

**Litter Pick by Greenvale School** – On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May pupils from Greenvale school carried out a litter pick in the community and a group of them visited our wood. They were supported by the Council Clean and Green team who had equipped them all with pickers and collection bags - some for recyclables and others for landfill waste. The head of Greenvale, Daniel Bowden, had contacted me in the previous week to ask for an area to target and I had recommended Greenhill Shaw. There are no formal paths through that section of the wood and it had not been cleared of litter for many years. A dozen bags were collected and the area now looks much cleaner.

**Many thanks to the children and staff of Greenvale and to Tracey Bellamy and the Council Clean and Green Team for this work☺**

While checking out the site in advance of the litter pick I discovered a tent, and the fact that it contained a mattress suggested someone might be sleeping there so I reported it to the Council. The Council Enforcement Officer visited the following evening and finding no-one home left a calling card. When this had not been moved 2 days later they cleared away the whole camp - 4 days before the children's visit.

**Installation of New Seats** – Two new dedicated seats were delivered some weeks ago but we had been awaiting good surface conditions before moving them to their scheduled locations to avoid damaging the paths and fields with heavy vehicles. They were installed on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May into holes that had been prepared earlier in the month by our Workdays team. One is in Bluebell Grove at the junction with The Wend and the other is in Courtwood Grove.

**Repair of Vanguard Way Marker Post & Courtwood Lane Gate** – Last month the Vanguard Way Route Manager passed through the wood on a regular survey of the path which runs along Addington Border and noticed that one of the route markers was broken. Our Workdays team repaired the post and set it in the ground again - see top photo. He also noted the broken gate at the Courtwood Lane entrance. We reported that to the Council and it was repaired by May 15<sup>th</sup> - see bottom photo.



**Interesting News about an Old Dedicated Bench** – The FSW website has a page of information about the seats and benches in the wood and the people to whom they are dedicated. Where we have no information we have posted a request for some and on 19<sup>th</sup> May we were contacted by the grandson of Murray Silverstone who died in 1969 and has a dedicated bench in Field 2. Take a look at <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/seats-and-benches.php> to see his fascinating story.



















**Last Month's Walk Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Bluebells & Birds with the FSW** – On a day with a biting cold wind and frequent sleety showers around thirty participants turned up including several tiny children. We had seen many bluebells on the April walk and had feared that they would not last but the cooler weather in the last few weeks had held them at their peak and the show was magnificent.



**June Walk Sun 16<sup>th</sup> June 11am - Summer Flowers with Malcolm Jennings** – Local natural history expert Malcolm Jennings will again lead our Summer Flowers walk. Join us for a leisurely stroll to enjoy the scents and views, to learn more about the world of plants and to see how many flowers we can spot. I look forward to seeing you there.

Selsdon Wood is owned by the National Trust and we now have our own page with them <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/selsdon-wood>

**One of the Friends wrote to say thanks for last month's flower guide and suggested a guide to identifying trees by their leaves. Excellent idea - here it is!!!**

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| <p><b>Summer Trees</b></p> <p>Now that all the trees are in full leaf here is guide to identifying some of the most recognisable - shown in alphabetical order. Evergreens and trees with hard to identify oval leaves are excluded.</p> | <p><b>Ash</b></p>  <p>Leaves formed of 4 - 7 pairs of leaflets with a terminal single,</p>                    | <p><b>Birch (Silver)</b></p>  <p>Leaf small and triangular/ heart shaped with toothed edges</p>  | <p><b>Chestnut (Sweet)</b></p>  <p>Leaves are large and glossy, oval in shape and deeply toothed</p>                          | <p><b>Elder</b></p>  <p>Dusky green compound leaf - 5, 7 or 9 oval leaflets with toothed edges</p>                         |
| <p><b>Elm</b></p>  <p>Leaves asymmetrical with 3 lobes at the tip on some - no stalk and ribbed under surface</p>                                       | <p><b>Field Maple</b></p>  <p>Leaf (on top) similar to Sycamore (beneath) but smaller and more deeply cut</p> | <p><b>Hawthorn</b></p>  <p>Common H (left) has deeply lobed leaf - Midland H (right) similar in outline but with very shallow lobes</p>  | <p><b>Horse Chestnut</b></p>  <p>Large leaves are palmate (broken up into 'fingers') with 7 leaflets with toothed edges.</p>  | <p><b>Lime</b></p>  <p>Leaf toothed and heart shaped with one lobe larger - we have large &amp; small leaved varieties</p> |
| <p><b>Oak - English</b></p>  <p>Very distinctive leaf shape with wavy edges</p>   | <p><b>Oak - Turkey</b></p>  <p>Leaves more jagged than those of English Oak</p>                               | <p><b>Poplar (White)</b></p>  <p>New leaves are shiny above with white felt on the underside - green fades until tree appears silver</p> | <p><b>Rowan</b></p>  <p>Compound leaf divided into 11-15 leaflets with toothed edges</p>                                      | <p><b>Sycamore</b></p>  <p>Leaf is large and distinctive with five toothed lobes and a pink stem.</p>                      |
| <p><b>Wayfaring Tree</b></p>  <p>Large paired leaves round or heart shaped - dusty green above and whiter beneath</p>                                 | <p><b>Whitebeam</b></p>  <p>Leaves oval but with distinctive white underside</p>                            | <p><b>Wild Service</b></p>  <p>Leaves are distinctive in shape - closer to Maple than any other English tree</p>                       | <p><b>Willow</b></p>  <p>Leaves oval but hairy on both sides with a distinctive downy feel and borne on downy red stems</p> | <p>A detailed Tree Spotter's Guide for each of the 41 species of tree in Selsdon Wood is available in the form of downloadable pdfs from the Trees and Shrubs page of the FSW website.</p>                    |