



Last Month's Walk - 8th June - Discover Summer Flowers - with Malcolm Jennings - Our June walk set out to explore the rich variety of flowers to be found in Selsdon Woods in the summertime. The highlights were a scattering of Pyramidal Orchids in Field 2 and our first record of a Bee Orchid near Murray Silverstone's memorial seat in Field 2. In the Great Field near the Jubilee Plantation fence we also found several Grass Vetchling with a bright scarlet flower on top of a grass-like stem. The Bee Orchid (see Ted's photo below) has finished now but to help you with your own identifications the second page of this month's newsletter shows 14 of our pink flowers with a few words about their locations and features. Take this with you on your walks and see if you can find them all.



The Secret Life of the Orchid - by Ted Forsyth - Most orchids are pollinated by insects. At the back of the flower head is a tube, known as a spur, which contains the nectar for which insects visit the flower. In some orchids this is quite long so that the insects need a long tongue to access the nectar. An insect landing on the flower may trigger the pollen-bearing parts of the orchid to move with the result that possibly two pollen masses (pollinia) are attached to the insect, frequently the tongue. When the insect visits another orchid fertilisation may occur. Other orchid species adopt another approach – they have evolved so that the flower looks like a female of a specific insect and it also emits a chemical scent like the pheromone of the insect - see for example this Bee Orchid (left). When a male insect attempts to mate with what appears to be a female, pollinia are deposited, probably on its head. Orchids produce amazing quantities of seed but each seed is like a speck of dust, which contains little energy. For the seed to develop into an orchid it must form a close association with a fungus in the soil and failure to do so means that most seeds never develop. Even those that succeed may spend years underground before producing a visible flower spike. Some orchids frequently occur in groups so that insects do not have far to go to move from one orchid to another. Others can appear as single specimens far from another of the same species in which case self-fertilisation may be required to produce seed.



This Month's Walk - Saturday July 19th @ 11am - Discover Butterflies - with Malcolm Bridge - We have at least 24 species of butterfly in Selsdon Wood - all of which are shown on our website. The aim of this walk will be to spot and identify as many as possible while Malcolm tells you all about their preferred habitats, food plants and life cycles. Shown here are a Silver Washed Fritillary (left) and a White Admiral (right) both photographed by Ted Forsyth. Ted also carries out a regular butterfly transect, frequently walking a set route and recording all the butterflies observed. Details of his records from 2012 and 2013 with a map of his route can be found in the Butterflies section on the Fauna page of the website



Annual Photographic Competition - There are just a few weeks left to enter our 2014 Photo Competition! Please send in up to 6 of your favourite photographs taken in Selsdon Woods between 1st September 2013 and 20th August 2014. A shortlist of the 50 best entries will be selected and printed for display at the FSW Open Day on Sunday 7th September when the public will be invited to participate in a secret ballot to select the winners. The photograph with the most votes will win a cash prize of £50, donated by a generous sponsor, and two runner-ups will win £40 vouchers donated by Snappy-Snaps. Details of how to submit your photos are on the website.

FSW Logs and Charcoal - We still have available some of the charcoal we made back in May and logs from the timber felled in coppicing. We will be delighted to let you have bags of charcoal (3 kilos) for a donation of £7 each, large bags of charcoal finings (a garden fertiliser) for £5 each and sacks of logs for £4 each. Please contact Neale Fox for information or to arrange collection – phone 020-8657 0384 or e-mail logs.selsdonwood@btinternet.com.

Do come to visit the woods this month to enjoy the summer meadows.☺

<p>Selsdon Wood Pretty in Pink 14 pink flowers found in our wood in Summertime</p> <p>Glossary Palmate leaves have leaflets like fingers spreading from a single focus. Pinnate leaves have leaflets in opposite pairs with a singleton at the end.</p>	<p>Herb Robert</p>  <p>June - Sept in woodland paths Leaves - triangular, palmate Flowers - small, 5 petals</p>	<p>Field Bindweed</p>  <p>June - Sept in fields Leaves - arrow shaped Flowers - large trumpets</p>	<p>Pyramidal Orchid</p>  <p>June - Aug in fields Leaves - narrow Flowers - small, forming pyramid</p>	<p>Grass Vetchling</p>  <p>May - July in Great Field Leaves - look like grass Flowers - two-lipped, solitary</p>
<p>Red Bartsia</p>  <p>June - Sept in woodland paths Leaves - toothed, unstaked Flowers - small in one-sided spike</p>	<p>Wild Basil</p>  <p>July - Sept in field borders Leaves - toothed oval Flowers - small in whorls</p>	<p>Marjoram</p>  <p>July - Sept in field borders Leaves - oval Flowers - small in clusters</p>	<p>Dog Rose</p>  <p>June- July in hedgerows Leaves - pinnate Stems - thorny Flowers - large, solitary</p>	<p>Common Sorrel</p>  <p>May- Aug in fields Leaves - tall, arrow-shaped Flowers - tiny in spikes</p>
<p>Red Clover</p>  <p>May - Oct - fields Leaves - trefoil, palmate Flowers - tiny in globular heads</p>	<p>Hedge Woundwort</p>  <p>June - Oct - wooded paths Leaves - heart-shaped, toothed Flowers - small, two-lipped, whorls</p>	<p>Cut-leaved Cranesbill</p>  <p>May - Sept - woodland paths Leaves - deeply cut Flowers - small, 5 petals, notched</p>	<p>Hedgerow Cranesbill</p>  <p>June - Sept - near toilets in car park Leaves - palmate, cut half-way Flowers - 5 petals, deeply notched</p>	<p>Foxglove</p>  <p>June - Sept in woods Leaves - large spear-shaped Flowers - large bells, in spikes</p>