

**Get your entries in for the 2024 Photo Competition and the 2025 Calendar!** – There are so many lovely photos of the wood on our Facebook page. Do please send your favourites in for our annual photo competition and for use on our 2025 Calendar. I have only 3 entries so far and am beginning to worry that this year's competition might have to be cancelled – just like the one in 2022. After a bumper entry in 2021, hardly anyone submitted an entry in 2022. By the closing date we had just 5 entrants despite advertising on the FSW website, in the FSW Facebook group and on posters. This was not enough to give an interesting selection to choose from so we cancelled the competition.

Moreover we had too few photos for the calendar and had to use several old ones instead.

Please don't let this happen again!! Get your photos to me asap.

Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Wood between 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024. If we have enough to go ahead, the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Please submit your photographs to me, either in electronic format by email to [govierh@gmail.com](mailto:govierh@gmail.com) or in printed form to Heather Govier, 219 Oswald, Courtwood Lane Croydon CR0 9HG. Please send full sized images (not reduced edits) and for each photo supply a title, date and the area of the wood in which it was taken (if known). We also need your full name and contact details.

**Butterfly Bank - Developments** – We were advised that the Butterfly Bank would take a year to establish and 2 or 3 years to thrive. We were assured that the low nutrient chalk would ensure that, thereafter, the wildflowers will last for many years with very little maintenance.

However, by the end of 2023 it was clear that the chalk bunds sited around Croydon were not achieving the objective of keeping down grass and encouraging wild flowers. Our bund was clearly very overgrown with grass and few of the original plants were thriving. One of the Friends knew of a much more successful butterfly bank elsewhere that was not composed of chalk. It was decided that she would work on a small area of our bund, digging out the grass, fertilising with topsoil and well-rotted manure and replanting with butterfly friendly flowers.

She has made many visits and recruited a group of others to help with the gardening. We are delighted to say that a total of 14 species of flowers have been seen on the BB so far this year – half of them being on new planting.















Many thanks Valerie☺















**Summer Flowers Walk - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 11am** – 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 and to see how many flowers we can spot. At least 75 different species have been seen so far this year! Some of those were early spring flowers but there are plenty out now. So this month the first spotter's guide shows some of the pink ones to look out for.

We love to record first sightings each year so if you see any of them do let us know (with a photo if possible) via the FB page or direct to me at [govierh@gmail.com](mailto:govierh@gmail.com). They will then be shown on the Sightings page of our website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/sightings.php>. Here there are also listings of animal species seen in the wood and we would also love to hear of any you can add to the list (with photos if possible)

**Butterflies Walk – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 11am** – We have 2 walks for you this June. On this second one, lepidoptera expert, Daniel Bound, will lead the way to look at the Butterfly Bank and to explore all the other places in our wood where butterflies and moths are most likely to be found. We are delighted to include a second spotters guide this month showing some of the species you may see. Do join us for this much-loved regular event.

**FSW Open Day- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September** – As well as the photographic competition (hopefully!), we look forward to welcoming back the usual craft and charity stalls. We would love to have some new craftspeople or hobbyists who would like to display (and sell) their creations. Please do pass this message on to anyone you know who may like to come. Contact FSW via email to [selsdonwood@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonwood@gmail.com) or by text to 07979 00 2547 for more information.

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| <p><b>Selsdon Wood</b><br/><b>Pretty in Pink</b><br/>14 pink flowers found in our wood in Summertime</p> <p><b>Glossary</b><br/>Palmate leaves have leaflets like fingers spreading from a single focus. Pinnate leaves have leaflets in opposite pairs with a singleton at the end.</p> | <p><b>Herb Robert</b></p>  <p>June - Sept in woodland paths<br/>Leaves - triangular, palmate<br/>Flowers - small, 5 petals</p>              | <p><b>Field Bindweed</b></p>  <p>June - Sept in fields<br/>Leaves - arrow shaped<br/>Flowers - large trumpets</p>                       | <p><b>Pyramidal Orchid</b></p>  <p>June - Aug in fields<br/>Leaves - narrow<br/>Flowers - small, forming pyramid</p>  | <p><b>Grass Vetchling</b></p>  <p>May - July in Great Field<br/>Leaves - look like grass<br/>Flowers - two-lipped, solitary</p> |
| <p><b>Red Bartsia</b></p>  <p>June - Sept in woodland paths<br/>Leaves - toothed, unstaked<br/>Flowers - small in one-sided spike</p>   | <p><b>Wild Basil</b></p>  <p>July - Sept in field borders<br/>Leaves - toothed oval<br/>Flowers - small in whorls</p>                       | <p><b>Marjoram</b></p>  <p>July - Sept in field borders<br/>Leaves - oval<br/>Flowers - small in clusters</p>                           | <p><b>Dog Rose</b></p>  <p>June- July in hedgerows<br/>Leaves - pinnate   Stems - thorny<br/>Flowers - large, solitary</p>                                  | <p><b>Common Sorrel</b></p>  <p>May- Aug in fields<br/>Leaves - tall, arrow-shaped<br/>Flowers - tiny in spikes</p>             |
| <p><b>Red Clover</b></p>  <p>May - Oct - fields<br/>Leaves - trefoil, palmate<br/>Flowers - tiny in globular heads</p>   | <p><b>Hedge Woundwort</b></p>  <p>June - Oct - wooded paths<br/>Leaves - heart-shaped, toothed<br/>Flowers - small, two-lipped, whorls</p> | <p><b>Cut-leaved Cranesbill</b></p>  <p>May - Sept - woodland paths<br/>Leaves - deeply cut<br/>Flowers - small, 5 petals, notched</p> | <p><b>Hedgerow Cranesbill</b></p>  <p>June - Sept - near toilets in car park<br/>Leaves - palmate, cut half-way<br/>Flowers - 5 petals, deeply notched</p> | <p><b>Foxglove</b></p>  <p>June - Sept in woods<br/>Leaves - large spear-shaped<br/>Flowers - large bells, in spikes</p>       |

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| <p><b>Lepidoptera</b><br/>Butterflies and Moths to be seen in Selsdon Wood</p> <p>All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood.</p>  | <p><b>Meadow Brown Butterfly</b></p>  <p>Most common butterfly in the fields.</p>                       | <p><b>Meadow Brown (underside)</b></p>  <p>At rest most commonly with wings closed.</p>                 | <p><b>White Admiral Butterfly</b></p>  <p>Uncommon with dramatic black and white colouring.</p>         | <p><b>White Admiral (underside)</b></p>  <p>The underside of this butterfly has much more colour.</p> |
| <p><b>Small Tortoiseshell</b></p>  <p>Once a common butterfly but now in decline.</p>                | <p><b>Caterpillar of Small Tortoiseshell</b></p>  <p>Found on nettles.</p>                              | <p><b>Ringlet Butterfly</b></p>  <p>Small brown butterfly with rings on the wings. Found in fields.</p> | <p><b>Ringlet (underside)</b></p>  <p>The ring markings are even clearer on the underside</p>           | <p><b>Large Skipper Butterfly</b></p>  <p>A small butterfly in spite of the name.</p>                 |
| <p><b>Six-spot Burnet Moth</b></p>  <p>Day flying moth. Pupates in case attached to grass stems</p> | <p><b>Burnet Moth pupal case</b></p>  <p>Empty case attached to grass stem after moth has emerged.</p> | <p><b>Comma</b></p>  <p>Widespread in field areas.</p>   | <p><b>Caterpillar of Comma Butterfly</b></p>  <p>Spectacular and distinctive on nettle food plant.</p> | <p><b>Orange-spot Piercer Moth</b></p>  <p>A day flying Micromoth on Hogweed food plant.</p>         |