



**A Rare Year** – Most years the Wood Anemones have finished before the Bluebells come into bloom. Unusually, this year the Anemones were late and the Bluebells early so we have had the splendid sight of a blue and white carpet for a few weeks. Thanks to Brian Pitkin for the photo taken on 20/4/18.

**Installation of New Seats** – Regular visitors to the wood will have noticed the pile of seats by the toilet block. These were delivered some weeks ago but we have been awaiting good surface conditions before moving them to their scheduled locations to avoid damaging the paths and fields with heavy vehicles. At long last the ground has dried out and we hope to get them installed in the first week of May. More news next month.

**Get snapping now for the 2018 Photo Competition!** – With summer definitely on its way now is a good time to get out there with your cameras. Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Wood between 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018. As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Please submit your photographs to our competition organiser, Heather Govier, either in electronic format by email to [selsdonwood@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonwood@gmail.com) or as prints to 219 Oswald, Courtwood Lane, Croydon. CR0 9HG.



**Workdays** – Our winter workday schedule of 2 meetings per month is now over and for the next 5 months we shall meet only once each month. With the sap rising coppicing activities have ceased and most of our work will involve tidying and clearing paths and around the benches. The Friends have also recently painted the new gate at the Cascades entrance and fitted a bolt to make it easier to open from the inside.

**Last Month's Walks** – Our Spring Walk on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> was attended by 20 people. The weather was cool and overcast but at least it wasn't raining! The first open bluebell of the year was spotted along with many spring flowers including: Dog Violet, Wood Anemone, Barren Strawberry, Lesser Periwinkle, Lesser Celandine, Dandelion, Primrose, Dogs Mercury, Violet Ivy-leaved Speedwell, Hairy Bittercress, Common Daisy and Red Dead Nettle. Blossom was also seen on the Bullace, Blackthorn and Wild Cherry.

Ten days later, on Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup> we led a walk for a Caterham University of the 3rd Age Flora and Fauna group. We met them at the car park at 10.30am on a lovely spring-like day and followed a walk similar to that of April 7<sup>th</sup>. The Bluebells had come on considerably in the intervening 10 days although the Anemones were still at their height and fully open in the sunshine. Cowslips in F2 and Wood Sorrel in East Gorse had opened since the 7<sup>th</sup> but there were no other additions. During the walk the visitors had a whip round - and at its conclusion they gave us £25 as a donation to the FSW - a delightful surprise! ☺

**This Month's Walk Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May @ 2pm - Bluebells & Birds with the FSW** – The Bluebells seem to be hanging on for our walk. Join us for a leisurely stroll to enjoy the scents and views and to listen for birdsong and see how many birds and spring flowers we can spot. This month's Spotters' Guide (see over) shows some of the flowers already seen this spring.

See overleaf for a gallery of spring flowers – showing the dates on which they were first seen this year compared with past years.

<p><b>Bluebells and more</b></p> <p>First sightings of early summer flowers this year – dates compared with past years. The earliest of the sightings for each flower is shown in bold.</p>	<p><b>Wood Anemone</b></p>  <p>14/3/18 (22/3/15 – <b>1/3/16</b> – 12/3/17)</p>	<p><b>Dog's Mercury</b></p>  <p>16/3/18 (29/3/15 – <b>1/3/16</b> – 13/3/17)</p>	<p><b>Lilac Ivy-leaved Speedwell</b></p>  <p><b>23/3/18</b> (8/4/15 – 30/4/16 – 30/3/17)</p>	<p><b>Periwinkle</b></p>  <p>26/3/18 (23/3/15 – <b>9/2/16</b> – 10/3/17)</p>
<p><b>Dog Violet</b></p>  <p>31/3/18 (29/3/15 – 1/4/16 – <b>15/3/17</b>)</p>	<p><b>Bluebell</b></p>  <p>7/4/18 (3/4/15 – <b>13/2/16</b> – 28/3/17)</p>	<p><b>Red Dead Nettle</b></p>  <p>7/4/18 (<b>24/3/15</b> - 22/4/16 – 12/4/17)</p>	<p><b>Cow Parsley</b></p>  <p>10/4/18 (28/4/15 – <b>15/3/16</b> – 31/3/17)</p>	<p><b>Wood Sorrel</b></p>  <p>12/4/18 (12/4/15 – 23/4/16 – <b>30/3/17</b>)</p>
<p><b>Cowslip</b></p>  <p>13/4/18 (5/4/15 – 8/4/16 – <b>30/3/17</b>)</p>	<p><b>Barren Strawberry</b></p>  <p>14/4/18 (1/4/15 – <b>23/2/16</b> – 14/3/17)</p>	<p><b>Hairy Bittercress</b></p>  <p>14/4/18 (<b>1/4/15</b> – 15/4/16 – 7/5/17)</p>	<p><b>Ground Ivy</b></p>  <p>17/4/18 (12/4/15 – <b>8/4/16</b> – 9/4/17)</p>	<p><b>Early Purple Orchid</b></p>  <p>17/4/18 (10/4/15 – 14/4/16 – <b>4/4/17</b>)</p>
<p><b>Garlic Mustard</b></p>  <p>21/4/18 (27/4/15 – 30/4/16 – <b>6/4/17</b>)</p>	<p><b>Herb Paris</b></p>  <p><b>21/4/18</b> (5/5/15 – 7/5/16 – 5/5/17)</p>	<p><b>Yellow Archangel</b></p>  <p>21/4/18 (28/4/15 – 30/4/16 – <b>13/4/17</b>)</p>	<p><b>Herb Robert</b></p>  <p>24/4/18 (<b>13/4/15</b> – 30/4/16 – 20/4/17)</p>	<p><b>Forget-me-not</b></p>  <p>26/4/18 (<b>18/4/15</b> – 15/5/16 – 1/5/17)</p>