

A Good Month for Nature – Spring sprang in earnest last month and we had well over 100 sightings of flowers, blossom and minibeasts seen for the first time this year. If you are interested to follow these seasonal arrivals take a look at the Sightings page on the FSW website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/sightings.php> where we record them on a daily basis.

Another place to spot and record new sightings is the FSW Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/164103793599782/>. May sightings there include the summer fungi Dryad's Saddle (see this photograph posted by Geraldine Hart) and Chicken of the Woods. Some great photos of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers are there too and a possible sighting of a Goshawk or Honey Buzzard. If you spot any new arrivals do please let us know.

Get snapping now for the 2018 Photo Competition! – But don't just post or list your sightings. If you take a photo, please send a high definition version to us and it could win you £50 in our annual Photo Competition. Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Wood between 20th August 2017 and 19th August 2018 (closing date for entries is 20th August). As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day in September 2018. 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 Oswald, Courtwood Lane, Croydon. CR0 9HG.



Last Month's Walk – Birds and Bluebells – As the bluebells opened early this year, we were afraid that they might not last until our Bluebell Walk on 5th May. However, the cold rainy weather at the end of April kept them in fine fettle and they were looking and smelling wonderful for our walk on a beautiful sunny day. The walk was joined by about 40 people, one of the largest groups we have ever attracted. I think everyone was well satisfied as we saw 27 species of wildflower (listed on the website Walks page) and heard the calls of 8 birds - Blackcap, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Great Tit, Jackdaw, Robin, Song Thrush and Tawny Owl. We also saw Brimstone, Comma, Large White and Holly Blue butterflies and the spectacular Dryad's Saddle fungus in its usual site in Steven's walk.

This Month's Walk Sun 17th June 11am - Summer Flowers with Malcolm Jennings – Local natural history expert Malcolm Jennings will again lead our Summer Flowers walk. Join us for a leisurely stroll to enjoy the scents and views, to learn more about the world of plants and to see how many flowers we can spot – last year we saw over 40 species! I look forward to seeing you there.

SRA Selsdon Community Picnic – Sunday 1st July from mid-day – Come to meet and make friends with your neighbours and others. Bring your own picnic, chairs, rugs etc (sorry no BBQs or stoves). The 2nd Selsdon & Addington Scouts will sell tea, coffee and cold drinks and provide a variety of fun games and easy races in conjunction with SRA and the FSW will lead a woodland wander.

Page 2 of our newsletter this month, supplied by David Malins, provides a summary of the installation of the new seats. Information about those to whom 2 of the seats are dedicated can be found on the Seats & Benches page of our website.

The FSW install Seats & Benches in Selsdon Wood

One aim of the Friends of Selsdon Wood is to encourage visitors to explore the 9 kilometres of paths and take a rest from time to time. Selsdon Wood has 20 seats (with backs) and 46 benches (without backs).

The Friends replace old ones as they rot and install private commemorative ones.

The Friends have installed 13 seats and benches in 5 years. The Friends will try to repair and refit them when vandalised.

The Council approved designs are built from green oak by Norbury Park Wood Products of Mickleham near Dorking.

They are built for durability & strength, with long legs for security.

They are extremely heavy - Ranmore 6ft seat weighs 250 kilos (5 cwt); Bookham 5ft bench weighs 110 kilos (2.16 cwt)

Commemorations are carved or inscribed on a plastic laminate plaque.

David Malins co-ordinates the whole operation from enquiry to installation and has been known to do a bit of work as well.

Although other volunteers help from time to time, the leg hole digging team consists of Alan Bushnell and his son John.

Delivery is made to the car park area and unloaded by Hiab lorry.



The installation team now consists of Jim Dunning, John Zareba and - the tractor driver David Marden of Elm Tree Farm, Farleigh.

Jim also fits the Commemorative plaques.

