

Friends of Selsdon Wood Newsletter

October 2025

Selsdon Community Fair Sunday 7th September - The weather was perfect for Selsdon Community Fair. It comprised many stalls including the Scouts who provided tea and coffee, and many local Friends and other community groups.

FSW had one stall and most of the Work Sessions team took on the task of erecting the FSW gazebo and setting up tables etc at the start of the event and packing them all away afterwards. They also manned our stall throughout the event helping with membership, calendar sales, and the photo competition. Neale also led a Sculpture Walk around the wood carvings. The report of that is on the Walks page of the FSW website <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/walks.php>. Sandra had a separate White Elephant stall which raised £50.50 for FSW.

The day went well for FSW - we had lots of votes in the photo competition, we sold 17 calendars, and 9 folks paid the £5 membership fee. Many thanks to all who helped make the day a success.

2025 Photo Exhibition! – We were delighted to hold our Photo Exhibition again this year and there was lots of activity at the display stand. Twenty two people entered the event, some sending all six permitted photos. It was thus necessary to draw up a shortlist. This comprised 40 photographs which were displayed at the Community Fair with all visitors invited to vote for their three favourites. Some of the photos have already been used for the 2026 calendar and others may be used in coming years. Voting was close but by the end of the day we had the winners –

First Prize - £50 - 29/11/24 - Robin by Lorna Wall

Second Prize 2024 - £20 - 11/1/25 - Selsdon by Moonlight by Steve Budd

Third Prize - £10 - 9/1/25 - Snowy Owls by Joanne Barker

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



The FSW Calendar for 2026 is available for £5 - To get your copy phone 020-8657-0423 or e-mail govierh@gmail.com .

Work Sessions in September – On the scheduled Work Session, on 7th September, the team pitched in to help on our stall at the Community Fair. Other work carried out by various members of FSW throughout the month involved the planting of patches of Kidney Vetch, Horseshoe Vetch, and Marjoram to distribute these butterfly friendly flowers throughout the field areas, and the replacement of the rotten Nicola Jane Bailey bench with a shiny new version with the original plaque.

We also distributed some of the wood chip along Vale Border where we hope it will help prevent some of the muddy patches that were there last winter. The wood chip was a donation from the Council, who delivered it to the car park.

Sadly, we also had to replace the dog poo bin at the top of F1 which was destroyed by vandals. We have asked the Council if a standard metal one can be installed there.

Full reports are on our Work Sessions page <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/work-sessions.php>

Our Next Walk - Fungus Hunt Saturday 25th 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 the fungi that can be seen in our wood.

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