

Friends of Selsdon Wood Newsletter

October 2021

Open Day - The Open Day (including the SRA Community event) was held again after missing a year due to Covid. There's a full report and photos on the website Events page at <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/events.php>. It was a great success, being a showplace for local crafts, charities and organisations. Many thanks to Linda Morris who organised it all and her small team of helpers on the day. She has warned though that she will not be able to do it next year without more help, both before and during the event. Please contact us for more details if you think you could help so we can go ahead with planning for 4th September 2022.

2021 Photo Competition! – On Open Day there was lots of activity at the Photo Competition stand. An unprecedented number of photographs had been sent in this year with 26 people entering, many sending all six permitted photos. It was thus necessary to draw up a shortlist of 50 photographs which were shown at Open Day with all visitors invited to vote for their three favourites, and 128 people voted - most saying how hard it was to choose amongst 50 such superb photographs. Voting was close but by the end of the day we had a first, second and third. **Congratulations to all our winners!!!**

1st Place £50 - They're Not In - Can I Take a Message? by Steve Budd

2nd Place £20 - Sky of Fire by Lee Butcher

3rd Place £10- Sunrise over Snow by Kylie Butcher

(Lee & Kylie donated their prizes back to FSW - Many thanks Lee and Kylie:-)

The 3 winning photos are shown here and all winning and shortlisted photos are shown on the Photo Competition page of the website. www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/photo-competition.php

FSW Work in the Wood - The old Lost Property Box behind the notice board in the car park had fallen into disrepair. So our star refurbisher, Jim Dunning, took it away and brought back a lovely new box. In true "green" fashion he created the box from a pallet and materials he had available so it has cost us nothing. Superb work Jim - many thanks!!

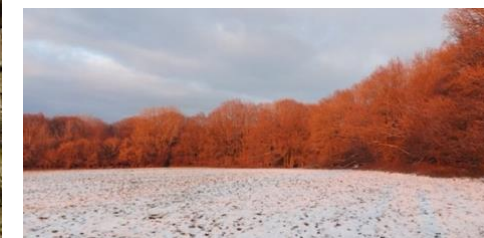
On the 26th September Workday the work party divided in two groups, some went to fix nesting boxes and signs and the others went to clear the Gorses area from brambles, bracken and sycamores. See <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/workdays.php> for details & photos.

Ismaili Civic Event – On 26th September the community group Ismaili Civic, with Council consent, organised an event in our wood to raise environmental awareness. The FSW provided a map and illustrations showing nuts and berries to be found (see overleaf) and led a walk for a big group of over 50 half of whom were children. For a full report see the Events page of the website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/events.php> for details and photos.

Meeting of FSW Committee – After 2 years without meetings because of the pandemic, the FSW Committee final got back together again on 27th September. There was much to discuss with the agenda covering: financial report; bench installations; leaflets; membership; workdays; walks & events; Open Day; and the use of the wood by other groups. We can plan for one more year but are concerned for the future unless we manage to recruit some new, younger folks to the core active team. If you are interested in joining us do please get in touch. Our next meeting is scheduled for 29th November.

The FSW Calendar 2022 is available for £5 - To get your copy phone 020-8657-0423 or e-mail govierh@gmail.com

Our Next Walk - Fungus Hunt Saturday 30th October @ 10am – October is usually the best month for fungus hunting so do please join us for our autumnal forage. There is no need to book but it will be helpful if you could let us know if you are planning to join us.



Fruits & Nuts to find on your walk

The numbers in brackets show where on the map they may be found.

Sloes (1)



The fruit of Blackthorn bushes. Found growing along many field borders.

Dogwood Berries (1) (3)



In hedgerows around fields. These berries are smaller and softer than the Sloes.

Hawthorn Berries (1) (6)



In many field borders and in some woodland areas.

Beech Nuts (2)



Hard seeds in prickly cases. found in woodland and trees on the eastern edge of Field 2.

Hornbeam Fruit (2)



The seeds are hidden at the bottom of the leaflets. Look carefully for them..

Whitebeam Berries (2)



Very profuse this year on a tree in the border of Field 3.

Acorns (4)



Very few this year due to infestation of gall-creating insects but you might just be lucky.

Hazelnuts or Cobnuts (4)



The nut of the Hazel - likely to be nibbled by a Squirrel - on the ground along woodland paths.

Sweet Chestnuts (4)



Glossy nuts in spiky shells just starting to fall from trees at the top end of Courtwood Grove

The Great Oak (5)



This Oak at point 5 is one of the largest trees in the wood and is well over 100 years old. It has very few acorns this year

Rose Hips (6)



The fruit of the Wild Rose. Many beside the seat at point 6 and near to the pond at point 7.

Wayfaring Tree Berries (7)



At point 7 on the map. This year more sparse than shown in the photograph.

