

**Feeding the Birds in Selsdon Wood** – Please do not put out bread or foods like raisins for the birds. These are not good for the birds & poisonous to other woodland species such as foxes and to dogs.

We have a bird feeding station so if you would like to feed the birds, please contribute some money to FSW funds to pay for the regular top-ups there. Thank you.

**Wood Carvings Project** – At the Committee Meeting on 31st March 2025 it was agreed that we would commission a more local wood sculptor, Lorcan O'Byrne, to make a new carving. We had already walked around the wood with him, and he had chosen 3 possible sites and sent sketches of the possible carvings. We asked him to start by carving a badger for us on an Ash stump in Steven's Walk for a price of £500.

Steve accompanied him to make a video of the carving and to keep walkers away from the work in progress. This Badger was completed in 2 days on 7th and 8th April.

On the Projects page of the website <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/projects.php> you can see photos of the work in progress, taken by Lorcan. There is also a link to Steve's video showing this amazingly talented young man at work.

After confirming that we had no objections, Lorcan attached this small plaque to the foot of the carving showing his contact details. FSW will soon be adding a similar small plaque to all the carvings to remind admirers that they all are fully funded by the Friends. Please donate to us directly or via Just Giving so that we can afford another piece of his work.

**April Work Sessions** – Sadly the first job of the month was the cleaning of graffiti from the notice board at the Yew Tree Way entrance. Many thanks to John who removed it on 1<sup>st</sup> April. There were not many tree falls but a couple were cleared later in the month.




















On the April Work Sessions, we tidied the store and fitted a new shelving unit. We topped up the water in the Jubilee Pond and watered & weeded on the butterfly bank and around the Marjoram planted last year in David's Crook. We also trimmed back the car park edging on the entrance slope to improve access for pushchair and wheelchairs and sprayed all the wood carvings with a preservative solution.

**Get snapping now for the 2025 Photo Competition!** – With summer definitely on its way and the Bluebells at their height, now is a good time to get out there with your cameras. Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Wood between 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025. 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](mailto:govierh@gmail.com) or via the FSW Facebook page. 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. There is no need to wait until you have a full set of 6 as you can always add more later.

**May Walk - Bluebells and Birds Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May @ 2pm** – The Bluebells are now at their height and should last until Sunday. There are also lots of other species of flowers around and the birds will be singing to salute the Spring.

Overleaf are photos of some of the flowers to look for this month. If you see any of them do let us know via the FB page or direct to me at [govierh@gmail.com](mailto:govierh@gmail.com).



<p><b>May Flowers</b></p> <p>Here are some flowers to look out for this month with dates of some sightings for past years.</p> <p>The earliest of the sightings for each flower is shown in bold. Seven of the flowers have already been spotted this year – see if you can find them.</p>	<p><b>Mouse Ear</b></p>  <p>- <b>30/4/15</b> - 15/5/16 - 11/5/18 - 1/5/19 - 22/6/20 - 9/5/21 - 4/5/24</p>	<p><b>Common Vetch</b></p>  <p>- 11/5/17 - 7/5/18 - 12/5/19 - 26/5/20 - 5/5/21 - <b>28/4/25</b></p>	<p><b>Bramble</b></p>  <p>- 15/5/15 - 1/6/16 - 13/5/17 - 23/5/18 - 4/5/20 - <b>12/4/24</b> - 30/4/25</p>	<p><b>Shepherd's Purse</b></p>  <p>- 4/7/16 - 23/5/17 - 6/5/18 - <b>26/4/19</b> - 27/6/20 - 29/5/21 - 2/6/24</p>
<p><b>White Dead Nettle</b></p>  <p>- 13/5/15 - 26/4/16 - 31/4/18 - 25/4/19 - 9/5/21 - <b>25/3/24</b> - 28/4/25</p>	<p><b>Birdsfoot Trefoil</b></p>  <p>- 18/5/15 - 28/5/17 - 30/5/18 - 6/6/19 - 6/5/20 - 26/5/21 - <b>27/4/25</b></p>	<p><b>Ox-Eye Daisy</b></p>  <p>- 18/5/15 - 23/5/16 - 13/5/17 - 16/5/18 - <b>5/5/20</b> - 21/5/21 - 10/5/22</p>	<p><b>Cleavers/Goosegrass</b></p>  <p>- 15/5/15 - 20/5/16 - 18/6/17 - 10/5/18 - 22/5/21 - <b>9/5/22</b></p>	<p><b>Bittersweet</b></p>  <p>- 8/6/15 - 1/7/16 - 12/6/17 - <b>30/5/18</b> - 3/6/20 - 15/6/21 - 4/6/22</p>
<p><b>Ribwort Plantain</b></p>  <p>- <b>30/3/17</b> - 13/4/18 - 18/6/20 - 11/5/21 - 19/4/22 - <b>14/4/25</b></p>	<p><b>Sanicle</b></p>  <p>- 9/5/15 - 25/4/17 - 10/5/18 - 18/5/20 - 8/5/21 - <b>16/4/24</b> - 28/4/25</p>	<p><b>Common Catsear</b></p>  <p>- 24/5/15 - 28/5/16 - 28/5/17 - 31/5/18 - <b>16/5/20</b> - 2/6/21 - 4/5/22</p>	<p><b>Wild Garlic</b></p>  <p>- <b>6/5/16</b> - 1/5/19 - 4/5/22 -</p>	<p><b>Herb Bennet</b></p>  <p>- 19/5/16 - 13/5/17 - 10/5/18 - 30/4/19 - 15/5/20 - 9/5/21 - <b>12/4/22</b></p>
<p><b>Sainfoin</b></p>  <p>- 26/5/15 - 17/6/16 - <b>19/5/17</b> - 30/5/18 - 27/5/21 - 29/5/22</p>	<p><b>White Clover</b></p>  <p>- 19/5/15 - 28/5/16 - <b>10/5/17</b> - 24/5/18 - 14/5/20 - 2/6/21 - 16/5/22</p>	<p><b>Red Clover</b></p>  <p>- 7/5/15 - 15/5/16 - 7/5/17 - 9/5/18 - 7/5/19 - 4/5/20 - 7/5/21 - <b>20/4/25</b></p>	<p><b>Hawkweed</b></p>  <p>- 16/5/15 - 19/5/16 - 13/5/17 - 16/5/18 - <b>9/5/19</b> - 14/5/20 - 10/5/24</p>	<p><b>Forget-me-not</b></p>  <p>- <b>18/4/15</b> - 1/5/17 - 26/4/18 - 27/4/19 - 12/5/21 - 29/4/22</p>