

Selsdon Wood Local Nature Reserve

The Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) is dominated by oak, beech, sweet chestnut and ash with scattered holly, field maple, wild & bird cherry, goat willow and yew etc. The coppiced woodland is mainly hazel. Both are rich in wildlife - home to badgers, bats, butterflies and birds. The flower-rich meadows host butterflies and insects and provide grass for deer, worms for badgers and hay for cattle. Blackthorn & hawthorn hedges provide nectar for insects, food and cover for birds.



BADGER CUB

SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY
(FSW are planting dog violets for its caterpillars)



STAGSHORN FUNGUS



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Selsdon Wood Nature Reserve, also known as the 'Bird Sanctuary', is Croydon's 81 hectare (200 acre) link to the Surrey countryside. A network of paths invites you (and your dog) to explore the woods and meadows and benches offer rest.

Here are a few of the things to interest you and your children in the wood. Books from home or the Library may help with identification. In Spring see the masses of wood anemones followed by bluebells. Try to find the early purple orchids and where does 'Goldilocks' live?† Listen for migrant chiffchaff & blackcap song. In Summer the meadows are a mass of wildflowers - look for the pyramidal orchids. In Autumn watch the leaves turn through their many varied hues and see how many fungi you can spot. Look and listen for Winter birds - fieldfare, redwing, and siskin. With snow or hoar frost, enter fairyland.

† *Goldilocks* is the UK's only woodland buttercup - it has straggly growth, small flowers and grows two different shapes of leaf.



HERB PARIS
(The FSW logo)

FIELDFARE




Friends of Selsdon Wood

Working to improve our wood

To contact the Friends:
Phone 020-8657 0423 or

Speak to Dawn at Selsdon Library or
e-mail: selsdonwood@gmail.com

website: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk

The Friends of Selsdon Wood are volunteers working with Croydon Council to ensure that Selsdon Wood is maintained for the benefit of the flora and fauna, as well as for the enjoyment of the public. They are the Council's eyes and ears - reporting problems that occur. In this they are joined by the many dog walkers who also enjoy the fields and woods.

The Friends regularly hold informative walks, carry out sustainable conservation and restorative work and monitor wildlife in Selsdon Wood.



*Membership of the Friends expresses your belief in, and support of, the work we do. The Friends understand that not everyone can take part in maintenance work or attend meetings but your membership encourages those that do.
If you can help us practically, it will be much appreciated.*

The Friends of Selsdon Wood

The Friends are pleased to welcome new members. Your annual subscriptions and donations help to pay for more bird boxes, native trees & plants, tools, leaflets etc. If you join after October 1st your subscription also covers the next year.

Please see / ask for our Subscription Form that covers the whole family. We invite you to pay by Standing Order - to take the hassle out of renewing, and to sign a Gift Aid Declaration to make your money go further at no extra cost to yourself. You can set up your subscriptions and donations via Internet banking.

On our Work Days we coppice woodland and carry out other maintenance work. They are planned for the first Sunday of every month, and the last Sunday - October to March*. Meet in the car park at 10am. Tools are provided. You only work for as long as suits you.

Our Members' Meetings are open to all, usually on the last Monday of each month* - except December and some Bank holidays*. We hold our AGM in the 1st week of January*. Members' Meetings start at 8pm at the Forestdale Forum.

To make enquiries, to check the above, or to find out more, feel free to contact us.

Please see addresses overleaf.

* Also see *Selsdon Gazette & Forestdale Link*.



THE FRIENDS TAKE A WELL EARNED BREATHER

PAWS - Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites

In 1977 the Croydon Girl Guide Association paid for the planting of the **Jubilee Plantation** of beeches and oaks to celebrate our Queen's Silver Jubilee. Over the years the original planting was overwhelmed by large trees like sycamore. The ground was littered with dead trees and branches. Smaller shrubs could not survive to give cover and food for birds. This is being changed. Large shading trees have been removed. The Friends, with Council support, are managing the remaining trees and have planted a few more native trees. The remainder of the plot is being improved for birds & butterflies by planting hedgerow plants to establish a bushy habitat. In 2012 Selsdon Rainbows, Brownies & Girl Guides planted 60 native trees and shrubs to mark our Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The **Centenary Plantation** was created in 1983, when Councillor Dudley Mead helped to raise a fund to plant 100 oaks to commemorate the Centenary of Croydon Council. In 2009 the Friends embarked on a clearance of the seedlings, saplings and plant growth that were stifling the original oaks. They also removed dead and distorted growth from the oaks in an attempt to restore the original stand. The cuttings were used to form a dry hedge. A surprise bonus was the emergence of a large number of white helleborines and a small clump of broad-leaved helleborines – relatives of the orchid family. We hope you agree, that with Council help to control seedlings, the appearance of the plantation is now more attractive - a big improvement on the previously uncontrolled thicket it had become.

In the 70s a plantation of larch was planted in part of an area known as The Gorses. After these were felled in 2009, hundreds of dormant gorse seeds sprung up to form the area now known as the **Gorse Plantation**.

In addition **Linden Glade** with its stand of Small-leaved limes where the bird pool used to be, is being managed for butterflies.



The FSW is very grateful to Frankham Consultancy Group who have printed this leaflet as part of their Corporate & Social Responsibility initiative.

Reporting Problems in Selsdon Wood

Quads, Motorcycles or Horseriders trespassing or people causing malicious damage.

If you hear or see them in Selsdon Wood, please immediately phone the

Council Mobile Enforcement Unit (MEU).

Tel: 020-8760 5565 and ask the switchboard for the Mobile Enforcement Unit.

They will send a team out to investigate as soon as one is available. If you are unable to contact them or when the office is unmanned - please leave a message.

You can also contact the Friends of Selsdon Wood via e-mail and we will keep a record of the incident.

Call 999 for fire, accidents or illegal activities, but if it is not urgent please ring 101.

