

## 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 five 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.



SILVER-WASHED  
FRITILLARY

ROE DEER



FLY AGARIC



## Selsdon Wood Local Nature Reserve

Old Farleigh Road, S. Croydon is Croydon's 81 hectare (200 acre) link to the Surrey countryside. The London Loop Outer Orbital path passes through. A network of paths invites you to explore the woods and meadows. They can be very muddy when wet.

Here are a few of the things to interest people of all ages in the wood. Use books from home or the Library, your mobile apps or the FSW website to 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 and blackcap song.

In Summer the meadows contain many wildflowers - look for pyramidal orchids & white helleborines.

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.



TAWNY OWL

HERB PARIS  
(The FSW logo)



## Friends of Selsdon Wood

Working to conserve our wood


To contact the Friends:

e-mail: [selsdonwood@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonwood@gmail.com) or  
phone 07979 00 2547

website: [www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk](http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk)

The Friends of Selsdon Wood are volunteers helping 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 also the Council's eyes and ears - reporting problems that occur.

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

Follow our sign-posted walks with QR matrix  barcoded information - red (1.6m) & green (3m). Download map and information from our website.



*Membership of the Friends expresses your belief in, and support for, 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.*

*A large membership encourages supportive organisations to give grants and donations.*

*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, seats, gravel, leaflets etc.

**To join us online, visit our website home page or download a membership form.**

Subscriptions cover the whole household living at the one address. If you join after Sept 1st your subscription covers the next year.

We invite you to pay by **Standing Order**, to take the hassle out of remembering to renew:

**This is not a Direct Debit – the FSW cannot alter it.**

**You can cancel it easily by contacting your bank.**

**The FSW will not keep your bank details on a computer.**

**You can arrange it directly with your bank.**

Please sign the **Gift Aid Declaration** to make your money go further at no extra cost to yourself.

On our Work Days we improve habitat and carry out maintenance work. They are usually held on the first Sunday of every month, and the last Sunday - October to March. Meet in the car park at 10am. Tools are provided. You work for just as long as it suits you.

Our Bi-monthly Members' Meetings are open to all. For dates see Programme, Online or FSW Info boards. Commencing 8pm at the Forestdale Forum.

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

Please see the FSW addresses overleaf.



THE FRIENDS TAKE A WELL EARNED BREATHES !

## Selsdon Wood Local Nature Reserve

Malcolm Sharpe was Chairman of the Committee, which raised over £11,000 from public subscription in the 1920s, to purchase Selsdon Wood as a Nature Reserve. In 1936 it was handed to the National Trust who lease it to Croydon Council to manage. Many people know it as the **'Bird Sanctuary'**.

In 1977 the Croydon Girl Guide Association paid for the planting of the **Jubilee Plantation** with beeches and oaks to celebrate our Queen's Silver Jubilee. Over the years the original planting was overwhelmed by large trees, which have now been removed. The Friends, with Council support, planted hedgerow plants and trees. In 2012 Selsdon Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows planted 60 native trees and shrubs to mark our Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The **Centenary Plantation** was created in 1983. Funds were raised 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 them. 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.

In the 1970s larch was planted in part of an area known as **The Gorses**. After these were felled in 2009 dormant gorse seeds sprung up. The original gorse was probably grown as fuel for nearby lime kilns, and as cattle feed.

**Linden Glade.** Small-leaved limes, that give the glade its name, overlook the bird bath and pool. These are being redesigned. The historic memorial stone is interesting. Small-leaved limes were used for rope making before hemp was discovered. Until the 1800s, the fields we now call 1 Green Hill, 2 Vale Meadow, 3 Great Hill and 4 Great Field, including their adjacent hedges & Steven's Larch once formed one large field - Great Field Hill.

The Friends have completed several projects to improve our wood - new name boards, seats, information boards, path improvements etc.

## Reporting Problems in Selsdon Wood

Check Information Boards for latest instructions.

Trespassing motorcycles, quads or horses or anti-social behaviour **Causing Damage or Danger** - Tel: Croydon Council 020-8726 6000 in office hours, otherwise Police 999.

**Not urgent** - Tel: Croydon Council or Police 101.

**Badgers rescue service 24/7 Tel: 07973 327017**  
**Injured wildlife 24/7 RSPCA Tel: 0300 1234 999.**

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

**Call 999 for fire, ambulance or illegal activities.**

