

**Signs of Spring** – The first Bluebell leaves were seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, earlier than they have ever been spotted before!! However, there do not appear to be any signs of Bluebell flowers yet, and the cold weather in January and early February has meant that very few flowers of any species have yet opened. The gallery overleaf shows the only three seen this year (black captions) and eight others, with green captions, that were seen before the end of February in 2024.

**Work Sessions Last Month** – On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February most of the team worked together to attack the Laurel. This is an invasive species, which is spreading steadily by suckering, layering and seeding and it is inhibiting the growth of other plants, poisoning the ground beneath it. A multi-stemmed cluster of trunks, looking more like a grove than a single bush or tree, was tackled by removing trunks one by one, leaving the thickest trunk until last. Most branches touching the ground were cut and hung up to prevent re-rooting and many young saplings were pulled up. Additionally, the Farleigh Border gate was repaired and weeding took place on the Butterfly Bank.

The Grow Wild Outreach group attended on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February and cleared lots of litter from the woodland beside the Greenhill Way Path.

**Work Sessions Next Month** – Our March work sessions are on Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, meeting at 10am at the car park. The work usually comprises habitat management and general maintenance, all helping to improve our wood! We do need more help and would welcome your assistance. You work for as long as suits you and choose jobs to suit your strengths. Tools are provided and you can bring food and drink if you feel you need them. If you would like to join our team, please contact the Work Sessions organiser Ted Forsyth at [tedforsyth@btinternet.com](mailto:tedforsyth@btinternet.com) or via any of the addresses given at the foot of this page.

**Our Walks Programme Starts at the Beginning of Next Month** - with our Spring Walk on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> followed by a Bluebells and Birds walk on 4<sup>th</sup> May. All our walks are slow and easy, and we look forward to seeing you. It is usually very muddy in our wood at this time of year so do be sure to wear your boots!

This year our walks calendar is being included in the program of events to mark the centenary of the start of the building of Suburban Selsdon and the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the SRA, so we hope to meet some new walkers.

There is also a Bat Walk on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> May. Unlike our other walks, the Bat Walks are limited in numbers and so your place must be booked in advance. If you would like to register for this walk, contact Steve by email at the address given on this poster.

**The FSW AGM will be held on Monday March 31<sup>st</sup> at 8pm at the Forestdale Forum** - The meeting is open to all members of FSW and we would love to see you there. The agenda will be published on the AGM page of the website one week before the meeting.

**Get Your Photo in the FSW Calendar** - Get snapping now to take a photo to be included in the FSW calendar. Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Woods between 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025. A selection of the photos submitted will be put to a secret ballot in September 2025. Thirteen of the photos will be chosen for the calendar and the three receiving the most votes will receive cash prizes - 1st £50, 2nd £20 and 3rd £10. Please submit your photographs by email to [govierh@gmail.com](mailto:govierh@gmail.com) or via the FSW Facebook page. Please send full sized images (not reduced edits). Alternatively, you could submit prints to Heather Govier, 219 Oswald, Courtwood Lane, Croydon. CR0 9HG. For each photo, please supply a title and details of where taken.



1/1/25 – The First Bluebell leaf



3/1/25 – Primroses showing in David's Crook



6/2/25 – Prolific Hazel catkins in hedgerows



12/2/25 – Crocus in F2 – tribute planting behind a bench



25/1/24 - Tiny Bittercress flowers in Middle Gorse



28/1/24 – Wild Strawberry in Middle Gorse



11/2/24 - Periwinkle in Linden Glade



14/2/24 - Cherry Blossom in Great Field



15/2/24 - Daffodils in Field 2 – a tribute planting by a bench



18/2/24 - Dog's Mercury – strange tiny flowers



18/2/24 - Daisy – in Field 1 looking rather crumpled



19/2/24 - Plum blossom in David's Crook

