







**Annual Photographic Competition** - There are just a couple of weeks left to enter our 2024 Photo Competition! Please send in up to 6 of your favourite photographs taken in Selsdon Wood between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 and 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024. A shortlist of the 50 best entries will be selected and printed for display at the FSW Open Day on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September when the public will be invited to participate in a secret ballot to select the winners. The photograph with the most votes will win a cash prize of £50, donated by a generous sponsor. An entry form and details of how to submit your photos are on the website Photo Competition page. <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/photo-competition.php> .

**Last Month's Work Sessions** – The scheduled session for 7<sup>th</sup> July was called off because of a forecast of bad weather. However, some of the team took a chance and fitted in some work before the rain came. This included planting on the Butterfly Bank, clearing a couple of fallen trees and laying a load of gravel in a muddy patch on Farleigh Border. Other work carried out by individuals or small groups this month has involved treating the new wood carvings with linseed oil to protect them from the elements, planting Marjoram in David's Crook to encourage butterflies and maintaining the areas of new planting on the Butterfly Bank. This is now a rich and colourful feature of our wood with 34 different species of flower this year, the majority from new plantings. See the webpage for details <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/butterfly-bank.php>. Two of our team also met with the team from Grow Wild to clear a blocked path in Noakes Way and an overgrown bench in Linden Glade. Grow Wild Outreach, organized by LB Croydon, allows adults with learning difficulties and mental health challenges to contribute to the work of FSW while enjoying the benefits of immersion in the natural world. A group visits our wood on a monthly basis.

**This Month's Mini-Beast Hunt - Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm - with Roger Hawkins** - This is a fun event of interest to young children and their parents. After a brief introduction from Roger, the children will be equipped with nets and collecting tubes and sent off to hunt around the car park field to see what they can find. There will be several of us back at base to help identify all findings. See overleaf for some of what you might expect to find and **happy minibeast spotting** ☺




















**"   Getting Batty!   ** - The last, absolutely the last, really is the last, Bat Watch of 2024 will take place on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August**. Sunset is 8.22pm (last light is 8.59pm) - meet in the car park no later than 8.00pm. Please email Steve Budd at [danceswithwolvezs@gmail.com](mailto:danceswithwolvezs@gmail.com) with your name and mobile number to book. The event (as ever) is weather dependent, hence the need for mobile contact. Final 'green light' that we're going ahead will be texted out by circa midday on the Friday.

**The FSW Calendar 2025 is now available for a donation of £5** - For your copy e-mail [govierh@gmail.com](mailto:govierh@gmail.com) or phone 0208 657 0423

**Open Day - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September** - We do hope you will be able to help us have a successful Open Day - either by donating items for the white elephant stall & tombola, helping on the day, or just coming - and bringing your friends and family too. If you have any suitable folding tables we could borrow to use for our displays, do please let us know via the links below.

**Sightings Pages on our Website** – I hope you know about our website Sightings section <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/sightings.php>. Here we have a set of pages where we keep track of nature as it appears in our wood over the course of the year. So far 138 different species of flower and 215 different invertebrates have been photographed this year in our wonderfully rich and diverse woods and fields. Each of the pages also provides a Full List of what has been seen over the past decade with dates for the first annual sighting of each species. If you have spotted anything that we have not recorded, we would love to hear from you.

Over the years the FSW have been photographing each new species and saving these to the website. The grand total of all living species recorded (animal, plant and fungus) is now 1728 – for details see the list at the top of the Wildlife page <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/Wildlife.php> . This shows how rich in biodiversity our 200 acres are, considering that the Leicestershire and Rutland wildlife trusts's best in country Naturespot web site have a little over 7000 species listed in 609,000 acres, so under 5 times the species in 3000 times the space.

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| <p><b>Minibeasts</b><br/>- to be found in Selsdon Wood.</p> <p>Bring your children and grandchildren and join us to hunt for them on 14<sup>th</sup> August<br/>All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood.</p> | <p><b>Ladybird - 7 spot</b></p>          | <p><b>Ladybird - 14 spot</b></p>  | <p><b>Comb-footed Spider</b></p>     | <p><b>6-Spot Burnet Moth</b></p>              |
| <p><b>Burnet Moth Chrysalis Case</b></p>    | <p><b>Oak Bush Cricket</b></p>           | <p><b>Ant Damsel Bug</b></p>      | <p><b>Roesel's Bush Cricket</b></p>  | <p><b>Cuckoo Bee</b></p>                      |
| <p><b>Earwig</b></p>   | <p><b>Silver-washed Fritillary</b></p>  | <p><b>Small Copper</b></p>       | <p><b>Small Tortoiseshell</b></p>   | <p><b>Speckled Wood</b></p>                  |
| <p><b>Ladybird larva</b></p>    | <p><b>Shield Bug</b></p>               | <p><b>Hoverfly</b></p>          | <p><b>Snail</b></p>                | <p><b>Swollen-legged Flower Beetle</b></p>  |