Friends of Selsdon Wood Working to improve our wood

Newsletter

June 2016

Linden Glade Update – Work continues in Linden Glade – see photo. The cracks in the pond have been filled and extra workdays have been used to remove the old broken fencing and start the construction of a "henge" of logs to mark the boundary with taller ones to represent gateways to the pond area and house the explanatory plaques. The overgrown tangle around the pond has been tidied and at least one species (bugle) seems to have taken advantage of the extra light and thrown up new shoots. Many thanks to all the team for their work on this. Full reports of all the Workdays can be found on the website.

Ash Dieback in Selsdon Wood – We are sorry to report that Chalara (Ash Dieback - a disease of Ash trees) was recently found in the Council coppice blocks in Selsdon Wood. Unfortunately this was inevitable with the infection being found at Warlingham two years ago. Current advice is not to try to remove the infection but to carry on as normal as there is a good level of resistance being found in the UK and fatality is not necessarily going to occur for infected trees.

FSW Logs - We still have a few air-dried logs available for a donation of £4 per sack. Please contact Neale Fox for information or to arrange collection – phone 020-8657 0384 or e-mail logs.selsdonwood@btinternet.com

Get snapping now for the 2016 Photo Competition!! - Since 2010 we have held an annual Photographic Competition and details of last year's winners can be seen on the website. There are cash prizes to be won and now that summer is here at last it is a good time to get out there with your cameras. Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Woods between 20th August 2015 and 20th August 2016. As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day in September 2016. Please submit your photographs to our competition organiser, Heather Govier, either in electronic format by email to selsdonwood@gmail.com or as prints to 219 Osward, Courtwood Lane, Croydon. CR0 9HG.

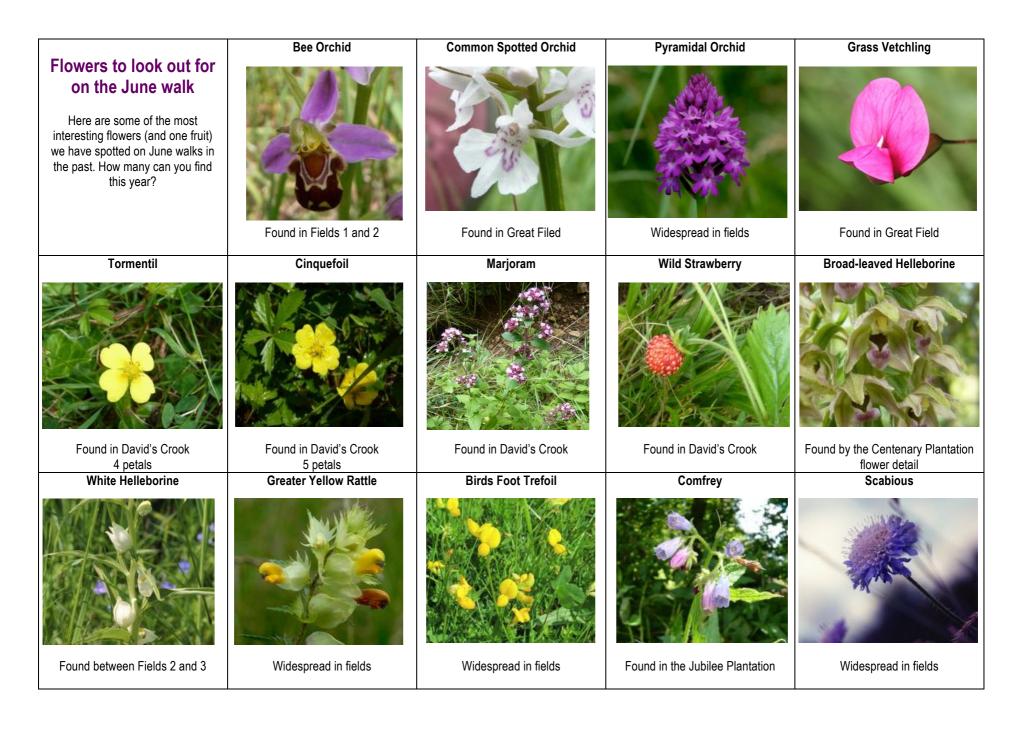
Last Month's Walk - 'Bluebells & Birds' with the FSW on 7th May - Over 30 people attended this walk which was led by Ted Forsyth on a fine and sunny spring day. The bluebells were still looking splendid and we identified numerous other plants and saw or heard a dozen different birds:- Blackbird, Jackdaw, Magpie, Robin, Buzzard, Chiffchaff, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Carrion Crow, Jay, Blackcap, Ring-necked Parakeet. A Cuckoo had been heard in the wood on the previous day but sadly he did not sing for us on our walk.

This Month's Walk Sunday 19th June at 11am - Discover Summer Flowers with Malcolm Jennings -

Join us again for a leisurely stroll to look for summer wildflowers. On the equivalent walk last year, we found Bee Orchids, Pyramidal Orchids and a couple of Common Spotted Orchids. We also compared the yellow flowers of Tormentil and Cinquefoil growing in David's Crook and nibbled a few Wild Strawberries we found there. A Broad-leaved Helleborine, thought to have been destroyed by Roe Deer, had revived and was seen outside the Centenary Plantation and we also found a couple of White Helleborines. Buckthorn, Dogwood and Dog Rose bushes were in blossom and we also identified:- Wall Barley, Cocksfoot grass, Crested Dog's-tail grass, Common Sorrel, White and Red Clover, Greater Yellow Rattle, Bulbous Buttercup, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Field Bindweed, Bladder Campion, Self-heal, Common Nettle, Bramble, Cleavers (Goose-grass), Russian Comfrey, Wild Strawberry, Tormentil, Cinque-foil, Goatsbeard, Marjoram, Germander Speedwell, Black Medick, Wood Spurge, St John's Wort, Hogweed, Scabious.

To help you recognize some of them again this year, 14 of those species are shown in the spotters guide overleaf.

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