



Bats – We have two new members of FSW who are leading the way in the exploration of the bats that can be found in our wood. They have written an account of their research which can be found on the Vertebrates page of the FSW website. This is an abridged version.

Bats present particular challenges when it comes to researching and monitoring their presence in a given area. For many years it was believed that Selsdon Wood (SW) was home to Common Pipistrelles and nothing more. It was our attendance on bat walks at Wandle Park with Meike Weiser, Community Conservation Partnership Officer at Croydon Council, that piqued our interest in acquiring an Echo Meter Touch 2 bat detector for IOS, after seeing one in action in the hands of one of the attendees. It was a revelation - full spectrum detection and auto ID, it made the bat world immediately accessible.

With the hobbyist version in hand, we joined the FSW bat walk in July 2018. A visit to Leafy Grove revealed Common Pipistrelles and the group later moved into Great Field to walk back to the car park field. We hung back some 100 yards and as we traced the edge of Steven's Larch the Echo Meter lit up and confirmed that the large bat that flew slowly over our heads and the group ahead was a Serotine.

This was the catalyst that indicated there may be more to discover in SW and during the subsequent months (until hibernation) we established (mainly in the corner of the car park, to the right of Greenhill Way as you look up the hill), that there were, at that point, four species present, either resident or visitors to the wood: **Common Pipistrelle, Serotine, Noctule and Leisler.**

In 2019 the hobbyist version of the Echo Meter gave way to the 'Pro' version with a more sensitive microphone and extended tuning options. With this enhanced equipment the current year has seen recordings that increase the species list to eight: **Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Serotine, Noctule, Leisler, Natterer, Whiskered, Brown Long Eared**

Bats are a key indicator of the health of ecosystems. In order for bats to prosper, there must be plants and trees that support the requisite insect populations and so forth. That SW has eight species present, either resident or as visitors, is very welcome and we look forward to broadening and deepening our knowledge of these amazing and unique animals in the wood. **Steve Budd and Ruth Budd**

Steve and Ruth will be leading an extra Bat Night on Friday 13th September - meeting at the car park at 7.15pm - see the poster overleaf for details. All Welcome☺

2019 Photo Competition! – A good selection of entries have been received for the Photo Competition. As usual the winners will be chosen by a secret ballot of the visitors to the FSW Open Day on Sunday 8th September. Do, please come along on the day to cast your votes.

Last Month's Event – Minibeast Hunt Wednesday 21st August - The event was postponed from the previous week because of poor weather. The weather on the day was perfect but the turnout was poor - only 3 families with 4 children. However this meant that we were able to know each child by name and give them personal service. They really enjoyed it and lasted the full two hours without flagging and were still enthusiastic. It was also very successful in terms of minibeasts found - 23 species including 2 new to our wood. As usual our guest leaders were **Roger Hawkins & Vic Wallace**. See the Walks page of the website for photographs and a full list of species identified..

FSW Annual Open Day – Our Open day will be held on Sunday 8th September – see poster overleaf for details. We hope to see you there☺

Friends of Selsdon Wood
Working to conserve our wood 

OPEN DAY

With a variety of activity, charity & craft stalls
FSW Tombola with lots of prizes.



White Elephant stall with books & bric-a-brac.

Judge our Photographic competition.

Guided Walk: 1pm for about an hour.



FSW Scavenger hunt & items of interest for children & a storytime session for them from 2.15 to 2.45pm.

 The SELSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



SELSDON COMMUNITY PICNIC LUNCH plus FUN and GAMES AFTERNOON

Come to meet and make friends
with your neighbours and others.



Bring your own picnic,
chairs, rugs, bats & balls, kites etc.
Sorry - no BBQs or stoves.



Refreshments & Games provided
by local Scouts & local Rotary Club  



Sunday 8th September

12 noon to 4pm

Selsdon Wood Car Park off Old Farleigh Road

Parking is limited - Bus 433 stops nearby.

Friends of Selsdon Wood
Working to conserve our wood 

An EXTRA Bat Walk with Steve & Ruth Budd

Selsdon Wood hosts a wide range
of resident and visiting bats.

8 species have been recorded so far,
using an Echo Meter Touch 2 Pro,
which will be demonstrated on an iPad.

Come and see our Common Pipistrelles,
and perhaps Soprano Pipistrelle, Leisler,
Whiskered, Natterer, Brown Long-Eared,
Serotine and Noctule bats.



Who knows - we could be lucky!

Friday 13th September

7.15pm - meet in

Selsdon Wood Car Park off Old Farleigh Road

*'Bring a torch, warm clothing,
folding seat & a warm drink'*

As the event is weather dependant, check FSW Facebook page or
FSW Website after midday on the 13th.

For details phone 020-8657 0423 or e-mail: selsdonwood@gmail.com

See the FSW website: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk
for our full programme and information about Selsdon Wood

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