

The Selborne Society
Pioneers in Conservation



Perivale Wood Local
Nature Reserve

www.selbornesociety.org.uk

Annual Report 2014



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY
PART OF THE HARROW SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Heathrow Community Fund
Part of BAA Communities Trust



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www.selbornesociety.org.uk
The Selborne Society Ltd,
Company No. 00149247
Registered Office
36 Ferrymead Gardens,
Greenford,
UB6 9NF
Charity Number 267635



LOTTERY FUNDED

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

For the year ended 31st December 2014

It has been another great year for the Society, which is going from strength to strength. A number of new activities were held, and new partnerships formed.

Work towards our Education Centre continued, and in the mean time significant work has been done at the Reserve to enhance its value, both to nature but also as an Educational Resource.

The Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve:

This is, of course, the most obvious asset of the Society, and inevitably the focus of most of our activities, the Reserve rightly features first in this report. In addition to usual programme of conservation and management; there have been changes;

for wildlife, the most obvious is that there has been a new pond dug. This has been in the planning and research for some years, and the location had been agreed. originally the proposal was to hand dig it, however a digger was hired for preparatory work for the Education Centre, volunteer Phil Belman, who holds the necessary certificates, offered to operate it, and the opportunity was taken to dig out the pond at the same time.



Little Elms Meadow, with Lizze and Fire, important part of the conservation programme

Measuring 20 m x 5 m, it is really an enlargement of the Eastern Boundary Sluice. It filled, naturally very quickly (periods of heavy rain followed the excavation, and the water table quickly rose to ground level). Within 2 weeks a Mallard was seen on it; within 4 a moor-hen had adopted it as home. Other wildlife will follow, naturally! it will be exciting to watch it develop and mature. The Eastern Boundary Sluice was always the first place that we have seen frogspawn in the Reserve, so it is in a good place for amphibians. The pond is deliberately not stream fed, but reliant on ground water; it is likely that it will dry out completely in some summers. This will add to its biodiversity and character. It is being left unfenced, deliberately, so that the horses can trample the bottom, again enriching its potential for wildlife.

for humans, the first change is that a new building has appeared; this is modest in size - just 3m x 4 m, and houses an accessible toilet. Built entirely by volunteers, and mostly out of recycled materials (even the paper towel holder is reused) that have been scrounged over the previous year or so, it needed foul drain connection to be made, so at the time of writing is not operational. More on that follows ...

The second change for humans was a declutter of our existing hut. This liberated a fair amount of space, enabling the hut to be divided to form a new tool store, and tools and equipment were moved from the garage into here. Again the partitioning was done reusing materials - door, ply, timber - from elsewhere. The new store is better shaped and organised (but needs further decluttering!) and is generally a big improvement on the old one.

The third change was the demolition of the old garage; this had served us as a tool store for many years, having been built by volunteer labour in the 1970's. It was in poor condition and would have been in the way of the Education Centre.

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS
(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2014

Whilst this has been in progress, we researched and eventually placed an order for installation of foul drainage; kindly a neighbour agreed to our connecting into an inspection chamber in her front garden, which saved the cost and difficulty of excavating out into the public highway; the "falls" did not work out, it necessitated the installation of a pumping chamber and pump. The work was commissioned with a local builder to commence early in 2015.

All this is part of the programme of improvements the facilities at the Reserve, so it is better able to be used for educational purposes. Of course a major part of that is the proposal to build an Education Centre, and whilst physical work had not commenced at the Reserve towards this at the end of 2014, preparatory work had been done; removing trees, excavating trail holes for the foundations, undertaking a "topographical survey"; Of course Planning Consent had been obtained in 2013, and the details plans are now submitted to Building Control for Building Regulation approval. A major campaign to recruit volunteers has been mounted for what we hope will be a spectacularly successful community build of a spectacular Education Centre that will grace, and enhance, the Perivale Wood Nature Reserve for many years to come.



In the spring the Forestry Commission surveyed the wood for Oak Processionary Moth; this is an "exotic invasive" species, and several nests were found. As a consequence the Society was served with a Statutory Notice requiring treatment to be effected. The first phase was hand picking of the nests, which was commissioned by the Forestry Commission and effected at no cost to the Society.

Juniors,



The Juniors exploring Pondfield

The Junior section continues to meet on a monthly basis; this is an important element of the Society's work, as our Governing Document places great emphasis on educating young people about nature. The membership was reported at 62 in September, but relatively few attend the Reserve sessions, these are generally very informal, include a chance to explore the Reserve and discover and explore, and so learn.

We held a "little wild sleep out" with our Juniors in May, inspired by the RSPB's "Big Wild Sleep Out". This was a great success, enjoyed by both adults and junior members. We anticipate holding similar events in the future.

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS
(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2014

Adults

Our activities for Adults continue – monthly field meetings at the Reserve with a knowledgeable leader, and additionally monthly evening meetings at the Greenford Community Centre during the Winter. Coach outings are reported separately.



An Adult Field Meeting in the Little Elm Meadow; Fiona Barclay leads on bees.

Schools

School field trips continued and in 2014 we hosted 14 school visits, of all age ranges.

Other trips

The Reserve is available for other community and social groups to enjoy and benefit from, and we have hosted the following:

- The Breakaway Volunteers; This is a group of adults with Learning Difficulties, an organise by the Certitude Charity.
- A variety of self organised walking groups,
- The Guides
- A “Business in the Community” Corporate Social Responsibility session;
- A Forest School “Pilot” scheme
- A Boiblitiz jointly with the Amateur Entomologists Society
- A “big wild sleep out” joint with the RSPB
- The “London Kiwi Greens” - the London branch of the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand
- The University of the Third Age
- the Local “135 Group”.

We were also pleased to host the National Citizens Service, who sent about 70 young people, 16 to 17 years old, for a day's volunteering. This was enormous fun, and they helped us reduce a hedge and clear the area for the new building.



The Big Wild Sleep Out; pitching the tents

Membership

The Society's membership fee had been unchanged for over 20 years, and it was recognised that it was time to increase it from the near nominal £4 (single person) £6 (couple at same address) and £1 (Junior Member), to £10, £15, and £3.00 respectively. This was a laborious process as many members did not get around to



“The Challenge” - a wonderful experience working with the next generation of Selbonians!

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS
(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2014

amending their Standing Orders, a few resigned, and membership dipped as a consequence. At the end of the year there were 845 members in good financial standing.

Despite the reduction in numbers, the income from membership fees has increased significantly, and an added benefit is that membership has become more significant; people who had joined as it was so inexpensive, but never participated in the Society's activities are fewer, and a decision to join is now taken with more thought and commitment.

Many of the Society's membership records are still held on a card index system, but an increasingly sophisticated database is being developed.

Wildlife Surveys

The Nature Reserve is a site of great diversity, rich in wildlife. In order to monitor both the condition of the reserve and the way in which we manage it, it is desirable to undertake surveys and record the results. These records will be of great value to future generations in study of climate change, for instance, as well as for our own use to see how the Reserve has changed over time

During 2013, the Society commissioned John Dobson to undertake a survey on the Diptera (flies) of the Reserve. Additionally Nigel Cane-Honeysett, the Spider Recorder for Cheshire, volunteered to undertake a survey of spiders. Volunteers assisted placing pitfall traps in the Reserve to catch specimens for later identification; such is the way of these things that the write ups are awaited – it is accepted practice that the write ups are carried out in the winter months when surveys would be inappropriate.



Our Library, newly accommodated in the Ealing Central Library

Library

The Society owns a Library which is split into two - particularly valuable and significant books and documents, including the Manuscript of Gilbert Whites Garden Calendar, reside at the Linnean Society's Library in Piccadilly; the remainder, themselves valuable books, are hosted by the London Borough of Ealing under an agreement signed in the 1960s; this has had a bit of a chequered history; initially the books were in the Central Library, however they were then moved to the Perivale Library Resource Centre; in about 2010 this was closed and they were moved to the Southall Library, where there was adequate space but the location rather out of the way; The Southall Library closed during 2014, and the books were returned to the Ealing Central Library in the Ealing Broadway Centre. The cupboards they were housed in were in poor condition so a decision was taken to fund the purchase of specialist cupboards, and the books were moved in September 2014.



Dr June Chatfield introduces our Library

Their return to a central location is most welcome, and we look forward to events and perhaps an exhibition featuring the Society, its work and history at the Central Library in due Course.

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2014

The Linnean Society agreed to host a meeting of the Society in its Library, and Dr June Chatfield, former Curator at the Gilbert White Museum at the Wakes agreed to host the meeting and share her expertise and knowledge about the items on display, and give them context. In addition to the Garden Calendar, there are first editions of the Natural History of Selborne, personal correspondence of Whites, and the session proved to be fascinating, making these precious items accessible to the Society's members for the first time in many years.

The Collection

Over the years the Society has amassed a collection of wildlife specimens; they've been accumulated in the hut, but not been actively curated. So it was a delight to receive an email from Heather Mikael, who was moving to the area, trained as a curator, and looking for a collection to give TLC to. Undaunted by the eclectic, and neglected nature of our collection, she's been quietly working away to catalogue it, improve its storage, and get it into good order to be moved into the Education Centre when that is ready, so we can begin to really use it, benefit from it, and build it up!



Heather gets to grips with our Collection

Coach Outings



Overlooking Selborne Village, at the top of Gilbert White's famous ZigZag Path

The Society has a tradition of running Coach Outings to appropriate places of interest, and this year we took 3 trips – to the WWT Reserve at Slimbridge, to Selborne Village itself, and to English Heritage's Wrest Park. These are particularly popular amongst our senior members, providing a good day out and a chance to make new friends.

We often find that our members are also members of the organisation who own the venue, so are able to visit places that they have a real interest in (as well as making use of their membership benefits!).

News letters

The Society publishes 3 newsletters per annum, featuring articles by members about the Reserve and topics of wildlife interest. This is always well received and contains a range of well written articles. It is an vital line of communication with our members. The typical print run is about 650, and it is distributed by willing volunteers, who walk and cycle miles locally to deliver, and save the Society several hundred pounds in postage each year. Our Editor, John Kane does a sterling job drumming up articles, setting them out putting all together!

Web presence -

The Society has a website, www.selbornesociety.org.uk this has existed for some years, and was revamped to a more modern and stylish format towards the end of 2014. It is anticipated that the website will become more significant in the running of the society as activity increases, as the Education Centre becomes available for use.

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2014

In addition, there are monthly electronic bulletins circulated to those on email; these are intended to refresh members memories about events and keep them up to date with the Society's activities, and other developments. About 330 of these are sent each month, and about 50% are opened. They are a valuable way of communicating with members particularly about additional events in the diary, changes of plan, or, for instance, whether a coach outing has places available.

Increasingly the Society is using Social Media; we have had Facebook and Twitter Accounts for a while, but it is relatively recently that these have become used actively; additionally we are registered on Streetlife, and there are also wordpress "Blogs" (selbornesociety.wordpress.com and selbornecourses.wordpress.com) which are giving news of progress with the Education Centre, and the Courses that we hold at the Reserve.

Open day ...

The 2014 Open Day was the best attended ever; we had publicised through a variety of on line listings, and the event was picked up by Radio London, who featured it and a live interview with Hon. Secretary. As a consequence attendance was in the order of 1900. The weather was fine and the Bluebells their best! A good day was had by all. The opportunity was taken to demonstrate Straw Bale Building Techniques as a way of generating interest in the Education Centre, and rendering with Clay proved to be a particularly popular activity with children.



Clay Rendering, popular with Children

Governance ...

The Society is of course both a Limited Company and a Registered Charity, and its Governing Document places Governance in the hands of the "Council", comprising up to 25 members elected at the Annual General Meeting. Council members are both Trustees of the Registered Charity and Directors of the Limited Company.

Council routinely meets 3 times a year, with additional meetings as necessary; in 2014 one additional meeting was held to review the finances around the Education Centre Construction and give the project the final go ahead.

At the Annual General Meeting Charles Robinson-Bax was elected as a Trustee; there were no resignations. Subsequently Gillian Brown agreed to stand as a Trustee and was Coopted at the September meeting.

Gideon Letch resigned in November 2014. Our thanks to Gideon for his contribution to the Society both as Trustee but the work that he undertook at the Reserve.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The company's principal activity is as a registered charity (Registered Charity No. 267635) to promote public education and research in natural history and antiquities and to publish the results of that education and research and to preserve and maintain, for the benefit of the public, places of natural beauty, scientific value and antiquarian interest.

RESULTS

The excess of income over expenditure for the year was £4,206 (2013: £9,971).

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

(continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2014

DIRECTORS

The directors during the year ended 31st December 2014 were as follows:-

T. J. Berry	J. K. Winget
C. R. Hall	S. Sanghani
N. P. Ferriday	W. E. Knight (resigned 19/03/2014)
J. M. Wells	A. J. Pedley
G. I. Letch (resigned 06/11/2014)	S. T. Roberts
J. H. Rout	P. J. Edwards
D. Howdon	T. J. Beckerley
C. T. Hurford	A. M. Nieora
J.W. Morrell (appointed 01/04/2014)	N. B. Glen (appointed 01/04/2014)
J. D. Sears (appointed 01/04/2014)	C. Robinson-Bax (appointed 01/04/2014)
G.S. Brown (appointed 20/05/2014)	

The company (Registered Company No. 149247) is limited by Guarantee and therefore does not have any share capital. All the Members have undertaken to contribute £1 in the event of the company being wound up insolvent.

A J PEDLEY
Secretary

REGISTERED OFFICE
36 Ferrymead Gardens,
Greenford,
Middlesex UB6 9NF

1st April 2015

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2014

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>31.12.2014</u>	<u>31.12.2013</u>
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	3	25,938	22,094
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		-	500
Investments	4	200,000	160,000
Cash at bank			
Current account		(1,298)	(1,629)
High interest business account		20,425	29,369
Debtors and prepayments		<u>96</u>	<u>112</u>
		219,223	188,352
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>£245,161</u>	<u>£210,446</u>
 <u>CAPITAL ACCOUNT:</u>			
FREEHOLD PROPERTY ACCOUNT		5,297	5,297
SELBORNE LIBRARY ACCOUNT		173	173
RESERVE FOR EDUCATION CENTRE	5	150,395	119,886
GENERAL ACCOUNT:-			
As at 1st January 2014		85,090	75,119
Add: Excess of income over expenditure		<u>4,206</u>	<u>9,971</u>
As at 31st December 2014		<u>89,296</u>	<u>85,090</u>
		<u>£245,161</u>	<u>£210,446</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

For the financial year ended 31 December 2014 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

Approved by the board of directors on 1 April 2015

.....
A J PEDLEY

.....
J M WELLS

Company Number: 149247

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these accounts.

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31st December 2014

	<u>31.12.2014</u>	<u>31.12.2013</u>
INCOME		
Subscriptions		
Annual	8,412	8,098
Gift aid claimed	<u>2,827</u>	<u>2,213</u>
	11,239	10,311
Donations and legacies	5,013	3,673
Other income		
Sales of goods	2,693	1,513
Sales of booklet (Wildlife in The Suburbs)	-	62
Less: cost of sales	(500)	(570)
Sale of nest boxes	122	106
Sundry receipts	1,329	11,607
Grazing	350	350
Excursions	<u>3,145</u>	<u>3,213</u>
	7,139	16,281
Interest received		
High interest business account	18	32
COIF deposit interest	<u>618</u>	<u>599</u>
	636	631
TOTAL INCOME	<u>24,027</u>	<u>30,896</u>
LESS: EXPENSES		
Postage, printing and stationery	937	1,007
Rent, water rates and insurance	484	560
Light and heat	140	133
Donations and affiliation fees	344	378
Newsletter expenses	1,397	978
Accountancy fee	960	900
Excursion costs	2,807	1,766
Events	1,826	1,053
Replacement of tools, repairs, materials, hire of equipment and maintenance service charges	6,851	10,897
Conservation work	2,622	2,370
Depreciation and assets written off	1,232	733
Sundry	<u>221</u>	<u>150</u>
	<u>19,821</u>	<u>20,925</u>
Operating excess of income over expenditure	<u>4,206</u>	<u>9,971</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>£4,206</u>	<u>£9,971</u>

The company has no recognised gains and losses other than those shown in the income and expenditure account.

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these accounts.

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31st December 2014

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and incorporate the results of the activity described in the directors' report which is continuing.

b) Turnover

Turnover represents amounts received during the year in respect of subscriptions, donations and other sundry sales and receipts.

c) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and the Selborne Library at annual rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:-

Equipment	-	15% on net book value
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	-	15% on net book value
Outdoor hut and store	-	15% on net book value
Fencing	-	2½% on cost
Selborne library furniture	-	10% straight line

d) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

e) Investments

Investments held as current assets are stated at cost less provision for any permanent diminution in value.

f) Accounting for reserves

Donations received and expenditure incurred for a specific purpose, such as the Education Centre, are allocated directly to the specific reserve.

2. STAFF COSTS

The officers of the company are not remunerated and there were no employees. Out of pocket expenses were reimbursed to officers in the sum of £7,279 (2013: £3,090). Attendance fees were paid in the sum of £1,145 (2013: £675) in respect of school visits.

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31st December 2014

(continued)

3. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold land	Selborne library and furniture	Equipment	Furniture, fixtures and fittings	Outdoor hut, store and fencing	Total
<u>Cost</u>						
At 1st January 2014	5,297	173	3,639	1,334	30,387	40,830
Additions	-	5,076	-	-	-	5,076
At 31st December 2014	5,297	5,249	3,639	1,334	30,387	45,906
<u>Depreciation</u>						
At 1st January 2014	-	-	3,353	1,316	14,067	18,736
Charge for the year	-	508	43	3	678	1,232
At 31st December 2014	-	508	3,396	1,319	14,745	19,968
<u>Net book value</u>						
At 31st December 2014	5,297	4,741	243	15	15,642	25,938
At 31st December 2013	5,297	173	286	18	16,320	22,094

4. INVESTMENTS

	<u>31.12.2014</u>	<u>31.12.2013</u>
Listed investments (at cost)		
At 1 st January 2014	160,000	160,000
Additions	40,000	-
As at 31 st December 2014	<u>£200,000</u>	<u>£160,000</u>

The market value of the COIF Charities Investment Fund was £200,000 at 31st December 2014. £120,000 of this investment is earmarked for the construction of the Education Centre.

5. RESERVE FOR EDUCATION CENTRE

	<u>31.12.2014</u>	<u>31.12.2013</u>
Brought forward	119,886	58,064
Donations for Education Centre including gift aid	42,406	65,101
Expenditure for Education Centre	(11,897)	(3,279)
Carried forward	<u>£150,395</u>	<u>£119,886</u>

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31st December 2014

(continued)

6. MEMBERS' FUNDS

The company is limited by Guarantee and does not have a share capital.

All the members have undertaken to contribute one pound in the event of the company being wound up insolvent.

THE SELBORNE SOCIETY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2014 which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as directors concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005) have not been met.

Alexander Bell, FCA
Day, Smith & Hunter
Chartered Accountants

Batchworth House
Batchworth Place
Church Street
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 1JE

2nd April 2015