



# Leaf letter

Newsletter of the Friends of Selsdon Wood  
Issue 1 Summer 2008



## FRIENDS OF SELSDON WOOD

### Group forms to befriend the woods

The Friends of Selsdon Wood are a group of local volunteers that have formed to provide a variety of support to what we think is one of the most charming and serene landscape amenities in the Borough.

Inspired by the Breathing Places campaign, the group formed in December 2007. Its central aims are to conserve the wood as an amenity, a natural resource and as a source of biodiversity for current and future generations to enjoy.

Throughout the year we will undertake or support events in the wood ranging from nature walks through to active conservation like coppicing and scrub clearance.

Active membership is open to those over the age of 18, but we welcome support from all ages.

If you are interested to find out more or would like to become a member please

contact Dawn Gibbons at the Selsdon Library or why not visit - <http://www.createforum.com/selsdonwoods/>

We look forward to seeing you in the woods sometime.



### Friends plan late summer open day

Reserve the **7<sup>th</sup> September** as the Friends of Selsdon Wood Group is planning an Open Day.

There will be guided walks by local volunteers and Ernie our conservation officer, information stands from the Friends, the RSPB, other conservation groups, refreshments and storytime for the young ones.

So why not come along and join in, or just take a walk in the woods! Starts at 12pm and admission is FREE.

### If you go down to the woods today

You may or may not be aware that the habitat at Selsdon wood is home to a wide range on flora and fauna. Our main occupants are the trees of course, which range from oak, ash, maple, downy and silver birch and chestnut. Then we have the understorey of hazel, holly, hawthorn and spindle. But our most special residents are those which have been with us since ancient times, the ground flora such as bluebell, wood spurge, wood anemone, stinking iris, early purple orchid and herb paris (which you may have noticed we have adopted as the symbol of the group).

Keep an eye (or ear) out for our avian friends such as the wood pigeon, goldcrest, woodpeckers and song thrush. And if you are lucky enough, you may even spot a badger or two!

If you want to find out more, why not come along to one of the guided walks. (See 'Dates for the Diary').



## Bluebell walk rings success

Every spring the wood burst with the colour purple as an abundance of native bluebells come to life!

The bluebell walk in May was well attended by around 70 people. We were treated to an informative guided walk around the woods to appreciate the flowering sea of bluebells. The walk was lead by Ernie Thomason, our local conservation enthusiast, and supported by others from the Friends

group given the unprecedented, but welcome numbers.



Starting off from the car park, our usual meeting place for the guided walks, Ernie lead us through the wood to some of the most beautiful proliferations of

this ancient woodland indicator plant.

If you would like to join us on more of these activities, please see below or visit our forum at:

<http://www.createforum.com/selsdonwoods/>

## Wild flower sightings: July 2008

These are just a few of the 40+ species of wild flowers that were found on a recent survey at Selsdon Wood:

Shepherds Purse, Greater plantain, Common Knapweed, Oxeye Daisy, Bladder Champion, Greater Yellow Rattle, Stinging Nettle, Cow Parsley, Hogweed, Dogs Mercury, Enchanters Nightshade, Herb Bennet (Wood Avens), Hedge Woundwort, Common Sorrel, Broad-leaved, Willowherb, Greater Burdock, Bluebell, Yellow Pimpernel, Raspberry, Herb Robert, Foxglove, Nipplewort, Hoary Ragwort, Sanicle, Common Figwort, Rosebay Willowherb.....

## Why don't you join us?

If you are interested in the group and would like to contribute in some way, whether it be to help with guided walks or to get involved with habitat conservation, the why not email us at:

[selsdonwood@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:selsdonwood@blueyonder.co.uk), visit the Selsdon Library or call 020 8405 1850. All assistance would be gratefully received.

Many thanks, Dawn Gibbons (Chair).

### Dates for the Diary:

**30<sup>th</sup> August – Bat & Moth Night:** a night-time lantern walk around the wood lead by Park Ranger Ernie Thomason. We will be searching for bats and other nocturnal wildlife around the wood and meadows. The Walk will end with moth trapping, Please Bring own torch/lantern and wear warm clothing. Sorry no dogs please. Part of the European Bat Weekend 30th -31st August. Booking essential. Tel 020 8686 4433 Ext 64952. Admission FREE.

**6<sup>th</sup> September – Late Summer Tree Walk:** lead by Ernie Thomason, Park Ranger.

**7<sup>th</sup> September – Open Day 12-4pm:** an afternoon event for all the family to find out more about the Friends of Selsdon Wood, or just to have a walk around and explore. Admission FREE.

**October** – Coppicing work due to resume.