

Friends of Selsdon Wood Newsletter

April 2025

Please renew your membership for 2025 if you have not already done so.

Please pay to Friends of Selsdon Wood at Barclays Bank, Croydon Branch, Account No. 80883832, Sort Code 20-24-61.

Another Carving! – This month there will be another carving in our wood!

Last year, Alasdair Craig, from Essex Chainsaw Carving, created 3 wonderful wooden carvings: a pair of owls, a woodland scene with fox and rabbits, and a green man – the spirit of the woods. This spring we have commissioned another carving, this time from Lorcan O'Byrne. He will be starting work on it very soon and we look forward to the unveiling☺

Full details can be seen on the Carvings page of our website <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/Carvings.php>

If you would like to see more carvings in the wood, please donate through JustGiving to help us pay for them - <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/selsdonwoodcarvingsproject> . Further if you sign up to EasyFundRaising that will cost you nothing. Instead, whenever you purchase something from a supplier who has signed up to help (eg Currys/PC World booking holidays or buying insurance, Sainsbury's, M&S, Robert Dyas, Mountain Warehouse etc) THEY will make a donation to us and also enter us into the draw to win an extra £500! A link to that can be found on our Projects page.

March Work – Work continued this month to try to clear most of the invasive Laurel. This is very wide ranging throughout the wood. As the nesting season has begun there will be no further felling of Laurel now until the autumn.

In one session a group of Duke of Edinburgh's Award youngsters helped with the clearing of mud from one of the muddy paths. Most of the paths in our wood were originally surfaced with gravel but layers of mud have built up over time. A small area of Avis Grove was tackled but there will be no further work now as the paths are completely dry.

The replacement of fallen marker signs and repair of boxes has been our third job this month. Two fallen signs were replaced (Greenhill Way and Beech Grove) and a wonky Beech Grove sign was fixed. A new leaflet box was put on the notice board by the car park and the old one was moved to the start of the Vale Border path to replace the broken one there. Several bird and bat boxes were built and fitted throughout the wood and a number of other boxes were repaired. A map of all the boxes is available on the Nesting Boxes page of the website. <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/nesting-boxes.php>

Graffiti had been scrawled on the notice board by the Yew Tree Way gate and this was cleaned off by one of our team.















Picking up of dog poo bags and litter continues to be a perpetual task which is undertaken by several of the regular walkers in the wood.

The Butterfly Bank is maintained regularly and has been watered during this very dry weather. We also continue to maintain the Bird Feeding Station with regular refills.

Many thanks to all the Friends who contribute to this work.

The FSW AGM was held on Monday March 31st at 8pm at the Forestdale Forum - The minutes of the meeting and all associated papers can be found on the AGM page of the website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/agm.php> .

Our Walks Programme Starts This Month - with our Spring Walk on Saturday April 5th at 2pm followed by our annual Bluebells and Birds Walk on Sunday 4th May at 2pm. We would love to see you there. There is a splendid carpet of Wood Anemones to see now and many Bluebells are already peeping through. Overleaf are some of the flowers and butterflies that we have already seen in the wood. If you spot any different ones on the Spring walks do please take photographs and send them in to us.

<p>More Signs of Spring</p> <p>All these signs of Spring have been seen in the wood already this year. Look out for them on our Spring Walk on Saturday 5th April @ 2pm.</p>	<p>Wood Anemone – 10th March</p>  <p>Now making a beautiful carpet in the northern woodlands by Broad Walk & Avis Grove.</p>	<p>Primrose – 3rd January</p>  <p>In David's Crook. Several bushy plants including one with pink flowers.</p>	<p>Lesser Celandine – 6th March</p>  <p>First spotted by the Courtwood Lane gate. Now dotted throughout woodland areas</p>	<p>Dandelion – 13th March</p>  <p>Now widespread in many of the fields</p>
<p>Dog Violet - 19th March</p>  <p>One among many on the eastern edge of Field 2 near the top.</p>	<p>Bluebell – 21st March</p>  <p>Now popping up everywhere. The first leaves were seen on 1st January – much earlier than usual.</p>	<p>Lilac Ivy-Leaved Speedwell – 24th March</p>  <p>The smallest Speedwell and usually the first to flower.</p>	<p>Periwinkle - 24th March</p>  <p>Found in 2 places Linden Glade and the west end of Avis Grove.</p>	<p>Coltsfoot – 1st April</p>  <p>On the Butterfly Bank.</p>
<p>Cherry Blossom - 10th March</p>  <p>Often the first shrub to flower with pretty pink petals and a deep pink centre</p>	<p>Brimstone Butterfly - 9th March</p>  <p>This is usually the first butterfly to appear but the Comma beat it this year.</p>	<p>Comma Butterfly - 6th March</p>  <p>In spring and summer this is one of the most common butterflies.</p>	<p>Peacock Butterfly - 9th March</p>  <p>Perhaps the most striking butterfly in our wood. Look out for them in the summer months</p>	<p>Blackthorn blossom – 12th March</p>  <p>These bushes are in full bloom now and run along the edges of many of the fields.</p>