

New chair: At the AGM on 30th March 2026, **David Debenham** was elected Chair of Friends of Selsdon Wood. He can be contacted at selsdonwood@gmail.com

Thank you very much to Heather for your hard work over the years.

It's bluebell season, but there's still time to pay your 2026 subs if you haven't yet

Please pay £5 by SO or bank transfer to: Friends of Selsdon Wood at Barclays Bank, Croydon Branch, **Account No. 80883832, Sort Code 20-24-61.**

Karen, our Treasurer, has a new dedicated email address: fswtreasurer@btinternet.com

Upcoming events

Guided Walks of Discovery – join us for a gentle walk of around 2 hours.

See this page for more information: <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/walks.php>

Saturday 11th April: Spring Walk with the Friends

Meet in the car park at 2pm

Sunday 10th May: 'Bluebells and Birds' with the Friends

Meet in the car park at 2pm

Work days – Habitat management and general maintenance. We have jobs to suit all strengths, work as long as it suits you. We provide the tools but please bring food and drink for yourselves. We would really appreciate some new volunteers joining in – contact us for more information or see <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/work-sessions.php>

Meet in the car park at 10am on these dates:

Sunday 12th April

Tuesday 14th April (with Grow Wild)

Sunday 10th May

Tuesday 12th May (with Grow Wild)

Work sessions in March 2026

This month, volunteers from Grow Wild cleared brambles and intrusive saplings in the Centenary Plantation. Due to the strong winds during the month, John Z was out clearing some fallen trees, ensuring paths remained accessible. Andy and Teddy removed some laurel from Stevens Larch. Thank you to all the volunteers for your hard work.



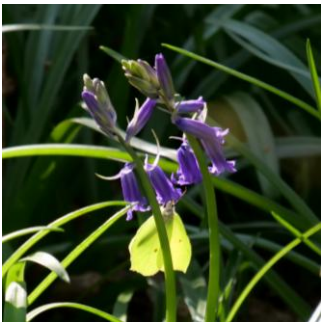
Blackthorn
blossom (by
LO)

What to look out for in the woods in April



Native English bluebell (by LO)

Bluebells are already blooming. There's a mix of English bluebells, which tend to droop, and upright Spanish bluebells.



Brimstone butterfly feeding on a Spanish bluebell (by LO)



Speckled wood (by LO)

Butterflies – while a few species, like the peacock and brimstone, spent the winter as adults and have been out on sunny days in March, April is when fresh butterflies begin emerging from pupae. Watch out for orange-tips, speckled woods, holly blues, small whites and green-veined whites.



Holly Blue butterfly (by LO)



Swift (by Ruth Budd)

Spring migration – swifts, swallows, house martins and sand martins return from Africa. You might see swifts flying high over the woods in small groups.

<p>Swifts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark brown all over • Larger than swallows & martins • Long, curving wings 	<p>Swallows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossy, dark blue-black above & creamy-white below, with a dark red forehead & throat • Long, deeply forked tail
<p>House martins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glossy, blue-black above with a bright white rump • Short, forked tail 	<p>Sand martins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our smallest member of the swallow family • Brown above, white below & a brown band across its breast • Short, forked tail

Original artist unknown



Mistle Thrush collecting worms (by LO)

Nesting birds – watch out for birds with twigs or insects and worms in their beaks, plus territorial behaviour. If you do discover the location of a nest, please give the birds space and avoid sharing the exact location.



Magpie with twig (by LO)

We'd love to hear about your sightings in the woods and see photos. Please [share them in the Facebook group](#) or email selsdonwood@gmail.com. We will also be running our regular calendar photo competition in the summer.

What to look out for in the woods in April



St George's Mushroom by Heather Govier

Fungi – Ted Forsyth notes: the St George's Mushroom is normally seen in April, look out for it in the fields. As we approach midsummer, the bright yellow Chicken of the Woods bracket fungus could appear anywhere in the woods on apparently living trees or on large fallen logs, and will often turn up in the same area for several years.

Please note: We do not recommend foraging or eating mushrooms or plants from the woods – this also goes against National Trust Byelaws.



Chicken of the woods
by Ted Forsyth



Lizards – common lizards hibernate in winter but on sunny spring days they can be seen basking on logs and at the edge of fields. If you see one scuttle away, stand still and wait a few minutes and it may well come back out.



Common lizard photos (by LO)



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