

**Can you help?** - Nature has put on her greatest spurt and everything in the woods is growing fast. This means new species of flowers coming into bloom almost every day (see the Home page of the website for our May Flowers gallery) but also lots of brambles, nettles etc shooting up around the paths and benches. It would be very helpful if those of you who walk regularly in the wood could take a pair of secateurs with you to trim back the intrusive growth to make the wood better for everyone who uses it. The FSW does some of this on our workdays but every little helps and your support would be very welcome.

There is little natural water in the wood and so the old birdbath in Linden Glade is an important drinking place for many birds and other animals. There has been plenty of rain in the last month which has kept the water topped up but when the weather is dry do please pop in there and add a little water from your bottle to help the wildlife.

**Last Month's Walk - 'Bluebells & Birds' with the FSW on 2<sup>nd</sup> May** - Over 45 people attended this walk, which was led by Ted Forsyth. The main objective was to look at the bluebells and we were not disappointed. Following some unseasonably hot weather, the recent rain had brought the flowers out in an amazing display with some wonderful carpets of blue in the wood. Several bird songs were identified near the beginning of the walk but later the wood seemed almost silent and few birds were heard. When we reached Langford's Way we pointed out the territory of the white squirrel and mentioned we had not seen it for some time. Inevitably one of the party, Ian Frost, then pointed high up in the trees where he could see the animal perched on a branch. Ian had a powerful camera with him and took some amazing pictures - see right. We spent a good few minutes until most people felt they had seen the squirrel (and many had photographed it) then we moved on to Stevens Walk where we saw the recently found Three Veined Sandwort and a vast number of the tiny Lilac Ivy-leaved Speedwell. Further on we examined the Dryad's Saddle fungi re-appearing on the same tree stump where they have been seen for three or four years. Outside the Centenary Plantation were Ground Ivy and Germander Speedwell and in the plantation was a single specimen of White Helleborine orchid. We were back at the car park after almost exactly two hours. A full report of the walk is on the Walks page of the website and on the Fungi page you can see photos showing the dramatic growth of the Dryads Saddle.



**This Month's Walk - 'Summer Flowers' with Malcolm Jennings on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June @ 11am** - Malcolm is our local flower expert and on our walk with him last year we spotted two beautiful flowers we had never seen before in our wood - a Bee Orchid and a Grass Vetchling. Do join us to see what new delights we can find this year.

**FSW Annual Photographic Competition** When the bluebells are out many of us are inspired to get snapping with our cameras and we would love to have your photos as entries for our annual competition. However, we like to include photographs from all seasons so please look back over any you may have taken over the autumn and winter months. Entries for our 2015 competition must be taken in Selsdon Woods between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015. Details of how to submit your photographs can be found on the website.

**FSW Charcoal** - We still have available some of the charcoal we made back in May 2014 and we will be delighted to let you have 3 kilo bags for a donation of £5 each. Please contact Neale Fox for information or to arrange collection – phone 020-8657 0384 or e-mail [logs.selsdonwood@btinternet.com](mailto:logs.selsdonwood@btinternet.com).

**Our spotters' guide this month shows the results of two recent FSW projects in the form of a quiz. We have installed 5 new benches and 6 new notice boards. Can you recognise the locations of each of them? You can find the answers on the Projects page of the website.**

## Benches & Boards

- a quiz to test your knowledge of our woods.

This spring the FSW installed 5 new benches in various locations around the wood and 6 new notice boards at the entrances.

From the photographs and the clues can you identify the location of each one?

The answers are available on the website Projects page.

**Bench 1**



Two Yew trees in the background.

**Bench 2**



Green route way marker in the background

**Bench 3**



Birch trees in foreground.

**Bench 4**



Dedicated to Rob Sowter.

**Bench 5**



Dedicated to G G Lewis.

**Notice Board 1**



Log pile in background.

**Notice Board 2**



No FSW notices on this board.

**Notice Board 3**



To the left of the path.

**Notice Board 4**



Steps in background.

**Notice Board 5**



Tyre ruts in path.

**Notice Board 6**



Soil bund in foreground