

Annual Photographic Competition - There are just a couple of weeks left to enter our 2022 Photo Competition! Please send in up to 6 of your favourite photographs taken in Selsdon Wood between 1st September 2021 and 20th August 2022. A shortlist of the 50 best entries will be selected and printed for display at the FSW Open Day on Sunday 4th September when the public will be invited to participate in a secret ballot to select the winners. The photograph with the most votes will win a cash prize of £50, donated by a generous sponsor. An entry form and details of how to submit your photos are on the website Photo Competition page <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/photo-competition.php>.

Last Month's Work Session - Sunday 3rd July – One group worked in Field 3, clearing vegetation around seats and benches. Sadly, graffiti had been scribbled on one seat so this was cleaned off. Others did some clearance of weed in the Jubilee Pond. All then went to Linden Glade where they uncovered the bench which was hidden by bracken, took down a tree which was leaning over the West Gorse path and worked to trim branches overhanging the Linden Glade pond.

Later in the week two of the team dealt with litter left by fire makers – one by a badger sett just off the Bridle Path and the other by a seat in Field 3 where an armchair was left!! This was taken to the car park from where it was later collected by the Council.

Last Month's Butterfly Walk - Saturday July 9th – Twenty four people led by Daniel Bound began, under overcast skies, by looking at the Butterfly Bank where a solitary Large White was seen. At the top of the car park field there were Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Small White, Gatekeeper, and Small Skippers. In Field 2 a bank of bramble provided Comma, Common Blue and a Silver-washed Fritillary.

Continuing to follow Daniel's transect route, they entered David's Crook, as the sun put in an appearance. Here Large Skippers, Marbled White and White Admiral were added to the tally. Pool Grove provided better views of Comma, Red Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral.




















In West Gorse the photographers got to work with a Ringlet and in The Wend a Speckled Wood was seen. Trudging up Langford's Way, they reached the short leg of Great Field where Daniel quickly pointed out Purple Hairstreaks flitting around the Oak trees, sometimes at very low levels. A Gatekeeper was found, then an addition to the final total came with the appearance of a Brimstone. **Thus 17 species seen in total.**

This Month's Mini-Beast Hunt - Wednesday August 17th at 2pm - with Roger Hawkins - This is a fun event of interest to young children and their parents. After an introduction from Roger, the children will be equipped with nets and collecting tubes and sent off to hunt around the car park field to see what they can find. There will be several of us back at base to help identify all findings. See overleaf for some of what you might expect to find and **happy minibeast spotting** ☺

This Month's Bat Walk – Friday 26th August 7.30pm – This walk will be led by Steve Budd. The meet will be in the car park off Old Farleigh Road. Please come with suitable footwear and a torch for the walk back. Keys need to be stowed somewhere they won't jangle or will show up as 'Noctule' bats on the bat detector.

The FSW Calendar 2023 is now available for a donation of £5 - To get your copy phone 020-8657 0423 or e-mail govierh@gmail.com.

Wildlife Sightings – The Sightings page of our website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/sightings.php> has photographs and reports of all new and recent sightings in our wood. Do please let us know about the interesting wildlife you see.

<p>Minibeasts - to be found in Selsdon Wood.</p> <p>Bring your children and grandchildren and join us to hunt for them on 17th August All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood.</p>	<p>Ladybird - 7 spot</p> 	<p>Ladybird - 14 spot</p> 	<p>Comb-footed Spider</p> 	<p>6-Spot Burnet Moth</p> 
<p>Burnet Moth Chrysalis Case</p> 	<p>Oak Bush Cricket</p> 	<p>Ant Damsel Bug</p> 	<p>Roesel's Bush Cricket</p> 	<p>Cuckoo Bee</p> 
<p>Earwig</p> 	<p>Silver-washed Fritillary</p> 	<p>Small Copper</p> 	<p>Small Tortoiseshell</p> 	<p>Speckled Wood</p> 
<p>Ladybird larva</p> 	<p>Shield Bug</p> 	<p>Hoverfly</p> 	<p>Snail</p> 	<p>Swollen-legged Flower Beetle</p> 

Open Day - Sunday 4th September

We hope you already have this date in your diary - to visit us at least, if not to help.

We are always glad of Friends who can spare us some time on the day on our stalls or watching over the car parking, particularly if the weather is good so attendance is high and there then becomes a need to direct cars safely to our overflow car park area along the hedge above the bear and toilet block. We can provide snazzy hi-vis vests to make you look official!

Other help is always welcome on the stalls. The more sales assistants we have, the more tombola tickets and White Elephants we can sell. Some of us are there all day so if you could come, even for just an hour or two, to give us a break, that would be very welcome.

If you prefer a seated role, then maybe you could assist by taking the votes for the photo competition or enrolling new members or the visiting Friends who wish to renew their annual sub. Again just an hour would give those there all day a chance for a break or a stroll around the stalls to see what is on offer.

We hope for a good variety of charity and craft stalls, both our 'regulars' and some new ones which we hope will do good business so will want to return next year – if we feel we can muster enough help to run the day again. It is really too much to expect one or two people to do it all on their own.

We are grateful for the help of a few Friends who have already stepped forward in answer to our pleas for help this year but it is still not too late to offer your practical support now.

Please drop an email to selsdonwood@gmail.com or send a text message (or call) Linda on 07979-002547 indicating who you are, your own contact details and what you would like to help with and when you would prefer to come. She will contact you to confirm your 'posting'.

Some of us will be on site from about 9.00 putting up our own gazebos and ready to greet and direct the other stall holders to their pitches and parking places from about 10.00.

The event officially opens at midday, but people do tend to arrive from about 11 - 11.30 so the car park and entrance area needs managing from about 11.00 onwards to ensure a safe flow of traffic and tidy parking in the correct areas.

We usually wrap up the proceedings between 15.45 and 16.00 and aim to have the site cleared of all stalls, paraphernalia and litter by 17.00

In summary, we need help with car parking, our stall sales (WE+ books, Tombola, photo competition votes, information stand (including children's scavenger hunt) and the membership table.

Before the event, we need offers of trestle or pasting tables or folding garden or card tables for our displays (either loans or donations if you have any unwanted ones) and new items as prizes for the tombola (anything attractive / useful with a value of over £3 to make buying some tickets worthwhile). If you have nothing new / unused in your cupboards to offer, why not check out the local charity shops? That way you might find a bargain for less than its value of £3+ and help us and that charity at the same time! If you do have any items to donate, please let Linda know before mid-August so the prize list can be drawn up and more purchased if there are not enough donations to enable us to have at least 50 prizes. We have about 20 so far. To save us having to bring everything ourselves to the event on the day, it would help if the actual items are delivered there by you during the morning setting up time i.e. before 11.30. If you cannot do that, then please let us know and we will arrange collection from you beforehand.

Likewise, it is easier to control the white elephants if they are not on site until then too but, again, we will advise you of a suitable delivery point or can collect (well-behaved ones!) if necessary beforehand.

We do hope you will be able to help us have a successful Open Day - either by donating items, helping on the day or just coming - and bringing your friends and family too. A poster is attached for you to circulate as you wish or perhaps just display in your window.

Thank you, in anticipation.