that the construction of the Butterfly Bank in Field 1 has been put back to mid to late April. Let's hope it can go ahead without further hitch then. To help us to identify our new visitors, Brilliant Butterflies will be offering a free online butterfly ID and recording workshop on 11th May and subsequent guided walk at Hutchinson's Bank nature reserve on 18th May. Final details will be provided in the May newsletter.















The Wandering Tortoise - A tortoise recently arrived in the Jubilee Plantation. Unsurprisingly it was not a real tortoise but a geocache toy which had "wandered" from its proper hiding place. Geocaching is a hunting game in which participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. We have known for some time that there are several geocaches hidden in our wood but most are in very out of the way places. Clearly someone had found the tortoise and, perhaps not knowing what it was, moved it to the Jubilee Pond. This is not a suitable place for it as participants leave a message of some kind in the attached container which would mean them going into the fenced area which provides seclusion to the pool and the plantation. We thus took it out and placed it on the fence post but the very next day someone moved it back into the pool. I then contacted the organisers of the game and they agreed to collect it and replace it where it was originally hidden. So the tortoise has now wandered back home. For more information about Geocaching go to <https://www.geocaching.com/play>.



The Vanguard Way Annual Review for 2020 – The 66 mile walking route from Croydon to Newhaven passes through our wood along the Addington Border. In their Annual Review for 2020 they make reference to our wood as follows. "A mystery surrounds an allegedly missing wooden bench along the track called Addington Border, which is mentioned in our route description, but the Friends say has never been there! The location is at the top of a very steep ascent, so an opportunity for a rest would surely be welcome, and the Friends say they will consider providing one." We do not have the resources to buy a bench at present but it is possible that a memorial bench could be placed at that position. We will keep you posted about progress with this. The full Vanguard Way Annual Review 2020 is available by a link from the Walks page of our website.

Signs of Spring You may be interested to look at the Sightings page of the website where we are posting all signs of spring as they are reported and photographed. Do take your camera if you are walking in the wood and please share your photos by email to me govierh@gmail.com or on the FSW Facebook Page. You might also be interested in the species lists on the website. There are lists for flowers, butterflies & moths, trees and fungi showing the first dates of sightings (or flowering) over several years past. Even if you cannot send a photo we would love to know first sightings dates for 2021 and will keep the published lists updated accordingly.

The Bird Sanctuary - To many Selsdon Wood is known as The Bird Sanctuary. Winter is much the best time for spotting birds when they are not hidden amongst the foliage. **Our page 2 feature this month shows some of the birds that have been seen in our wood so far this year.** The majority of the photographs have been taken by our ace photographers Ruth and Steve Budd, several by the pond in the Jubilee Plantation. This was cleaned out last year by a new member of the Friends and is now a clearly visible wildlife haven. Amongst the photos is one of a Lesser Redpoll - never before photographed in our wood. There is also a Ring-necked Parakeet, alternatively known as a Rose-ringed Parakeet. The bird gets its name from the ring around its neck - seen only on the male - as shown in Neale's photograph. The ring is black at the front and on the back of the head it is pink - hence the alternative name.

<p style="text-align: center;">Selsdon Wood Birds</p> <p>All these species were seen in early 2021 - see the website Sightings page for details. www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/sightings.php</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Buzzard</p>  <p>by Ruth Budd on 6th January flying over The Wend towards the golf course</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Red Kite</p>  <p>by Ruth Budd on 30th January over Great Field - forked tail is distinguishing feature</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Redwing</p>  <p>by Ruth Budd on 6th January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nuthatch</p>  <p>by Ruth Budd on 7th January in Bluebell Grove</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Chaffinch</p>  <p>by Ruth Budd on 11th January at the Jubilee Pond</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Song Thrush</p>  <p>by Ruth Budd on 6th January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Blackbird</p>  <p>by Ruth Budd on 10th January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wren</p>  <p>by the Jubilee Pond by Ruth Budd on 13th January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Robin</p>  <p>on 6th January by Lee Butcher - almost camouflaged in leaf litter</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Goldfinch</p>  <p>by Jack Branscombe on 15th January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Long Tailed Tit</p>  <p>by Jack Branscombe on 15th January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ring Necked Parakeet</p>  <p>by Neale Fox on 23rd January - a male as shown by the neck ring</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kestrel</p>  <p>in Leafy Grove by Ruth Budd on 15th January</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesser Redpoll</p>  <p>by Ruth Budd on 22nd February - a first ever sighting in our wood</p>