



Selsdon Wood Pools – As you may all remember the FSW put in a great deal of work over a year ago to restore the pool in Linden Glade. Sadly our efforts were thwarted as the pool developed cracks which meant that it did not fill to the top although it still provided a source of water for woodland fauna. In the past we had been able to top the water up from the mains supply but damage to the pipe seems to have occurred last winter and no water is getting through. Furthermore, the long dry summer has meant that the pool has dried up completely. We have put back the notice urging walkers to keep the bowl in the top of the cairn topped up with water from their bottles as they pass and we are delighted to see that many have responded to this. Friends are also carrying water up there specifically to try to keep the cairn full.

In the mean time we have been pursuing contact with the local water company, Sutton and East Surrey Water (SES) who have agreed to meet with us and to attempt to locate the position of the leak in the pipe. They have also offered to contribute £500 to the cost of any work to restore the pond. We will keep you posted on progress.

There is a second pool in Selsdon Wood though it is much more hidden in the northern corner of the Jubilee Plantation. This woodland dew pond is concrete lined and normally holds about 1,500 litres of water. It has never been fed by mains water – and because of its shaded position and thick layer of duckweed has seldom been known to dry out completely. Full of decaying leaves, it supports a large colony of shrimp-like freshwater crustacea and is a water source for birds, deer, badgers and other creatures. In July a team of Friends ferried about 100 litres of water in 2 car loads up to the pool. The thunder storms in late July also helped but the pool may dry out again before this period of drought comes to an end. See the Management page of the website for details and photographs.

An indication of how badly water is needed at present can be found in this little story. On my daily walk I take a bottle of water to share with my dog Bella. When I had had a sip and she had drunk her fill from the plastic tub I carry for the purpose I decided to leave the remainder (instead of throwing it away and packing the tub back in my pack) in case some wildlife might want it. I was amazed to see that before I had got 10 feet away from the bench where I left it a couple of crows had flown in to drink.

Get snapping now for the 2018 Photo Competition! –Your photos of our wood could win you £50 in our annual Photo Competition. Each entrant may submit up to 6 photographs taken in Selsdon Wood between 20th August 2017 and 19th August 2018 (closing date for entries is 20th August). As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day in September 2018. Please submit your photographs to our competition organiser, Heather Govier, either in electronic format by email to selsdonwood@gmail.com or as prints to 219 Oswald, Courtwood Lane, Croydon. CR0 9HG.

Last Month's Walks – Butterflies, Bats and Moths – 15 people joined the Butterfly Walk on a very hot day when the ground was parched and the grass was brown. So many of the flowers had died off in the hot dry conditions that butterflies have been in scarce supply this year. However, we did manage to spot 13 species of butterflies and moths and were also amazed to find a fungus new to our wood, an Oak Polypore.

On the Bats and Moths Walk a number of walkers had bat detectors and 2 species of bats were identified and 14 insect species collected in the moth trap. As our usual moth expert was unable to bring his trap the FSW have purchased our own which was used very successfully by the team on the night. Photos were taken of everything trapped and we were able to obtain identifications later for those we did not recognise. See the Walks page of the website for photographs and details of both walks.

This Month's Activity Wednesday 15th August @ 2pm – Minibeast Hunt with Roger Hawkins – 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.

<p>Minibeasts - to be found in Selsdon Wood.</p> <p>Bring your children and grandchildren and join us to hunt for them on 15th August All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood.</p>	<p>Ladybird - 7 spot</p> 	<p>Ladybird - 14 spot</p> 	<p>Comb-footed Spider</p> 	<p>6-Spot Burnet Moth</p> 
<p>Burnet Moth Chrysalis Case</p> 	<p>Oak Bush Cricket</p> 	<p>Ant Damsel Bug</p> 	<p>Meadow Grasshopper</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> 