

New chair: At the AGM on 30th March 2026, **David Debenham** was elected Chair of Friends of Selsdon Wood. He can be contacted at selsdonwood@gmail.com

Thank you very much to Heather for your hard work over the years.

Upcoming events

Bat Walks – join Chris Green at dusk to learn about the bats living in the reserve and see some in flight.

Friday 8th May, Friday 5th June

WhatsApp Chris on 07921 861650 if you want to join.

Guided Walks of Discovery – join us for a gentle walk of around 2 hours.

See this page for more information: <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/walks.php>

Sunday 10th May: 'Bluebells and Birds' with the Friends

Meet in the car park at 2pm

Sunday 21st June: 'Summer Flowers' with Malcolm Jennings

Meet in the car park at 11am



Volunteer sessions – come along and help: Habitat management and general maintenance. We have jobs to suit all strengths, work as long as it suits you. We provide the tools but please bring food and drink for yourselves. We would really appreciate some new volunteers joining in – contact us for more information or see <https://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/work-sessions.php>

Meet in the car park at 10am on these dates:

Sunday 10th May

Tuesday 12th May (with Grow Wild)

Sunday 7th June

Volunteer sessions in April 2026

Thanks to Linda for maintaining the Linden Glade Pond, Valerie for her work on creating scrapes and planting wildflowers, and Dave, Colin, James and John Z for their efforts in clearing fallen trees.

Please note: Only authorised volunteers should enter the fenced areas around the ponds. This is to protect the wildlife and plants.

Newsletter text and photos by Lucinda Offer, unless otherwise credited.

Wild mammals you might see in the daytime

Roe deer



- These pretty red-brown coloured deer live in the woods.
- Males (bucks) have antlers, which are smaller and more basic than red deer.
- They are solitary much of the year.
- While mating happens in July-August, implantation of the fertilised eggs is delayed until January, so the young are born in May-June when it's warmer.
- Their peak activity times are dawn and dusk, but you might see them at any time.
- They're nervous and likely to run away, but if you're lucky and stand still when you see one, they may stay for a while.

Fox



- A common sight in our urban areas, red foxes can also be seen in the woods.
- While they're more active at night, you may well see them out and about or napping in the sun during the daytime.
- They're best known as scavengers in cities, but they also catch their own food and eat fruit and berries.
- They are territorial, but territories tend to be much smaller in urban areas than the countryside.
- Their 'earths' (holes) can be distinguished from badger setts by the shape – fox holes tend to be taller than they are wide, while badger holes are wider than they are tall.

We'd love to hear about your sightings in the woods and see photos. Please [share them in the Facebook group](#) or email selsdonwood@gmail.com. We will also be running our regular calendar photo competition in the summer.

mob 07979 002547 (please text first so we know it's not a spam call)

e-mail: selsdonwood@gmail.com

website: www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk



Bank vole

Voles can be distinguished from mice by their smaller eyes and ears and plumper shape. They mostly eat plant material, including seeds, but may also eat some small invertebrates. Lives in woodlands and scrubby grasslands. The similar Field Vole prefers grasslands and has a shorter tail. In Selsdon Wood, keep an eye out near both ponds for them scurrying around.



Grey squirrel

They are cute and photogenic, but controversial, because they have displaced native red squirrels in much of the country. Can be found on the ground or climbing trees, showing off their agility. They don't hibernate but they can be seen in autumn burying nuts to eat over the winter.

We want to see your photos!

- You don't have to own a dedicated camera; camera phone images are welcome.
- Photos must have been taken **in Selsdon Wood between 20th August 2025 and 19th August 2026**. There is no limit on how many photos you can enter.
- Closing date: 20th August 2026
- A selection of the photos submitted will be put to a secret ballot in September 2026 and the three receiving the most votes will receive cash prizes - 1st £50, 2nd £20 and 3rd £10.
- Email full sized images with a title and details of where you took it to: danceswithwolvezs@gmail.com
- By sending your photographs you agree that they may be used and displayed by the FSW.

Are you interested in night-time mammals? How about joining Chris Green for a bat walk?

Dates: Friday 8th May, Friday 5th June

If you'd like to go, send Chris a WhatsApp message on 07921 861650.

