

**The Rich Variety of Wildlife in FSW** – Over the years the FSW have been photographing each new species seen in our wood and saving these to the website. FSW Member, Tony Flecchia, has now done a count and as of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the grand total of all living species recorded (animals, plants and fungi) is now 1498. That shows how rich our 200 acres are, considering that the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's best in country Naturespot web site has a little over 7000 species listed in 609,000 acres - so they have less than 5 times as many recorded species as we have, in 3000 times the space! Take a look at the Flora, Fauna and Fungi pages of the website for the count of each group of species identified by FSW in Selsdon Wood and scroll down the pages for photographs of them all.

## **Book Focus - Chris Green 'Birdsong in a time of Silence' by Steven Lovett**

As with many others, a rare positive I relished during our times of lockdown (especially in the uncertain times of March 2020) was the absence of human noise. We in Selsdon are so used to the din of our transport arteries (the Gatwick flight path; the 433 and 64; and the constant hum and honks of the family cars), that when these are silent we finally get to really listen to and appreciate our natural surroundings. I know most of us made the most of the Reserve in these times and really immersed ourselves in the sounds.

This enforced silence of 2020 is the subject of 'Birdsong in a time of Silence' the first book by Steven Lovett and one I recently picked up on a trip to Minsmere. This rather short book details the impact of birdsong on the author specifically but also humans more generally. It focuses on different months of the year and specific birds that are common in those times. It also details the historic nature of birdsong and, due to them singing for significantly longer than humans have been around, how the sound might be more embedded into us than we may realise.

Now I don't confess to being an expert on birdsong and would struggle to name more than perhaps 10 different calls but the sound of a Sky Lark trilling, a blackbird calling from the rooftops or the haunting call of a Tawny are sounds that genuinely lift my spirit. As we read and see more about the devastating loss of some of our bird species, this book and our own experiences of 2020 perhaps makes us realise how much we have to lose.



## **Please Send in Your Entries for the FSW Photo Competition - Closing date 20<sup>th</sup> August**

Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Woods between 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022. As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day in September. Winners will receive cash prizes of **£50 first, £20 second and £10 third**. Please submit your photographs to our competition organiser, Heather Govier, in electronic format by email to [govierh@gmail.com](mailto:govierh@gmail.com) or via the FSW Facebook page. Please send full sized images (not reduced edits). Alternatively, you could submit prints to Heather Govier, 219 Osward, Courtwood Lane, Croydon. CR0 9HG. Include the entry form (available from the website) or the following information: your name, address, email address and phone number and for each photo: - a title and details of where and when taken and with what camera. (By entering the competition, you agree that your photographs may be used and displayed by the FSW.)

**FSW Open day & SRA Selsdon Community Picnic – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September from mid-day** – Be sure to mark the date in your diary. We are collecting prizes for the tombola so please let us have any unwanted gifts or other suitable items. If you have anything to donate, please let us know asap by text or email to the contact details below. We have limited storage space so please hang on to the actual items until nearer the time. Also, we have room this year for anyone who would like to sell goods from their own gazebo or just from a table. Book a pitch through the FSW email or 07979 00 2547 - no direct charge is made for the site, we simply ask for a donation as the sellers see fit. We are always short of tables so if you have a folding table you could loan, or an unwanted one you could donate, do please let us know. Help from Friends on the day - setting up, on the stall or clearing up afterwards - would also be greatly appreciated. If you prefer a seated job rather than standing behind a stall table, could you perhaps help with logging any subs paid?

**Work Session – 12<sup>th</sup> June – The David Malins Memorial Feeding Station** – On this Sunday Work Session we installed the lectern bearing the David Malins Memorial Plaque by the Bird Feeding Station. The plaque shows images of 17 species of bird to aid identification. This completes the setup of this station which has proved a great success. Visitors to the wood now have a new attraction and the wildlife has been enjoying the food provided. To date 21 species of bird have been seen on or near the feeders including a rare flock of Brambling – see the website page for a list and photographs <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/bird-feeding-station.php>. Two species of mammal (squirrels and bats) have also been photographed there.

Although the Bird Feeding Station set-up is complete, regular maintenance will be a continuing responsibility, mainly undertaken by Steve and Ruth Budd. We have already received many donations of seeds, nuts and fat balls and money to buy more, but further donations are welcome. If you would like to contribute to the cost of bird food for the feeding station, please send your donation either by direct payment to the FSW bank account Account No. 80883832, Sort Code 20-24-61 (with the reference "Bird Feeding Station") or by cheque or cash to FSW Treasurer, Karen Hall, 5, Goldfinch Road, South Croydon, CR2 8SR.

**Last Month's Walks – Bats on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Summer Flowers on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>** – In spite of damp weather there were good turnouts for both walks and folks were not disappointed as there was plenty to see.

On the Bat Walk there were two passes from a Nathusius Pipistrelle in addition to the expected Common Pipistrelle activity and a female Roe Deer was also spotted.

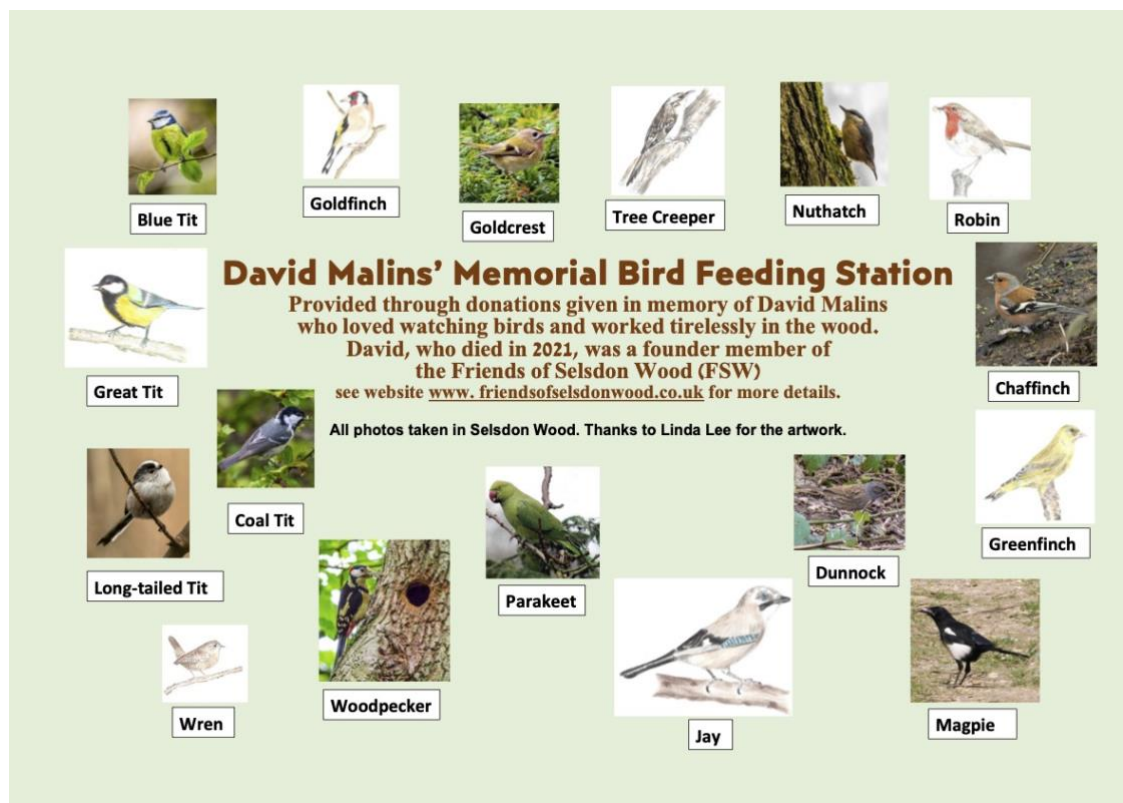
On the Summer Flowers walk, over 50 species were identified including 9 species on the Butterfly Bank.















Take a look at the Walks page of our website for full reports on both events <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/walks.php>

**This Month's Walk - 9<sup>th</sup> July @ 11am – Butterflies with FSW** – On our walk we hope to see some of

the species of butterflies shown overleaf and all the summer flowers that they visit. Do join us for this much-loved regular event. We are also delighted to announce that butterflies are now appearing on the Butterfly Bank. A Small Tortoiseshell was the first to be seen on 8<sup>th</sup> June and since then a few Small Blues have been spotted. This butterfly is scarce and in serious decline and has not been seen before in our wood, so we are especially delighted by this arrival. There will surely be many more as the summer progresses - watch the BB page of the website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/butterfly-bank.php> for all developments.

**The 2023 Calendar is now available** – Rather early in the year for most of us but the 2023 FSW Calendar is now available for a donation of £5. Please get in touch at any of the usual addresses or direct to me [govierh@gmail.com](mailto:govierh@gmail.com) if you'd like to be among the first to lay your hands on a copy.



<p align="center"><b>Butterflies</b></p> <p align="center">Butterflies to be seen in field areas of Selsdon Wood</p> <p align="center">All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Small Blue</b></p>  <p align="center">Our new visitor to the Butterfly Bank.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Small Blue (underside)</b></p>  <p align="center">Great to see this rare &amp; endangered species in our wood.</p>	<p align="center"><b>White Admiral</b></p>  <p align="center">Uncommon with dramatic black and white colouring.</p>	<p align="center"><b>White Admiral (underside)</b></p>  <p align="center">The underside of this butterfly has much more colour.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Small Tortoiseshell</b></p>  <p align="center">Once a common butterfly but now in decline. Spotted on the BB on 8<sup>th</sup> June.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Caterpillar of Small Tortoiseshell</b></p>  <p align="center">Less colourful but also distinctive and found on nettles.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Ringlet</b></p>  <p align="center">Small brown butterfly with rings on the wings. Found in fields.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Ringlet (underside)</b></p>  <p align="center">The ring markings are even clearer on the underside</p>	<p align="center"><b>Large Skipper</b></p>  <p align="center">A small butterfly in spite of the name.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Small Copper</b></p>  <p align="center">Here seen on Marjoram in David's Crook</p>	<p align="center"><b>Common Blue (male)</b></p>  <p align="center">The female is brown.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Comma</b></p>  <p align="center">Widespread in field areas.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Caterpillar of Comma</b></p>  <p align="center">Spectacular and distinctive on nettle food plant.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Silver Washed Fritillary</b></p>  <p align="center">Here seen on Buddleia - a plant very attractive to many butterflies.</p>