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The Monthly Bulletin from the Selborne Society ... March 2013

Spring Mailing - with you soon!

The latest mailing is now out, and will be with you soon - unless you've asked for the mailing to come just by email, in which case thank you for saving us the cost of printing and distribution ... I quail when I deliver to Rae 650 envelopes, sticky labels with names and addresses on them, then a few days later, boxes of newsletters, posters, fliers, and so on that she patiently folds and stuffs into envelopes, adding specific items to each one as she goes ... at this time of year, it is usually membership cards; If you have asked to be sent stuff by email, then you'll need these links to download it ...

[Newsletter](#)[Flier for the June Coach outing to Selborne Village](#)[Notice of AGM](#)[Flier about the Nest Box Scheme](#)[Diary](#)[Open Day poster](#) (for you to print, display, distribute etc as you are able please!)

Forthcoming Events:

- 2 Mar (Saturday) **Field Meeting 2 pm Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve** Charles Hurford will lead, explaining the Reserves Nest Box Programme – its importance, benefits – and the problems we've encountered recently.
- 5 Mar (Tuesday) **Evening Meeting: Greenford Community Centre, 7:45 pm.** Caroline Birchell, an ecologist in Central London will talk on 'Bees & Biodiversity' - giving the background to current thinking, policy and practice around nature conservation and relating this to the evolution of Bee Collective and what we are planning with our enterprise and habitat programme.
- 9 Mar (Saturday) **Junior Section, 2.00 pm at the Reserve** Wood anemones, celandines, primroses - bring your wellies and search for frog spawn.
- 10 Mar (Sunday) **Conservation Management** at Perivale Wood. 10.00 am
- 14 Mar (Thursday) The Pinner and Ruislip RSPB Local Group have invited members of the Selborne Society join them for their meeting "Slaughter in Malta". Hear about the "sport" of shooting any migrating bird that overflies the Island; Free but there will be a collection for "Birdlife Malta". Time 7:30 for 8:00 pm; [St John the Baptist Church Parish Hall, Church Lane, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 3AA](#); Refreshments. Please feel free to invite others.
- 2 Apr (Tuesday) *NO Meeting this Tuesday, due to Easter. But our AGM is the following week ... **PLEASE** do come to that*
- 6 Apr (Saturday) **Field Meeting, 2.00pm Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve**, Wild Flowers with Nic. Ferriday.
- 9 Apr (Tuesday) **Annual General Meeting: 7.45pm Greenford Community Centre.**

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Open Day 2013

Open Day will be the 28th April, opening 10:00 am last entry 4.30 pm. Help is always appreciated with this ... the setting up, (on Saturday 27th April from about 14:00) and the clearing up, and stewarding etc., during the event. Contact Tom Berry to offer your services.



Conservation Management Sunday 10th March 10:00 at the Reserve

Can you join our team of intrepid volunteers as they restore the hedge line between Little Elm Meadow, and Pondfield, clear scrub from the Little Elm Meadow Pond enclosure (bring your wellies) and tidying up the piles of cuttings ... oh, and theres tea to be drunk, friends to be made, and 4 tons of gravel to put on paths too ... but perhaps I d better not mention that! We'll be delighted to see you if you can join us!

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AGM

Our annual General meeting is the 9th April 2013, at 7.45 pm, at the Greenford Community Centre, 170 Oldfield Lane South, Greenford, Middlesex.

All members are entitled to attend to vote, ask questions and make suggestions, and we 'd encourage you to come!

The meeting itself is usually quite brief, followed by refreshments, and then we'll have a look at the research and monitoring that is undertaken at the Reserve, and the publications that follow from it.



Junior section:

From February Juniors will meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The photo is December's meeting, when they were making Yule Logs and Christmas Decorations. In January they made Nest Boxes (and played in the snow).

You 'll find the Junior Section Diary [here](#)

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One of the options for a new building is a "Straw Bale" construction; the picture is of an "Indoor / Outdoor" classroom built at a National Trust site; it was designed by [Strawworks](#), who are well experienced in this field - it was they who designed and oversaw the Hackney City Farm Straw Bale building we went to see last year. Barbera Jones of Strawworks will be giving a talk entitled "Straw Bale Buildings - Examples" on the [6th March 2013 at Ecobuild](#) and has offered to meet the Society then.

Ecobuild will be on 3 days - Tuesday 5th March, Wednesday 6th March and Thursday 7th March. I personally intend to visit on both 5th and 6th to spy out the land on the 5th, and then have a list of things worth seeing on the 6th for anyone who wants to join us then - listen to Barbera and speak to her, and hopefully come away with many ideas. Selborne Council meets on the 19th March and then we'd hope to be in a position to make a final decision on the design and commission it.

I've been building content in the [blog](#), so do please keep an eye on that (you can "follow" it by clicking a small grey button at the bottom right hand side of the page - enter your email address and you'll be sent emails with new content - news as it happens, when it happens (well, when I get round to writing it up!))

If you are interested in joining us on the 6th, then please email contact@selbornesociety.org.uk so we can set up a rendezvous & I can share the itinerary with you in advance!

News from Perivale Wood

Something else filmed for the BBC on 15th February ... after weeks of rain, snow, cold, the weather broke and they will have had a good day, though they will have still had water and mud! the Reserve was very wet when I went a few days before.

The Film that they are producing is a 6 minute "short" "Bringing books to life" intended to encourage children to read. It will be broadcast on CBBC sometime soon.

Community Payback continue to be useful - the neighbours in Sunley Gardens asked if we could come in with them putting gravel on the Drive - so we purchased materials and Community Payback spread it. 7 tons in all, some will find its way onto the paths in the Reserve, which have deteriorated due to the wet!. We've plans afoot to build them up properly and have put in for grant to fund this work.

An Alevel student recently asked if he could use the Reserve for his Alevel field work, and spent a day there. As an Educational Charity the Society is pleased to be able to help students of all levels with their studies.

We agreed to enlarge an existing pond near the Eastern Boundary, and that will be going ahead with voluntary labour soon.

The Bluebells are developing nicely! Green shoots emerge from the woodland floor, promising a wonderful show in April!

High Speed Rail

Little to report at the time of sending; the latest community forum has been postponed pending an announcement of a decision on whether to tunnel under Acton, Park Royal, Hanger Lane, Ealing, Perivale, Greenford, Northolt, or not.

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"Sources" say that tunnelling will cost about the same, but that a decision will not be made till about Easter"

And no results from the Judicial Reviews either.

There has though been much activity at the Reserve, with various ecologists undertaking surveys as part of the Environmental Impact Audit, and so that - if the new line is run above ground, adjacent to the Reserve, "mitigation" can be designed.



Coach Outings

We've 3 coach outings planned; one to Selborne Village (19th June) and the [Gilbert White House](#), one to the National Arboretum at [Westonbirt](#), (October) and another to the WWT at [Slimbridge](#) (probably February 2014) More information in the mailing gone out / about to go out, email for forms etc. if not received.



Keys

A reminder that you can borrow keys to the Reserve, at the moment from the [Hope Community Church Cafe](#) Rendezvous. The Cafe is only open on Monday to Friday 10 to 4, and the keys have to be returned there in person - no longer possible to put them through the letterbox as it was with the Library.

You can also visit the Reserve when there are events on there - so you can come at 2.00 pm on the first or second Saturdays of the month when there are field or junior meetings, for a walk round but not take part in the organised activity, or conservation management sessions at 10am on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and enjoy the wood without doing any work - although we'd prefer it if you helped, of course!

And in exchange for a £10 deposit you can have a key of your own. Request this by replying to this email.

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Although we've featured in the Waitrose Green Token Scheme in West Ealing, I've not yet heard how much we've raised!

A grant application has been submitted for some work at the Reserve - paths, fencing and the "High Level Hide" - this is with the Awards for All scheme; Results eagerly awaited!

What does it take to inspire the World??

I've been by our Vice - President Professor David Bender to share this video with you all: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9-G89kI3iQ>

only a couple of minutes, introduced by Sir David Attenborough and supported by Avios which is the new name of the rebranded Air miles business. If enough people view it, it will mean WWT will receive £2,500.

And its good, too!



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Our friends at the Herts and Middlesex Bat Group have asked us to publicise some Courses organised by the Field Studies Centre on bats. You will need to book in advance!

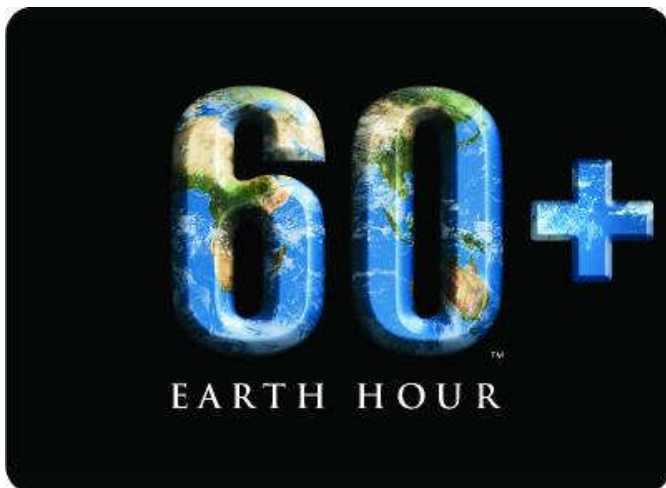
27th April 2.00 pm An introduction to Bats and their Natural History £35, The Stockyard Education Centre, Bushey Park; more info and bookings: <http://snipurl.com/ssbats>

5th May and repeated 11th August Discovering Bats 11:00 am to – 10:30 pm, including a bat walk to practise bat identification using bat detectors, learnt earlier in the classroom. Venue: Field Studies Council's Epping Forest Centre £46, including a pub meal and bat species identification key.

More info and booking:

5th May <http://snipurl.com/ssbats2>

11th August <http://snipurl.com/ssbats3>



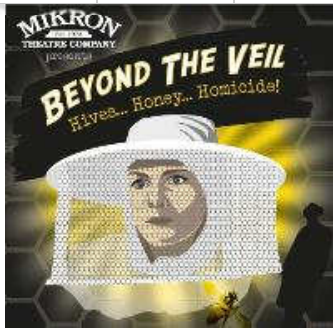
Earth Hour

Earth Hour is the single, largest, symbolic mass participation event in the world. Born out of a hope that we could mobilize people to take action on [climate change](#), Earth Hour now inspires a global community of millions of people in 7,001 cities and towns across 152 countries and territories to switch lights off for an hour as a massive show of concern for the environment.

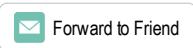
Earth Hour brings together communities from across the world celebrating a commitment to the planet by switching off lights for one designated hour.

That hour is 8:30 pm to 9:30pm on 27th March 2013

Find out more, join those communities and commit to join this global action at <http://www.earthhour.org>

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In July We hope to welcome the [Mikron Theatre Group](#) for a performance of their "beyond the veil" ... we'll need a team to Steward this event, so please advise if you are available. 6th July from about 6pm onwards.



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