

Get your entries in for the 2025 Photo Competition and the 2026 Calendar! – There are many lovely photos of the wood on our Facebook page, so please send your favourites in for our annual photo competition and for use on our 2026 Calendar. I have very few entries so far and am beginning to worry that this year's competition might have to be cancelled – just like the one in 2022. 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. We had too few photos for the calendar so 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 20th August 2024 and 19th August 2025. If we have enough to go ahead, the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot. Please submit your photographs to me, either in electronic format by email to 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.

May Walks – Our **Birds & Bluebells Walk** was held on Sunday 4th May, a cold and overcast day. Despite the weather a group of 25 joined our leaders Neale and Karen Fox. The Bluebells showed so early this year that we feared they might have gone before 4th May, but there were plenty to see and, in some places, still enough to produce occasional wafts of scent. Seven species of bird were heard but few were seen.

On the evening of the 14th May, we were visited by a troop of Scouts from the 5th Selsdon & Addington Group (based at Addington Methodist Church). The group were welcomed by Friends Steven & Ruth for an **Evening of Bat Detection**. For many of the Scouts, this was their first time of seeing bats in the wild and whilst the bats kept us waiting, they eventually appeared shortly after sunset and put on their usual aerial display. Pips were the most common flyers although a Serotine was heard - but not seen. The Scouts had a great evening and wish to pass their thanks onto the leaders Steve & Ruth (Batman and Batwoman) for their time, patience, and expertise.















May Work Sessions – **Tuesday 6th May with Grow Wild** – To start with the Butterfly Bank benefited from wonderful help from two strong young men from the Grow Wild project. So much water was brought up to the bank that every plant was completely rehydrated. The Grow Wild team went on to clear the area around the first bench along the bottom hedge in Field 1. This was in anticipation of it being 'adopted' by a bereaved family in memory of their relative who used to sit there. They then cleared three further spots in the hedge which would be suitable for new seats if there were other requests for them.

Work Session report Sunday 11th May – The team undertook further clearance of hedgerows, such as those encroaching on benches in Great Field, and the undergrowth obscuring the view of the new badger carving. They also cut back growth obscuring the view of Linden Glade pool and around seats in that area while Valerie continued her sterling work of maintaining the Butterfly Bank.

Summer Flowers Walk - Sunday 22nd 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 95 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 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. 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)

Linden Glade Development – The return of nature to the pool has continued after the refurbishment in 2023. Plants in and around the pool are maturing well, and beautiful dragonflies have been seen. We spotted frogspawn back in February and the pool is now teeming with tadpoles beginning to change into frogs. We hope that they will survive and not succumb to the ranavirus that previously decimated the frogs in the Jubilee pool – or to the Mallard Ducks that were spotted in Linden Glade this month!! Please do not enter the fenced area as we hope to keep it undisturbed and protected to allow wildlife to thrive.

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