

Friends of Selsdon Wood Newsletter

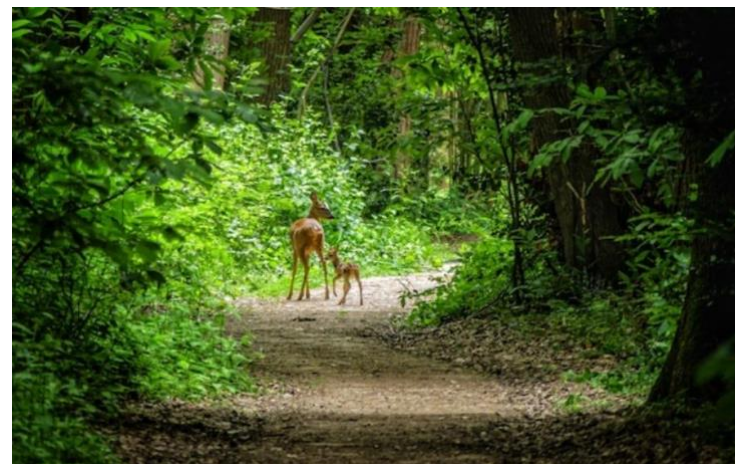
October 2023

Open Day 2023 ...and we all had fun! - I'm glad to report that this seemed to be the consensus of those attending the FSW Open Day and SRA

Community Picnic and Fun afternoon on 3rd September. We struck lucky with the weather again - sunshine but not the highest temperatures of the September heatwave. A full report is provided on the website Events page at <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/events.php>. Many thanks to Linda Morris who organised it all and her small team of helpers on the day. She hopes to run the event again next year but could do with 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 September 2024.

2023 Photo Competition! – We were delighted to be able to hold our Photo Competition again this year and there was lots of activity at the display stand. Twenty people entered the competition, many sending all six permitted photos. It was thus necessary to draw up a shortlist. This comprised 45 photographs which were shown at Open Day with all visitors invited to vote for their three favourites. Most said how hard it was to choose amongst such superb photographs. Voting was close but by the end of the day we had the winners -

1st Place - Roe Deer and Fawn by Ruth Budd (shown right)
2nd Place - Did Somebody Say Just Eat? by Scott McCulloch
3rd Place - Peanut my little Branch Manager by Lisa Dervish.



The winners and all other shortlisted entries are shown on the Photo Competition page of the website <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/photo-competition.php>















The FSW Calendar for 2024 is available for £5 - To get your copy phone 020-8657-0423 or e-mail govierh@gmail.com

Our Next Walk - Fungus Hunt Saturday 28th October @ 10am – September was a good time to spot fungi - brought on early by the rain. However, October is more usually the best month for fungus hunting so do please join us for our annual autumnal forage. The gallery overleaf shows some of what might be spotted.

Work Sessions in September – The scheduled work session on 23rd September started by clearing vegetation around the Miss Margaret Horn seat at the top of F1, a bench in F2 and around the seat backing the Centenary. The team then worked in Linden Glade, clearing a rough path around the outside of the pool fence. Some of the leftover sand from the fixing of the rocks round the pool was used to fill a few muddy puddles around Linden Glade. An attempt was made to move or protect the remaining sand and cement bags. A decayed tree without branches had fallen into Linden Glade and was dragged into a safer position. On Monday 11th September one of our team renovated the seat in the car park, dedicated to Miss Margaret Horn and cut back a bush in Old Farleigh Road that obscured the left view of motorists leaving the car park.

Friends of King's Wood Walks – The Friends of King's Wood also hold guided walks and on Sunday 22nd October their theme is "Leaf Colour" as leaves of many shapes and sizes reveal the variety of species grown in this managed woodland. Their November walk, "Woodland Prepares for Winter" on Sunday 5th, looks at how growth slows right down, energy is stored and leaf matter in the soil decomposes. Both walks start at 10am from where Orchard Road, Sanderstead, enters the woodland and lasts for 2 hours. Children are welcome but no dogs.

Downlands Trust Autumn Newsletter – There is a short section on Selsdon Wood in this month's newsletter from the Downlands Trust – a copy of which will be available from their website in due course. <https://www.downlandstrust.org.uk>

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| <p>Lots of Fungi Look out for these on our October walk.</p> <p>See the FSW website for further information and lots more fungi. All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood.</p> | <p>Yellow Stagshorn</p>  <p>Seen this year in Steven's Walk</p> | <p>Beefsteak</p>  <p>When mature often appears to be "bleeding" as here.</p> | <p>Sycamore Tar Spot</p>  <p>Spots on Sycamore and Maple leaves. Does not damage the tree but causes early leaf fall</p> | <p>Smokey Bracket</p>  <p>This one seen in Langford's way</p> |
| <p>Parasol Mushroom</p>  <p>A mushroom with a pretty pattern on the cap..</p> | <p>King Alfred's Cakes</p>  <p>Grow on logs and stumps of Ash. Hard and spherical, it looks like burnt cake.</p> | <p>Southern Bracket</p>  <p>A sturdy bracket fungus.</p> | <p>Common Puff Ball</p>  <p>Round, common fungus. Spores are released in a puff when it is touched.</p> | <p>Giant Polypore</p>  <p>A large fungus as the name suggests. The underside has pores not gills.</p> |
| <p>Candlesnuff</p>  <p>A small fungus that looks like the snuffed wicks of candles. Common on mossy stumps.</p> | <p>Milking Bonnet</p>  <p>One of many species of bonnet shaped fungi.</p> | <p>Fairies Bonnets</p>  <p>Very tiny bonnets. Often seen in vast groups - as here.</p> | <p>Turkeytail</p>  <p>A small, widespread fungus with banded colours like the tail of a turkey. Grows on logs and stumps.</p> | <p>Twig Parachute</p>  <p>Tiny mushrooms growing along a Bramble twig.</p> |