

**It's Fungus Season** - Two of the Friends - Ted Forsyth and Tony Flecchia - led an amazingly successful walk on the theme of Autumn Fruit and Fungi on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Both Tony and Ted had worked hard in the weeks prior to the walk beefing up on fungi recognition, searching for good specimens of identifiable fungi and planning out a route to visit all of them. This was initially frustrating as the dry weather at the start of the month meant that the fungus season made a slow start but a few really wet days before the walk really stimulated fungal growth and by the day things looked more promising. Sunday morning was dry and even occasionally sunny and 37 people turned up for the walk - one of the largest groups we have ever had. Fortunately there were two leaders and other FSW committee members there to help, ensuring that no-one would get lost. A fantastic number of species were seen on the walk - over 50 different fungi - and highlights included Dead Man's Fingers, Dead Moll's Fingers, Beefsteak, Yellow Stagshorn and the amazing coloured Amethyst Deceiver (shown in order below) as well as the Chicken of the Woods, Purple Jellydisc, Candlesnuff and Birch Polypore that were included in the gallery on page 2 of last month's newsletter. The full list of fungi seen on the walk is given on the Walks page of the FSW website. There were several photographers in the group and one has already sent in a selection of his photographs for next year's competition. Many, many thanks to both of our leaders☺



**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) now for a discounted donation of £5 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](mailto:logs.selsdonwood@btinternet.com).



**FSW 2015 Calendar is now available** - for the usual donation of £5. The calendar contains beautiful seasonal photographs of our woods and makes an ideal present for friends and relatives now living away. Also this year we have some FSW Christmas Cards featuring this lovely robin photographed in our wood last month. These are available for a donation of 80p per card or £7.50 for ten. To order calendars and cards get in touch through phone, email or website.



**Sad News** - We are very saddened to tell you that Rob Sowter died on Wednesday 15th October after a battle with cancer. Those of you who have walked in the wood over the past 15 years will almost certainly have seen Rob in the winter months working on his coppice strip alongside of The Wend. He worked, almost single-handedly on this commercial 4 hectare hazel coppicing area managing it according to accepted standards on a nine-year rotation to produce pea sticks, bean poles, hedging, tree stakes and binders. Coppicing is a traditional woodland craft and involves cutting a bush or tree back down to its base, which results in the re-growth of straight shoots. This management practice creates a more open habitat benefiting butterflies and nesting birds, which enjoy the mosaic of light and shade. Rob was an enthusiastic woodsman who helped the Friends to develop our interest in coppicing and charcoal making, and certainly made a big difference to parts of Selsdon Wood. He will be much missed.

**This month's gallery (overleaf) shows some leaves to identify in the wood this autumn - with some clues as to where to find them.**

<p><b>Autumn Leaves</b> to find in Selsdon Wood in November</p> <p>50p coin shows scale and notes give a clue as to location. See the FSW website for further information about our trees.</p> <p>All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood.</p>	<p><b>Ash</b></p>  <p>Compound leaf made of 3-5 pairs plus one at the end. Common throughout the wood.</p>	<p><b>Hazel</b></p>  <p>Widespread throughout the wood. Small nuts (cobnuts) or their shells on the ground give a further clue.</p>	<p><b>Oak</b></p>  <p>Widespread throughout the wood - Oak is Selsdon Wood's most common tree.</p>	<p><b>Turkey Oak</b></p>  <p>One in Vale Border hedge in F1. Several others around Steven's Larch in F3 and Great Field..</p>
<p><b>Sweet Chestnut</b></p>  <p>Most in northern wood - Broad Walk and Avis Grove. Spiky nut shells on the ground are a further clue.</p>	<p><b>White Poplar</b></p>  <p>Distinctive white underside. Just one tree on the south side of David's Crook near Pool Grove.</p>	<p><b>Hawthorn</b></p>  <p>Widespread. Especially common in the northern woods - along Courtwood Grove.</p>	<p><b>Sycamore</b></p>  <p>Widespread. Many in the southern woods either side of Greenhill Way. Red stem is distinctive.</p>	<p><b>Field Maple</b></p>  <p>Shape similar to Sycamore but very much smaller. Dispersed in woodland also in field hedgerows</p>
<p><b>Silver Birch</b></p>  <p>Most in southern part of the wood. The distinctive silver bark of the tree is another clue..</p>	<p><b>Whitebeam</b></p>  <p>Distinctive white underside. Found both sides of the woodland strip between F2 and F3.</p>	<p><b>Horse Chestnut</b></p>  <p>Large and distinctive, palmate leaf with 5 leaflets. By Vale Border in wood between F2 and F3.</p>	<p><b>Horse Chestnut Leaflet</b></p>  <p>Often on leaf-fall the leaflets separate and so will most commonly be found like this</p>	<p><b>Red Osier Dogwood</b></p>  <p>Striking red leaves many remain on the bush well into winter. Found only on the western hedge of F3.</p>