



Watch found in Selsdon Wood - If you or anyone you know has lost it please call 07793 411448.

Deer Attack - A deer was attacked in Selsdon Wood this week by lurcher dogs. The injured animal was taken to a nearby garden and later to a vet but the wounds were too severe and the deer had to be put down. Please be aware that there are deer in Selsdon Wood and control your dogs appropriately. If you know that your dog has a tendency to attack deer then please keep it muzzled when walking in our wood.

Have you renewed your FSW Membership for 2022 - Our Membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st and it would be very helpful to us if you could pay your 2022 subs as soon as possible. Many thanks to those of you who have already done so and to those of you who have standing orders - we really value this as it certainly makes our life much easier. As the Selsdon branch of our bank has now closed cheques are more difficult to deal with so do please pay by SO or bank transfer - or even cash!

And have you thought about joining another local group - the Friends of Littleheath Woods? Their membership is also only £5 per year so for just a tenner you can support both of your local woods. For more details about FOLW take a look at their website www.folw.co.uk.

The David Malins Memorial Bird Feeding Station - David Malins, a stalwart of FSW, sadly died last November. He was an avid bird lover so we have decided, with his family's approval, to use the initial donations made to FSW by his mourners to set up 'David's memorial feeding station' beside the Jubilee Pond in the wood. We will replenish the feeders regularly and hope the birds will soon find them and give pleasure to all who pass by. We hope to add an information board in due course, as funds allow, to help you identify what you see. So far 6 species have been photographed on the feeders: Coal Tit, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Robin & Nuthatch. A further 3 species have been photographed in trees or on the ground nearby: Magpie, Treecreeper and Jay. This photo, by Ruth Budd, shows a flock of Long-tailed Tits enjoying the fat balls. Do please send us any photos you take via our FB page or email.



Workdays 2nd & 30th January 2022- On 2nd January the Bird Feeding Station was set up in the Jubilee Plantation and we cut down two hazel clumps to allow a good view of the feeders and reduce the leaf fall into the pond. We then moved on to the Butterfly Bank where we trimmed some of the larger plants. The progress of both of these projects are reported on the appropriate pages of the website www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/bird-feeding-station.php and www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/butterfly-bank.php

Others carried out an experiment on a muddy part of Greenhill Way by scraping mud to the side and leaving a relatively hard surface. Encouraged by what looked like success, they carried on to the very muddy patch beside the cut tree trunks on Farleigh Border path. There they attempted to dig out the mud and also created a drainage channel to see if it will reduce the amount of water on the path. Full reports can be found on the Workdays page of the website www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/workdays.php

On 30th January, while some of the team continued work in The Gorses, others used trolleys to ferry woodchip up from the car park to ameliorate the muddiest section of Farleigh Border. Some woodchip had also been laid on the muddy parts of Vale Border and Greenhill Way in informal work session earlier in the month. Full details of this work can be found on the Projects page www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/projects.php

For the past 3 Februarys we have focussed on the evergreens growing in our wood - Yew in 2019, Norway Spruce in 2020 and Holly in 2021. This year we look at the Pines - two species Scots Pine and Corsican Pine.

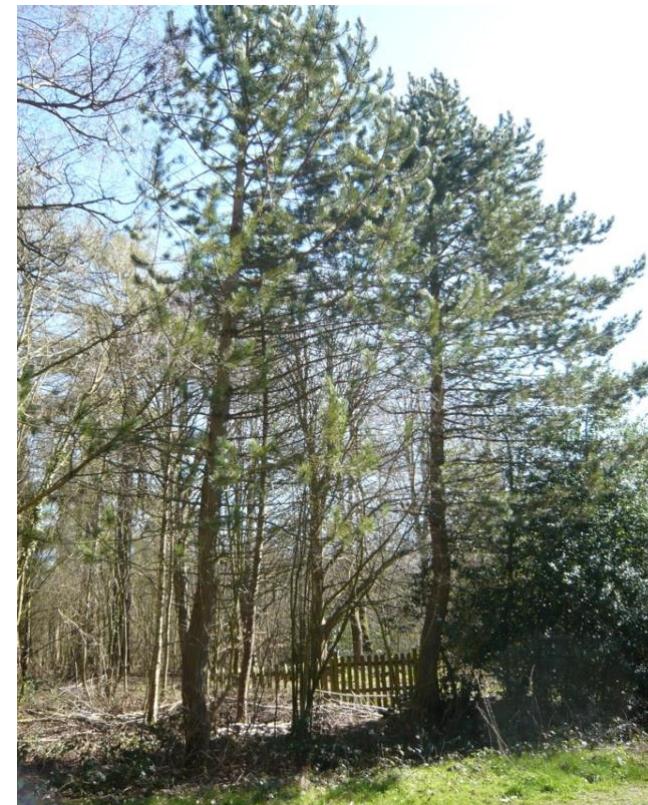
Pine

There are two species of Pine in Selsdon Wood, Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Corsican Pine (*Pinus nigra*).

Most of the Scots Pine is in Stevens Larch with another group at the northern end of David's Crook. The trees in this group have the very characteristic Scots Pine shape with a long bare trunk and a flattened, rounded top with clumped foliage (below left - 27/3/12). The Scots Pine is the only native British pine.



Pine is one of three types of conifer in Selsdon Wood (the others being Norway Spruce and Larch). It is an evergreen with distinctive, scaly bark and long thin needles, borne in pairs. The Scots Pine has orange coloured bark which distinguishes it from other Pine species (below left).



The cones are egg shaped, tapering to a point. The mature cones of both species are traditional weather indicators, opening when dry and closing when wet (photo left). The scales from one cone in the picture above have been eaten away by squirrels leaving only the woody core.

The conifers in Linden Glade (above right 27/3/12) are also Pines. However, although the needles and cones appear identical, the shape of the trees (more like the classic Christmas Tree) shows that these are not Scots Pine but Corsican Pine, which is not a native species but is widely used for commercial forestry in the South East of England and East Anglia. Corsican Pine cones are a striking orange colour when young (above right 6/6/12).

Take a winter walk in Steven's Larch and spot all the Scots Pine. Look for cones around the base of the trees and take one home to use as a weather indicator. Can you find any that have been nibbled by squirrels? Visit Linden Glade and look at the Corsican Pines there.