



### **The FSW Calendar Photo Competition** – Many thanks to all who sent photos in for the competition☺

We have a lovely selection to be shown at the Community Fair on 7th September (see below) in the quest to find a selection for the calendar. Do come along and cast your votes – it costs nothing, and the photos are a lovely representation of the beauty of our woods.

**Minibeast Hunt – Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup>** - Approximately 20 children attended, each with their parent/carer. They found a variety of insects etc using the nets and collecting pots we provided. They enjoyed using the magnifying glasses to look at the details of their catches before freeing them to return to the wild. Most of those attending had not been before. An interesting finding was the Wasp Spider (see photo) found guarding a web above an ants nest in the grass. We had never seen these beautiful spiders before but Roger told us that they are working northwards from the south.

We packed up at about 15.30 as thunder was heard and rain threatened but everyone said they had really enjoyed the experience - except one little girl who went home on the first sighting she made within 5 minutes - and it was only a small spider!

Over 22 Minibeast Creatures were identified: 7 spot Ladybird, Harlequin Ladybird, Orange Ladybird, Hairy Shieldbug, Red-leg Shieldbug, Tortoise Shieldbug, Bishops Mitre Shieldbug, Grass Bug, Black Ant, Leopard Slug, Earwig, Roesels Bush Cricket, Meadow Grasshopper, Wasp Spider, Wolf Spider, Meadow Brown Butterfly, Gatekeeper Butterfly and Common Blue Butterfly. Plus these seen but not fully identified a dragonfly, a woodlouse, a centipede, a millipede and various small spiders, grasshoppers and crickets too small to identify.



**Last Month's Work Sessions** – On 10<sup>th</sup> August our volunteers undertook a variety of tasks. We split into different groups. One group planted more Marjoram, Horseshoe Vetch and Kidney Vetch. Although we already have these plants on the Butterfly Bank and elsewhere, we are hoping to spread them more widely. The reason we are planting Horseshoe Vetch is because it is the only food plant for the caterpillars of the Chalkhill Blue and Adonis Blue butterflies. We are planting Marjoram because it is drought resistant so can provide food for bees in dry summers like this one and we are putting in Kidney Vetch as it is the only food plant for the Small Blue butterfly's caterpillars.

A second group went to replace the decaying Nicola Bailey seat in Great Field. The seat was released from its fixing and broken up, then replaced by the splendid seat which Jim had made. They also investigated another seat needing possible repair or replacement in the short leg of Great Field.

Neale cleaned the toilets ready for the Minibeast Hunt and Linda gave the mess room a good tidy up.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August, John cleared most of the weed covering the pool in Linden Glade. This can be very invasive and although it can have benefits to wildlife it needs to be kept under control.

Throughout the month many visits to the Butterfly Bank were made by Valerie, mostly for weeding and watering. The bank continues to look colourful and now has an identity guide to the flowers available via a QR code shown on the fence and on the Butterfly Bank page of our website <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/butterfly-bank.php>

**The FSW Calendar 2026 is now available for a donation of £5** - Copies will be available on the FSW stand at the Community Fair or get your copy by phone 020-8657-0423 or e-mail [govierh@gmail.com](mailto:govierh@gmail.com) or [selsdonwood@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonwood@gmail.com)

**Selsdon Community Fair** –will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September – see overleaf for details. We hope to see you there☺



# Selsdon Community Fair

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> - 12 NOON - 4PM**  
**@ Selsdon Wood car park - off Old Farleigh Road**



This event, organised by the Selsdon Residents Association SRA  
will have a wide selection of stalls and activities including  
FSW Information & Photo Competition

Refreshments provided by the Scouts.

Activities (times are approx)

Carvings Walk - 1.15pm

Music by Songsations 2pm

Unveiling of defibrillator by the Rotary 3pm



**PARKING IS LIMITED**  
**Bus 433 stops nearby**

