

Have you renewed your FSW Membership for 2026? - Our Membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st, and it would be very helpful to us if you could pay your 2026 subs as soon as possible.

Many thanks to those of you who have already done so and to those of you who have standing orders.

Please pay by SO or bank transfer to: Friends of Selsdon Wood at Barclays Bank, Croydon Branch, **Account No. 80883832, Sort Code 20-24-61.**

Karen, our Treasurer, has a new dedicated email address: fswtreasurer@btinternet.com

Upcoming events

AGM: All are welcome. See this page for more information: <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/agm.php>

30th March 8pm at The Forum, Forestdale

Guided Walks of Discovery – join us for a gentle walk of around 2 hours. See this page for more information:

<https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/walks.php>

Saturday 11th April: Spring Walk with the Friends

Meet in the car park at 2pm

Work days – Habitat management and general maintenance. We have jobs to suit all strengths, work as long as it suits you. We provide the tools but please bring food and drink for yourselves. We would really appreciate some new volunteers joining in – contact us for more information or see <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/work-sessions.php>

Meet in the car park at 10am on these Sundays

1st March

29th March

12th April

Work sessions in February 2026

This month we have laid woodchip at the top of Field 3, to create a safe path around a large puddle. John also fixed and refilled leaflet holders that had been vandalised and Valerie planted Kidney Vetch seeds, the Small Blue Butterfly's food plant.

The wet weather and unavailability of leaders limited the sessions, but Andy and Teddy collected a lot of litter – thank you.

What's climbing up that tree?

Chances are, if you see something climbing a tree in the woods, it's a grey squirrel. But there are some bird species which find food or mark their territory using tree trunks. Here's some to look out for this spring:

Great Spotted Woodpecker

If you hear drumming echoing through the woods, it's likely to be a Great Spotted Woodpecker marking its territory. They also peck at trees looking for insects to eat. These black-and-white birds have a distinctive up and down flight pattern and make loud, repeated staccato squeaks. They all have red bellies, while juveniles have red on top of their heads and males have red on the back of their heads. Their specialised toes allow them to climb up and down tree trunks. In winter, they occasionally visit bird feeders.

Where to see in Selsdon Wood: Any trees, and possibly around the Jubilee Pond birdfeeders.

Green Woodpecker

If a green bird flies up from the grass into a tree, it's likely a Green Woodpecker. These well-camouflaged birds often feed on ants on the ground. They can also be seen in trees in spring. Juveniles look mottled or speckly. Adults have red on their head, while the males have red on their "moustache" on the sides of the face. You may hear them making an alarm call known as a "yaffle" – almost like laughter.

Where to see in Selsdon Wood: Open grassland, particularly Great Field and David's Crook.



A female great spotted woodpecker feeding a chick, by Lucinda Offer



A female green woodpecker, by Lucinda Offer

Nuthatch

Nuthatches are the only UK birds that can climb down trees headfirst. They tend to be heard more often than seen, with a range of whistling calls that I sometimes think resemble a car alarm. They eat insects, nuts and seeds and they got their name from their habit of caching nuts in small holes in trees. Grey on their backs and orange underneath, they have long, thin beaks and a black bandit-like stripe over their eyes. They sometimes visit bird feeders.

Where to see them in Selsdon Wood: High up in trees anywhere in the woods. Sometimes on a branch above the Jubilee Pond feeders, waiting for the coast to be clear before they eat.



Nuthatch by Lucinda Offer

Treecreeper

These small birds are masters of camouflage – they are not rare, but are rarely seen. Their brown mottled backs blend in perfectly with the tree trunks they creep up, in search of insects. The best time to spot one is when they fly to the bottom of a new tree, but it's still hard to follow their progress as they're so fast moving. They nest in small gaps behind bark. Their call is an excited sounding high-pitched whistle.

In winter, they will tag along with flocks of blue tits and great tits, then in spring they establish breeding territories.

Where to see them in Selsdon Wood: Any woodland area. Using a phone app such as Merlin can help find them, as it picks up their call, so you know when to look at nearby tree trunks.



Treecreeper by Lucinda Offer