

**The Great London Pond Project** - Would anyone be interested in volunteering to sample our two Selsdon Wood ponds as part of The Great London Pond Project?

The Great London Pond Project is a partnership between the Zoological Society of London, Freshwater Habitat's Trust and Greenspace Information for Greater London and is supported by the Mayor of London. The aim is to map and assess the condition of publicly accessible ponds across Greater London with citizen scientists. The condition survey is adapted from the Freshwater Habitat's Trust Priority Pond Assessment to identify ponds of particularly high conservation value and includes questions on variables such as surrounding land use, plant cover and shading etc. Volunteers will also be provided with Kyoritsu water quality kits to monitor phosphate and nitrate levels in the ponds. Data collection will run until the end of September and the data will be freely available to all. By the end of the project, we hope to have an accurate map of the location of ponds within Greater London and the condition of these to then work with local groups and other organisations to improve the condition of ponds across London.

If any of you would like to do a bit of pond sampling, please get in touch with our secretary Linda Morris at the addresses at the foot of this page and she will direct you to the project organiser for further details.

**Car Park Lines Painted - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August** - Many thanks to Kevin Alderton and his company Entire Surface Solutions for repainting the car park lines free of charge as a gift to Selsdon Wood. Thanks too to Steve Budd who organised everything including the locking of the gates in advance and the opening of them when the work was complete. The professionally painted lines are in durable thermoplastic. We now have slightly larger spaces so please park tidily.

**Minibeast Hunt – Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup>** – We had a great Minibeast Hunt this year, in contrast to the poorly attended event of 2023.

There were 18 children present, most of Primary School age and all with accompanying adults. Our guest leader as usual was Roger Hawkins with 3 of the Friends helping out. Roger introduced the event and we equipped the children with nets, magnifiers and collecting pots before setting off up the edges of the field in the long grass. It was interesting to see that, for the first time, several of the children brought along their own lenses and collecting nets.

As usual the children could hear the sounds made by the crickets - sounds inaudible to us adults. All they had to do then was ferret them out from the undergrowth. When the children found creatures of interest they were taken to Roger for identification. His knowledge and enthusiasm rubbed off on the children as he put names to what they had found. Many of the snails were found high up on the stems of the Hogweed plants, apparently a result of the very wet weather earlier in the year.

In excess of 20 species were identified including: Roesel's Bush Cricket; Speckled Bush Cricket; Southern Oak Bush Cricket; Meadow Grasshopper (female); 7-spot Ladybird; Black & Yellow Longhorn Beetle (*Rutpela maculata*); Dock Bug (*Coreus marginatus*); Honey Bee; Garden Snail; Brown-lipped Snail; various Spiders, Harvestmen, Grass Bugs, and Ground Bugs; Meadow Brown Butterfly; Gatekeeper Butterfly; Six-spot Burnet Moth; Straw Dot Moth; a Plume Moth.

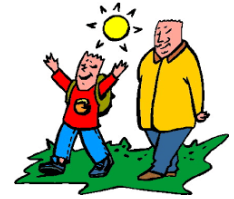
**Last Month's Work Session** – On 4<sup>th</sup> August our volunteers undertook a variety of tasks. Water containers were delivered to the Butterfly Bank before we split into different groups. One group took a trolley to David's Crook and planted some Marjoram. This plant is very attractive to butterflies and although we already have it in a number of field edges we are hoping to spread it more widely. We discovered a Walnut Tree seedling near the bench.

Other groups went to clear benches and the area around the Jubilee Pool where they also removed duck weed. They then moved to Middle Gorse to clear benches 35 and 37.

**The FSW Calendar 2025 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](mailto:govierh@gmail.com) or [selsdonwood@gmail.com](mailto:selsdonwood@gmail.com)

**FSW Annual Open Day** – Our Open day will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> - 12 NOON - 4PM**

**@ Selsdon Wood car park - off Old Farleigh Road**

**Come to browse stalls and join in activities**



## Many varied stalls including:

FSW Information / Tombola and book sale - Croydon Beekeepers -  
White Elephants (FSW + others) - Wood carver - RSPB - Downlands  
Refreshments provided by the Scouts – SRA Subscription Point etc  
Sand Art Stall and various other crafts including jams.

## Activities (times are approx)

Walk - 12.30-13.15

Music by Bonedigger - between 12 - 15.00 TBC / check FB or website

Storytime 13.45 -14.15

Fun races (SRA/Rotary club) 14.00 - 15.30

**PARKING IS LIMITED - Bus 433 stops nearby**

