

Bluebells and Anemones – Last May I reported the rare occurrence of the Wood Anemones being out at the same time as the Bluebells. It is not so rare now as the same happened again 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. There were many Bluebells out even in time for last month's Spring Walk (6th April) and the Anemones were really at their height then. A full report of the walk is on the Walks page of the website.

Hedgehogs – Hedgehogs are endangered and there have been recent national studies to find any locations where they are still prevalent. We have never had a sighting of one in our wood - perhaps not surprising given their nocturnal habits but I am delighted to be able to report that one was spotted in a garden in Goldfinch Road in October 2017 and then again in May 2018 - see this clip from a video of the visit. Do please let us know if you have hedgehogs in your garden. (Incidentally you should never give them milk as it can cause diarrhoea - the best food to leave out for them is tinned dog or cat food, but this should not be fish-based.)






















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. Now the ground has dried out and we hope to get them installed soon.

Get snapping now for the 2019 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 20th August 2018 and 19th August 2019. As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day on 9th September. Please submit your photographs to our competition organiser, Heather Govier, either in electronic format by email to selsdonwood@gmail.com or as prints (max. size 8" x 6") 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 next two workdays are on **May 5th and June 2nd**. If you can join us please contact our workdays organizer Ted Forsyth at tedforsyth@btinternet.com or tel: 8651 0558

This Month's Walk Saturday 4th May @ 2pm - Bluebells & Birds with the FSW – The Bluebells started early but 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. Keep an eye on the Sightings page of the website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/sightings.php> to see the first spotting of each flower species as it opens - plus insects, birds and fungi. The FSW Facebook page is also a rich source for sharing of photos taken in our beautiful woods.

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

<p>Bluebells and more</p> <p>First sightings of spring and early summer flowers this year – dates compared with past years. The earliest of the sightings for each flower is shown in bold.</p>	<p>Bluebell - 17/3/19</p>  <p>- 3/4/15 – 13/2/16 – 28/3/17 – 7/4/18 -</p>	<p>Bugle - 25/4/19</p>  <p>- 30/4/15 – 14/5/16 – 23/4/17 – 7/5/18 -</p>	<p>Ivy-leaved Speedwell - 7/3/19</p>  <p>- 8/4/15 – 30/4/16 – 30/3/17 – 23/3/18 -</p>	<p>Shepherd's Purse - 26/4/19</p>  <p>- 26/4/15 – 4/7/16 – 23/5/17 – 6/5/18 -</p>
<p>White Dead Nettle - 25/4/19</p>  <p>- 13/5/15 – 26/4/16 – 24/4/17 – 31/4/18 -</p>	<p>Wood Spurge - 10/4/19</p>  <p>- 24/4/15 – 25/4/16 – 19/4/17 – 21/4/18 -</p>	<p>Red Dead Nettle - 23/3/19</p>  <p>- 24/3/15 – 22/4/16 – 12/4/17 – 7/4/18</p>	<p>Cow Parsley - 8/4/19</p>  <p>- 28/4/15 – 15/3/16 – 31/3/17 – 10/4/18</p>	<p>Wood Sorrel - 7/4/19</p>  <p>- 12/4/15 – 23/4/16 – 30/3/17 – 12/4/18 -</p>
<p>Cowslip - 2/4/19</p>  <p>- 5/4/15 – 8/4/16 – 30/3/17 – 13/4/18 -</p>	<p>Barren Strawberry - 26/3/19</p>  <p>- 1/4/15 – 23/2/16 – 14/3/17 – 14/4/18 -</p>	<p>Hairy Bittercress - 5/4/19</p>  <p>- 1/4/15 – 15/4/16 – 7/5/17 – 14/4/18</p>	<p>Ground Ivy - 21/3/19</p>  <p>- 12/4/15 – 8/4/16 – 9/4/17 – 17/4/18 -</p>	<p>Early Purple Orchid - 12/4/19</p>  <p>- 10/4/15 – 14/4/16 – 4/4/17 – 17/4/18 -</p>
<p>Garlic Mustard - 23/4/19</p>  <p>- 27/4/15 – 30/4/16 – 6/4/17 – 21/4/18 -</p>	<p>Herb Paris - 20/4/19</p>  <p>- 5/5/15 – 7/5/16 – 5/5/17 – 21/4/18 -</p>	<p>Yellow Archangel - 14/4/19</p>  <p>- 28/4/15 – 30/4/16 – 13/4/17 – 21/4/18 -</p>	<p>Herb Robert - 6/4/19</p>  <p>- 13/4/15 – 30/4/16 – 20/4/17 – 24/4/18 -</p>	<p>Forget-me-not - 27/4/19</p>  <p>- 18/4/15 – 15/5/16 – 1/5/17 – 26/4/18 -</p>