



Last Month's Events – Minibeast Hunt & Bat Walk

– Neither the prevailing conditions nor the weather forecast looked too promising for this year's **Minibeast Hunt**. After a period of drought there were very few minibeasts about and the grass in F1 had all been mown - much earlier than usual. Unhelpfully, the weather had become more changeable, and rain was forecast for the afternoon. Our guest leader as usual was Roger Hawkins, with Linda, Sandra and Heather helping and taking photographs. Roger was accompanied by two colleagues from the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society entomology section, Graham Collins and Jovita Kaunang who were able to help with the identifications. Despite the threatening rain, 8 children joined us, all of course, accompanied by a parent/guardian. Roger introduced the session, and we gave each child a collecting pot. We then handed out nets, collecting sheets and magnifiers and Roger and the children set off around the field hunting. Finds were soon being brought forward for identification, including a green lacewing which had the experts foxed. This was later identified as a rare species, *Nineta pallida*. It is a recent addition to the British list and the first sighting for Surrey. The sighting will be written up on the CNHSS website or in their bulletin. The rain then started - drizzle at first becoming increasingly heavier. Many folks sheltered under a tree for a while but no further collecting looked likely, so the group broke up at about 3pm. Some of us stayed in the office making a few further identifications. Details of the species found are available on the website Walks page <http://www.friendsofselsdonwood.co.uk/walks.php>

The Bat Walk with Steve & Ruth Budd had a record turn out of 56 bat watchers of all ages. It was a beautiful evening and the first bat seen was a Common Pipistrelle in Leafy Grove at 8.02pm. Passes of Common Pips continued until last light and a Soprano Pip was detected on the way back to the car park. Feedback on the Facebook page shows that the evening was much enjoyed by all. A full report with photographs is available on the website Walks page. Many thanks to all leaders and helpers☺

Work Sessions in August

– On Sunday 7th August some of our team cleared the major fall that had been blocking the Vale Border for several weeks and dealt with several dangerously leaning trees in Leafy Grove. Others cleared a patch at the side of Field 2 where a new bench is to be placed and cut back some of the bracken in the border of David's Crook. Later in the month, one member of the team cleared a fall in Avis Border which had been tricky to get past. Many thanks to all for their hard work☺

The FSW Calendar 2023 is now available for a donation of £5

- Copies will be available on the FSW stand on Open Day or get your copy by phone 020-8657-0423 or e-mail govierh@gmail.com or selsdonwood@gmail.com

2022 Photo Competition Cancelled!

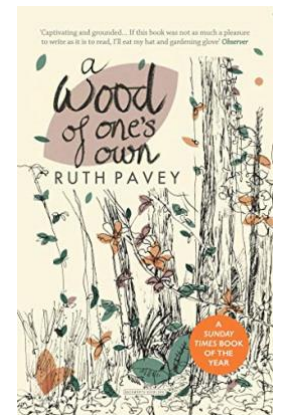
– After a bumper year last year with a total of 26 entrants, hardly anyone sent in photos this year. There were just 5 entrants despite advertising on the FSW website, in the FSW Facebook group and on posters. So sadly the competition has been cancelled for 2022. We will try again next year when photos taken anytime during the 2 year period will be eligible.

Book Focus - Chris Green - 'A Wood of One's Own' by Ruth Pavey

I'm not sure if I'm alone in often dreaming what it would be like to 'own' a piece of woodland. I've even found myself looking at those websites where you can buy a slither of Kentish wood for a small fortune! This month's book, 'A Wood of One's Own' by Ruth Pavey, is a description of her own experiences of doing this.

Having been born and raised in Somerset but moved away, Ruth decides to claim a piece of land in the Levels as a place of peace and calm away from her normal life in London. The book itself is less a guide to buying and maintaining a woodland (any book by Oliver Rackham is better for that), but more an exploration of her experiences in the searching, buying, and owning a wood that she visits once or twice a month. The book is interspersed with her own hand drawings, so you get a good idea of the place and its environment as you read it. In many ways, given she is able to place a Shepherd's Hut in the wood, it provides an idyl of what wood stewardship would be like.

I would recommend this as a gentle, easy reading but captivating account as it allows us to dream about our own acre or 4 of prime woodland!



FSW Annual Open Day

– Our Open day will be held on 4th September – see overleaf for details. We hope to see you there☺



FSW Open Day



with (SRA) SELSDON COMMUNITY BYO PICNIC
and the Rotary Club Fun & Games afternoon

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH - 12 NOON - 4PM

@ Selsdon Wood car park - off Old Farleigh Road

Come to browse stalls and join in activities



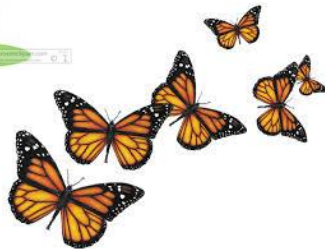
Many varied stalls - hopefully including some refreshments and:

FSW Information / Tombola and book sale

White Elephants (FSW + others) - Woodturners - RNLI/RSPB - Beautiful Butterflies

Brownies/Guides/Scouts - U3A - Scrumptious Sweets - KitKat crafts

Good Intentions crafts - Sand Art Stall - SRA Subscription Point
etc.



Activities (Times are approx)

Walk - 12.30-13.15

Storytime 13.45 -14.15

Fun races (SRA/Rotary club) 14.00 - 15.30



PARKING IS LIMITED - Bus 433 stops nearby

