

July was Lepidoptera Month – Both of our walks last month were led by Malcolm Bridge, our local expert on Lepidoptera ie. butterflies and moths.

On Saturday 15th July we met in the Car park at 11am and Malcolm gave an introductory talk but with the cooler weather and the gusty wind conditions it didn't look like very favourable conditions. Eighteen of us walked along Vale Border and then crossed Vale Meadow where there was a sudden warmth and butterflies started appearing. Meadow Browns, the odd Gatekeeper, Longhorn moths and Six-spotted Burnet moths were found. We crossed into the Great Field where we found a Common Blue butterfly and a few Marbled Whites as well as a Silver Y moth and a Crab Spider. Crossing into David's Crook much to Malcolm's delight we found a Small Copper butterfly. We meandered up to Linden Glade via Pool Grove but unlike previous years there were no butterflies found there. Working our way back to the car park we found a tatty Ringlet butterfly close to the Jubilee plantation then in Green Hill on the Ragwort, Cinnabar moth caterpillars and a couple of Cinnabar moths were also spotted. Overall it turned out to be very enjoyable and successful walk.

Our annual Bat & Moth walk took place on Thurs 20th July 2017. About 38 people gathered in the car park by 9.00pm when it was still light and left Malcolm Bridge to set up his moth trap while we walked up through Vale Meadow and Great Field to stop at the entrance to Langford's Way. As the light dwindled, we waited for the appearance of flying moths and tried to find the presence of bats using detectors. In previous years this has been a good spot to find bats but this year the activity seemed more confined to the woodland, perhaps as a result of the winter clearance of many trees along Leafy Grove. Detectors were soon rattling out their signals as Common Pipistrelle bats swooped around the foliage of trees near the path. After a suitable time, we returned to the car park where the bright light of Malcolm's trap could be seen. Malcolm showed a number of photographs of selected moths then began emptying pots in which he had incarcerated individual moths. The moths identified were: Heart & Dart, Rustic, Black Arches, Ruby Tiger, Straw Dot, Common Footman, Tree Lichen Beauty, Oak Hook Tip, Scalloped Oak, Mottled Rustic, Dun-bar, Dark Sword-grass, Common Grass Veneer, Shuttle-shaped Dart, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Dark Arches, Marbled Minor, Single-dotted Wave, Least Carpet and a pretty little micro moth - *Lozotaeniodes formosana*. To round off the evening, after identifying all the moths in the trap, Malcolm produced a couple of more pots from which he produced two magnificent Jersey Tiger moths (see photo) which were released on to a nearby tree trunk. We left the area around 10.45pm. (Reports of both walks, with photographs, are on the Walks page of our website)



This Month's Activity is our Minibeast Hunt with Roger Hawkins on Wednesday 16th August @ 2pm

This is an annual fun event of interest to young children and their parents. After an 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 - last year over 20 different species were found. We shall then probably take a short walk to look at some of the regular haunts of butterflies and other interesting minibeasts.

Our spotters' guide this month shows some of the minibeasts found on previous hunts. Bring the page along with you and see how many you can find this year.

Ron Smith – a lover of Selsdon Wood - We are very sad to report that a well-known visitor to Selsdon Wood, Ron Smith, died this summer. His family writes: *Ronald Smith was known to many as the man who lived opposite the main gate in the red brick house that he built. He started building his house in 1955, just after the war. Materials were still rationed, therefore it took him 8 years to complete the property. During his time living opposite the Selsdon Wood (The Bird Sanctuary as we knew it) he watched the small holdings around be demolished and Ashen Vale, Selsdon Vale and Kersey Drive be built. Many people would recognise him with his bright yellow hat and sash which he wore for visibility after a report of an old man being snared in the woods for three days. He also carried a whistle to call for help. Before retirement he was a metal and woodwork teacher in Brixton, working with children with learning difficulties. He will be missed by his 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.*

FSW Open Day - Sunday September 10th – Don't forget to keep this date free!

<p>Minibeasts - to be found in Selsdon Wood.</p> <p>Bring your children and grandchildren to hunt for these minibeasts on 16th August All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood.</p>	<p>Ladybird - 7 spot</p> 	<p>Ladybird - 14 spot</p> 	<p>Comb-footed Spider</p> 	<p>Burnet Moth</p> 
<p>Burnet Moth Chrysalis Case</p> 	<p>Oak Bush Cricket</p> 	<p>Ant Damsel Bug</p> 	<p>Roesel's Bush Cricket</p> 	<p>Cuckoo Bee</p> 
<p>Earwig</p> 	<p>Silver-washed Fritillary</p> 	<p>Small Copper</p> 	<p>Small Tortoiseshell</p> 	<p>Speckled Wood</p> 
<p>Ladybird larva</p> 	<p>Shield Bug</p> 	<p>Hoverfly</p> 	<p>Snail</p> 	<p>Swollen-legged Flower Beetle</p> 