

**Winter Workdays** - Thanks to the great work of a FSW team, the remaining tree falls were cleared in March. That means that FSW have now cleared all of the 24 blockages that fell during the February gales. Full details of all clearances can be found on the website Workdays page <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/workdays.php> . What a superb job!! I have been bragging to the Council:-)

Other Workday activities included clearance in the Gorses area and clearance of bramble along the edge of Great Field near Smith Grove. This stretch used to have low growing brambles above which there were at least 30 Hogweeds growing each year. Since that area is in sunlight each afternoon it was favourite with all the insect species feeding on umbellifers and is where lots of our web site photos were taken. But since about four years ago a tall bramble species took over, preventing the Hogweeds growing.

Our grateful thanks to all involved in clearing this so completely. We can now expect to see a large number of Hogweeds sprouting on equal terms with all the rest of the regrowth and able to flower above and attract the same rich diversity of fauna. Details and photos of this clearance is also available on the Workdays page of the website.

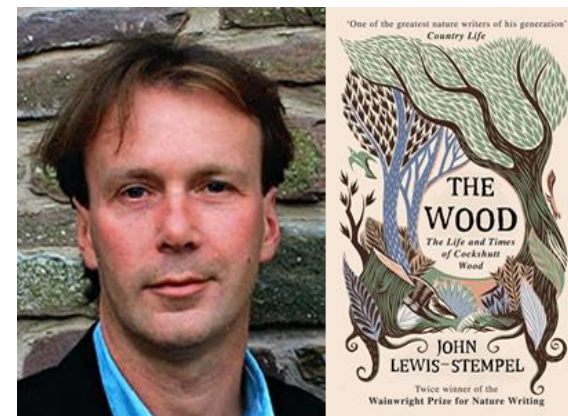
## **Book Focus by Chris Green - The Wood by John Lewis-Stempel**

As well as enjoying being outdoors in our woods as much as possible, I spend a large percentage of my reading time focused on nature. Given the shared interest from the Friends in the natural world, I'll share some notable reads each month - some focused on woodland but also related topics – that others may also enjoy.

Lewis-Stempel is a bit of a modern giant in nature writing. He's an nth generation hill farmer from Hereford and most of his books focus on an aspect of the local land.

The Wood (The life and times of Cockshutt Wood) is a diary of his last year managing a local wood. It's a good example of 'slow nature' as his time as custodian allows him to fully appreciate different corners of the wood. As a diary written between December and November, it also shows the changes during the seasons. He also manages the wood as much as possible in the traditional way; whether this is in coppicing, hedge laying or bringing pigs in to 'pannage'.

Lewis-Stempel is also a fan of Edwardian nature poet, Edward Thomas, and extracts of his poems can be found dotted throughout. Other notable reads by the same author: Still Water, Running Hare, Meadowland



**Our Walks Programme Starts This Month** - with our Spring Walk on Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by our annual Bluebells and Birds Walk on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. We would love to see you there. There is a splendid carpet of Wood Anemones to see at the moment and a few Bluebells are already peeping through.

**The FSW AGM was held on Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at the Forestdale Forum** - The minutes of the meeting and all associated papers can be found on the AGM page of the website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/agm.php> .

**David Malins Memorial Feeding Station** - this is constantly busy and a great source of delight to all of us who go to look at it. Many thanks to those who keep all the feeders topped up and also to those who generously donate food. The photos overleaf show some of the birds seen on and around the feeders. More species are likely to be seen in the coming months. In the near future we plan to install a plaque with a dedication to David and a guide to identification.

**New Treasurer Wanted** - The current FSW Treasurer wishes to retire. She has been a stalwart of the FSW Committee since 2013. Do please get in touch if you would be interested in taking over the role.

## Some of the Birds on or by the David Malins Memorial Feeding Station

**Coal Tit**



**Blue Tit**



**Great Tit and Nuthatch**



**Long Tailed Tits**



**Robin**



**Parakeets**



**Wren by the Pool**



**Goldcrest in the Pool**

