

## **Friends of Selsdon Wood (Attachment 1)**

The Friends of Selsdon Wood are a group that was officially set up at the beginning of 2008. In September 2008 we organised an Open Day with eight stalls from other wildlife organisations, and repeated the exercise in September 2009 with double the number of organisations participating.

We have:

- (a) participated in coppice training with Croydon BTCV and started restoring neglected hazel coppice in the wood.
- (b) uncovered a previously unknown group of about one hundred White Helleborines.
- (c) contributed to the national survey of wintering and breeding birds organised by the British Trust for Ornithology.
- (d) created an updated map for the wood.
- (e) replaced some benches and repaired others, cleared overgrown scrub around the benches including several which had become totally buried in the bushes, and produced a record of all benches dedicated to particular individuals.
- (f) liaised with Croydon Council in helping to develop a new information leaflet for the wood incorporating an updated map.
- (g) produced a membership leaflet with our own photographs to encourage new members to join the Friends.
- (h) improved conditions in the Centenary Plantation which was planted to commemorate the centenary of Croydon Council.
- (i) used several tons of fallen timber in the Jubilee Plantation to create habitat piles. Trees were planted here to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee by the Girl Guides. Also liaised with Croydon Council to improve this plantation by planting native trees. Have participated with Croydon Council and the National Trust in developing suitable work management plans for the wood.
- (j) erected several nest boxes for Tits and one for Owls, and restored several other Tit boxes.
- (k) started producing a collection of natural history photographs for the wood. This included setting up a digital library of photos of the wood and also a hard copy photo album.
- (l) carried out an on-going survey of the Tawny Owls in the wood.
- (m) joined a team from British Trust for Conservation Volunteers in removing a large number of old Laurel bushes in that part of the wood known as Court Wood.
- (n) rescued an old pond which had been neglected and made plans for its on going care.
- (o) taken part in walks around the wood with members of the public. The bluebell walk in May 2009 was especially popular.
- (p) publicised the group through local publications and schools, posters etc. An email address has been set up and also a Forum site to provide further interaction with local people.

For reference: email [selsdonwood@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:selsdonwood@blueyonder.co.uk) and [www.createforum.com/selsdonwoods](http://www.createforum.com/selsdonwoods).