

Friends of Selsdon Wood Newsletter

October 2020

An interesting Sighting this month – This amazing shot was posted on the FaceBook page by Luci Collings. She asked: “Can anyone tell me what’s going on here? When I gently prodded the blue lump - which was quite solid - the two pale slugs rapidly ingested it between them.”

There is a fascinating film of Leopard Slugs mating narrated by David Attenborough at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wG9qpZ89qzc>

The slugs in the photo are Great Red Slugs (which, in spite of their name, can be brown or black) and by comparison with the video the blue mass can be seen to be the genitalia of both individuals.

There seems to be a third, black slug in the photograph - clearly a voyeur!!

Open Day Alternative - Open Day 2020 was cancelled because of corona virus but a gazebo containing the FSW information stand was erected in the usual area (from 11am - 3pm) to catch the interest of walkers and picnickers – and for payment of annual subs to FSW and the Selsdon Residents Association (SRA) and the purchase of FSW Calendars.

This was very successful with good attendance, £70 taken in FSW subscriptions and donations and a further £30 for 6 calendars. Many people were 'Covid-comers' to the wood having newly discovered it during lockdown.

The weather was kind. Although clouds built up at times and there was only one heavy gust of wind that dislodged a small loosely held panel. Covid brought a new problem - people were prepared to sign up and renew but had no money with them. We must hope that they will pay through their banks now.

FSW Work in the Wood - All scheduled workdays this year have been cancelled due to the corona virus. However the Workdays team are working in small groups in a Covid-secure way or individually at times convenient to them. Tasks completed have been the restoration of waymarker posts by removing the rotten bases and replacing with metal Metposts, clearance of undergrowth obscuring waymarkers and seats and removal of fallen trees and branches including the one blocking the exit from Great Field into Langford’s Way Full reports of their work are given on the Workdays page of the website <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/workdays.php>

The FSW Calendar 2021 is available for a donation of £5 - To get your copy phone 020-8651 1037 or 07971 580528 or e-mail selsdonwood@gmail.com.

Have You Renewed Your Subs for 2020? - There are 42 members of FSW who have not yet renewed their subscriptions for 2020. We really need your £5 to support our work so do please check your records and if you have not yet renewed let us have your subscription fee. You can pay by cheque, PO or cash to - FSW Treasurer c/o 68 Greville Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 8NL or by postal or online banking to Friends of Selsdon Wood at Barclays Bank, Croydon Branch, Account No. 80883832, Sort Code 20-24-61. Better still why not set up a Standing Order then you don’t have to worry about forgetting in future years.

A Good month for Fungi – Early September was a good time to spot fungi - brought on early by the rain in the first few days of the month. However, October is more usually the best month for fungus hunting. We have cancelled our guided fungus walk this year because of covid but do look out for them on your walks and please send in photos of any interesting sightings. Some distinctive ones to look for are shown on p2.



<p>Lots of Fungi Look out for these on your October walks.</p> <p>See the FSW website for further information and lots more fungi. All photographs taken in Selsdon Wood.</p>	<p>Oak Pin</p>  <p>Tiny mushrooms on Oak – seen this year In Noakes Way.</p>	<p>Beefsteak</p>  <p>Previously seen in Noakes Way. Often appears to be “bleeding” as here.</p>	<p>Sycamore Tar Spot</p>  <p>Spots on Sycamore and Maple leaves. Does not damage the tree but causes early leaf fall</p>	<p>Blushing Bracket</p>  <p>On Birch logs in West Gorse. Stains red when scratched</p>
<p>Honey Fungus</p>  <p>Widespread, growing on the base of trunks. A destructive parasite that kills trees.</p>	<p>King Alfred's Cakes</p>  <p>Grow on logs and stumps of Ash. Hard and spherical, it looks like burnt cake.</p>	<p>Southern Bracket</p>  <p>A sturdy bracket fungus. A huge example can be seen on an old dead tree in Vale Border.</p>	<p>Stump Puff Ball</p>  <p>Small, common fungus growing on tree stumps. Spores are released in a puff when it is touched.</p>	<p>Common Earthball</p>  <p>Ball shaped mushroom. Seen this year off Beech Grove.</p>
<p>Candlesnuff</p>  <p>A small fungus that looks like the snuffed wicks of candles. Common on mossy stumps.</p>	<p>Birch Polypore</p>  <p>A common, bracket fungus growing on Birch. The underside is white and has pores not gills.</p>	<p>Ochre Cushion</p>  <p>A bright yellow fungus growing on Birch Polypore.</p>	<p>Turkeytail</p>  <p>A small, widespread fungus with banded colours like the tail of a turkey. Grows on logs and stumps.</p>	<p>Dead Moll's Fingers</p>  <p>The name is an apt description. Seen in Greenhill Way.</p>