

Brilliant Butterflies – The Brilliant Butterflies Project created a Butterfly Bank in our car park field on 19th April. This has been sown with butterfly friendly seeds and planted with 200 small plug plants of various wildflower species including birds foot trefoil and kidney vetch to supplement the chalk grassland seed mix. Many thanks to the FSW volunteers who came to help with the planting on 25th April and who are continuing to supply the plants with water. Please do not walk on the planted area and keep your dogs away until all the plants are well established. The Butterfly Bank page on our website has full details of the planting and plans for the future.

BB are providing free butterfly identification and training workshops in May that anyone can sign up to.

- **11th May, 10.30 – 12.30pm. Butterfly identification and monitoring online Zoom workshop.** Introduction to butterflies, how to identify common species, monitoring and recording techniques. To book your place go to <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/events/2021-05-11-butterfly-identification-and-monitoring-online-workshop>
- **18th May, 1.30 – 3.00pm. Butterfly walk at Hutchinson's Bank nature reserve.** Guided walk to practice identification skills. To book your place go to <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/events/2021-05-18-guided-butterfly-walk-hutchinsons-bank>

Grow With John – A local Croydon education and care charity called the John Whitgift Foundation has launched a campaign to make Croydon the UK's greenest Borough, targeting over 400,000 residents, through a community gardening project called 'Grow With John'. The campaign is named after the Founder of the charity and is seeking to help showcase how affordable, accessible and enjoyable gardening can be to all ages, particularly the benefits to mental health and wellbeing which have been proven to be essential throughout the pandemic. The charity is giving away free seed packets to residents in Croydon to help start their growing journey and has also launched a microsite full of local community gardeners of all ages to inspire others at www.growwithjohn.org. They are urging everyone to get involved by sending videos, blogs or tips to feature on the Grow with John website. Do take a look to see if you would like to get involved.

Please Take Care of the Wood – With more people using the wood litter is more of a problem. Please take your litter home and dispose of dog poo bags in the bins provided. We would also ask you to be tolerant of other users and, of course, to obey social distancing guidelines and other current Covid rules.

I spent around 40 minutes at the end of March picking up in excess of 50 poo bags that had been thrown into the brambles at the top of the car park field. It was not an easy job in deep brambles with many logs and the resulting bag full was almost too heavy for me to carry down to the bin. We have repeatedly asked the Council for a poo bin there but they have refused. The following day I put a makeshift bin at the start of the Greenhill Way path, planning to empty it myself every few days. Neale made a laminated notice for the side of the bin saying: *PLEASE, PLEASE do not throw poo bags into the undergrowth. Leave them in this bin and the FSW will empty it every couple of days. A 72 year old volunteer spent 40 minutes at the end of March clearing over 50 poo bags from where they had been thrown into the brambles. Please do not make her do that ever again!!*

The bin seems to attract an average of 15 bags per day - ie more than 100 in a week. I have reported this to the Council and asked them again to please put an official bin on that route. I'll keep you posted about their response.

Get snapping now for the 2021 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 2020 and 19th August 2021. Hopefully, the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day on 5th September. Please submit your photographs to me, either in electronic format by email to govierh@gmail.com or via the FSW Facebook page. Please send full sized images (not reduced edits) and for each photo supply a title, date and the area of the wood in which it was taken (if known). We also need your full name and contact details.

What Flowers Can You Spot? – Overleaf are photos of some of the flowers to look for in early May. If you see any of them do let us know via the FB page or direct to me at govierh@gmail.com.

<p style="text-align: center;">May Flowers</p> <p>We have not yet had reports of any of these flowers being spotted in the wood this year.</p> <p>The earliest of the sightings for each flower is shown in bold. You will see that Wild Garlic has only been seen once - it was in Linden Glade.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mouse Ear</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 30/4/15 - 15/5/16 - 11/5/18 - 1/5/19 - 22/6/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Common Vetch</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 5/5/15 - 19/5/16 - 11/5/17 - 7/5/18 - 12/5/19 - 26/5/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bramble</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 15/5/15 - 1/6/16 - 13/5/17 - 23/5/18 - 4/5/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shepherd's Purse</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 26/4/15 - 4/7/16 - 23/5/17 - 6/5/18 - 26/4/19 - 27/6/20 -</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">White Dead Nettle</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 13/5/15 - 26/4/16 - 24/4/17 - 31/4/18 - 25/4/19 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Birdsfoot Trefoil</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 18/5/15 - 29/5/16 - 28/5/17 - 30/5/18 - 6/6/19 - 6/5/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ox-Eye Daisy</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 18/5/15 - 23/5/16 - 13/5/17 - 16/5/18 - 5/5/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cleavers/Goosegrass</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 15/5/15 - 20/5/16 - 18/6/17 - - 10/5/18 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bittersweet</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 8/6/15 - 1/7/16 - 12/6/17 - - 30/5/18 - 3/6/20 -</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ribwort Plantain</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 30/3/17 - 13/4/18 - 18/6/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sanicle</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 9/5/15 - 7/5/16 - 25/4/17 - 10/5/18 - 25/4/19 - 18/5/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Common Catsear</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 24/5/15 - 28/5/16 - 28/5/17 - 31/5/18 - 16/5/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wild Garlic</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 6/5/16 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Herb Bennet</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 12/5/15 - 19/5/16 - 13/5/17 - 10/5/18 - 30/4/19 - 15/5/20 -</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sainfoin</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 26/5/15 - 17/6/16 - 19/5/17 - 30/5/18 - 17/6/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">White Clover</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 19/5/15 - 28/5/16 - 10/5/17 - 24/5/18 - 14/5/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Red Clover</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 7/5/15 - 15/5/16 - 7/5/17 - 9/5/18 - 7/5/19 - 4/5/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hawkweed</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 16/5/15 - 19/5/16 - 13/5/17 - 16/5/18 - 9/5/19 - 14/5/20 -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Forget-me-not</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">- 18/4/15 - 15/5/16 - 1/5/17 - 26/4/18 - 27/4/19 -</p>