

Friends of Selsdon Wood Newsletter

July 2025

Please Send in Your Entries for the Calendar Photo Competition - Closing date 20th August

Your response for the plea for photos on the Facebook page was superb and we now definitely have enough for this year's competition☺ However, we would love to have lots more!

We will be choosing photographs from the competition to make up the FSW Calendars for 2026 and 2027 - so, they really do matter to us. We have just put together our 2026 Calendar containing some of the entries to the competition and copies will be on sale on our stall at the SRA Community Day.

Competition winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the SRA event 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 or via the FSW Facebook page. Please send full sized images (not reduced edits). Alternatively, you could submit prints to Heather Govier, 219 Oswald, 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. By entering the competition, you agree that your photographs may be used and displayed by the FSW.



We have a New Carving!! – Lorcan O'Byrne has created a beautiful new carving for us in The Wend – see photo. If you would like to contribute to the cost of this (and more to come!) please donate through our Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/fsw-2025-selsdonwoodcarvings>.

SRA Selsdon Community Day – Sunday 7th September – Be sure to mark the date in your diary. FSW will have a gazebo displaying the competition photographs, collecting membership subs and selling 2026 calendars.

Work Session – Sunday 1st June – While one of our volunteers weeded, planted, and watered the Butterfly Bank the remainder of the group were involved in clearance activities around seats and carvings. One of the seats along Vale Border was prepared for the fitting of a plaque by a family wishing to remember a loved one who used to sit there.

When the Grow Wild group visited on Tuesday 3rd of June, they did further clearance around the Owls carving and cut back some of the branches around the entrance which were obscuring the view of motorist leaving the car park.

Flowers Walk – Sunday 22nd June – Under the leadership of Malcolm Jennings 14 people set off along Vale Border. We crossed field 2 to pass through the trees to field 3 and continued to reach the far side where we turned up to the top of the field, turning back towards the car park. A brief stop was made at the Butterfly Bank to admire the planting. Full details and photos of many of the species can be seen at <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/walks.php>

Butterfly Bank – Our volunteer has been very active on the Butterfly bank again this month, planting, weeding and watering. A total of 29 different species of plant have flowered so far this year. Fifteen of these have been new plantings, including Salad Burnet, Horseshoe Vetch, Greater Celandine and Harebell.

We have created an illustrated guide to all the flowers on the Butterfly Bank that can be accessed via a QR code displayed on the surrounding fence. This shows all the flowers in separate colour groups with brief notes and photographs to compare for identification. We hope you enjoy using it. Some examples are shown overleaf.

Alternatively, the guide can be accessed from the top of the website Butterfly Bank page <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/butterfly-bank.php>.

Flowers Growing on the Butterfly Bank

Some examples from the Identification Guide accessed on site by a QR code

Bird's foot Trefoil



Its flowers look like little slippers. It is valuable for butterflies because it flowers early from late spring right into autumn.

Viper's Bugloss



Pink buds are borne in summer opening to a vivid blue. It provides food for a range of insects, including Large Skipper and Painted Lady butterflies, Honeybees and Red Mason bees.

Hoary Plantain



The broadly elliptical leaves of this species spread horizontally from the crown of the root and lie so close to the ground as to destroy all vegetation below. The spike of downy flowers is vanilla scented.

Lady's Bedstraw



An important food source for the caterpillars of the Broad-bordered Bee Hawk Moth. It was used in Victorian times as a mattress filler as it had a pleasant smell and repelled fleas

Clustered Bellflower



Forms an extensive clump of erect stems bearing dark green ovate leaves and dense clusters of deep violet-blue bell-shaped flowers.

Rock Rose



Rock rose flowers are short lived. New flowers open every morning and die at nightfall.

Wild Thyme



This thyme has a strong scent similar to oregano. It forms a low-growing mat covered with purple pink flowers loved by bees.

Mouse-ear Hawkweed



Attracts a variety of insects. It has been used in herbal medicine to treat respiratory infections.

Yarrow



Pink or white flowers. It is valuable for pollinators as it continues to flower right through to November or even later.

Wild Basil



Pinkish purple flowers in late summer. It has culinary uses and is also used in herbal medicine. It is great for bees and butterflies.