

FSW Programme 2022 – There are no further walks until April - by which time the days will be longer and the weather, hopefully, milder. However, our AGM will be held in March (Covid restrictions permitting) and our workdays continue on the first and last Sundays of every month. The full programme is published on our Events page at <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/events.php>

Workday - 5th December – Some of the team continued working in The Gorses, concentrating on raking loose material and removing some of the cut saplings, while others made repairs to the fence on the butterfly bank. They then examined deep muddy patches in various places and also removed the fallen birch which was hanging above the Farleigh Border path. Later we all joined up in The Gorses, cutting various stumps to ground level, clearing some of the bramble and tidying up waste material covering the ground. When rain began to fall we decided to go home.

During the work a short stick was found covered in the bright red spots of Coral Spot fungus which was the first sighting of this species this year - see photo.

Full reports of their work are given on the Workdays page of the website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/workdays>

Walking in our Wood in the Winter Time – Although this seems a downtime for nature there is still plenty to look out for in our wood on your winter walks.

Identifying trees when there are no leaves still attached involves careful study of the bark and the twigs. Below are photos of 5 deciduous trees that can be easily identified by their bark and you can find a downloadable guide to winter twigs on the Trees page of the FSW website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/trees-and-shrubs.php>

Overleaf there are lots more things to look out for on your winter walks.



Silver Birch

- widespread - especially in the southern woodland round the Gorses area



Cherry

- widespread - spot this smooth and glossy bark with horizontal striations in East Gorse



Sweet Chestnut

- widespread - spot several in Greenhill Way - the regular fissures often seem to spiral around the trunk



Beech

- a scatter throughout the woods - spot one in the woods between F2 and F3 - the bark is smooth and grey



Oak

- widespread - the most common tree - the bark is grey with deep fissures

A Happy New Year to you all. We hope 2022 brings an end to this pandemic.

Five Vertebrates - Mammals or Birds



White Squirrel

- last seen near the Bridle Way gate but not seen anywhere since July 2021



Grey Squirrel

- sure to see somewhere - the most common wild mammal in the woods



Roe Deer

- if you are lucky - anywhere in the woods and fields



Crow

- in the fields - see them pecking for worms - often in pairs



Magpie

- in the fields- often in flocks - how many can you count?

Five Evergreen Trees or Shrubs



Laurel

- in the northern woodland - the glossy leaves are pretty but poisonous



Corsican Pine

- in Linden Glade - spot the cones in the high branches



Yew

- widespread - the largest in Beech Grove and Court Wood Grove



Spruce

- in Avis Grove - spot the cones up high and on the ground below



Gorse

- between East and Middle Gorse - some in flower even this time of year

Five Others



Woodpecker Nest Hole

- high up in trees throughout the wood
- spot one in Pool Grove



Moss

- widespread in the woods - especially lush in the wet weather



Lichen

- on twigs and branches everywhere - a variety of colours



Holly Berries

- widespread - spot one in Linden Glade - berries only on female trees



Pond

- in the Jubilee Plantation - a valuable water source for all the animals