

Upcoming events

Bat Walk – join Chris Green at dusk to learn about the bats living in the reserve and see some in flight.

Friday 5th June

WhatsApp Chris on 07921 861650 if you want to join.



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>



Sunday 21st June: 'Summer Flowers' with Malcolm Jennings

Meet in the car park at 11am



Saturday 4th July: 'Butterflies' with Daniel Bound

Meet in the car park at 11am



Volunteer sessions – come along and help: 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 snacks/drinks if needed. We would really appreciate some new volunteers joining in – contact us for more information or see <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/volunteer-sessions.php>

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

Sunday 7th June

Sunday 5th July

Volunteer sessions in May 2026

Thanks to Linda for maintaining the Linden Glade Pond, Valerie for her work on creating scrapes and planting wildflowers, and Dave, Colin, James and John Z for their efforts in clearing fallen trees. Thanks also to Grow Wild for their help in clearing overgrowing trees shrubs and brambles around some of the benches and carrying water containers.

Please note: Only authorised volunteers should enter the fenced areas around the ponds. This is to protect the wildlife and plants.

Newsletter text and photos by Lucinda Offer, unless otherwise credited.

What's happening in the woods?

Wildflower Patches

As I'm sure you're all aware, Selsdon Wood isn't all woodland. The fields are an important chalk grassland habitat, which supports a large number of invertebrates, including some rare butterflies and moths. Some caterpillars rely on only one or two specific food plants, but these plants can struggle to compete with grasses. Building on the success of the butterfly bank, volunteers have been clearing small patches of grass in the fields and planting specific wildflowers.

This has been challenging with the drought last summer and the periods of dry weather so far this year. Due to the location of some of the patches close to paths, there has been some damage from footfall. A temporary solution has been to put posts around the patches, to allow the plants to get stronger. Many thanks to Valerie for her continuing hard work on this project.

Horseshoe Vetch

The sole food source for Chalkhill Blue and Adonis Blue caterpillars.

Kidney Vetch

The sole food source for Small Blue caterpillars.

Below: Small Blue butterfly



Wild Marjoram and Wild Thyme

Drought resistant, an important food source for bees and adult butterflies.

Below: Wildflower patch, May 2026



Below: Planting a wildflower patch, August 2025, by Kay Ellis





Tick Warning



While there are lots of fascinating invertebrates living in the woods, there are also ticks.

- Ticks are tiny, hard to see unless they've been feeding for a few days and they lurk unseen on long grass and plants, waiting for a host to brush past.
- They stay attached for 3-10 days.
- Transmit diseases including Lyme Disease and, rarely, Tick-Borne Encephalitis.
- The sooner you remove them, the less chance of being infected.
- If you see a red 'bullseye' shaped rash, or get any flu-like symptoms after a tick bite, call your GP straight away.
- Consider wearing insect repellent and wearing clothing that covers your legs and feet.
- Check yourself, your family members and dogs for ticks when you get home - they could be anywhere on your body, as they climb.
- Consider getting a tick removal device and learn how to use it so you can remove any ticks without crushing them.

More information: <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2024/03/21/what-is-lyme-disease-and-why-do-we-need-to-be-tick-aware/>

We want to see your photos!

- You don't have to own a dedicated camera; camera phone images are welcome.
- Photos must have been taken **in Selsdon Wood between 20th August 2025 and 19th August 2026**. There is no limit on how many photos you can enter.
- Closing date: 20th August 2026
- A selection of the photos submitted will be put to a secret ballot at the Selsdon Community Event on Sunday 6th September 2026 and the three receiving the most votes will receive cash prizes - 1st £50, 2nd £20 and 3rd £10.
- Email full sized images with a title and details of where you took it to: selsdonwood@gmail.com
- By sending your photographs you agree that they may be used and displayed by the FSW.

