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## The Monthly Bulletin from the Selborne Society ... June, 2013



### New Education Centre: All systems GO!

Since I posted last, exciting progress ... in order with the best bit last!

So Selborne Council (that's the managing committee, in other words the Charity Trustees and the Directors of the Company, who members vote for at the AGM) decided that in preparation for the new building, we'd change fences about a bit. Peter Edwards and I rebuilt the fence as you come in – the old posts were very rotten and we had some new timber we'd bought because we thought it would come in handy, so we used that and recycled some of the rails from the fence, and it all now looks fine and dandy.

Council had also agreed a new fence across the Paddock, so that the hutfield would be larger and the horses away from the Construction area, so on the 17th May a team from DTZ, property professionals up in London, came and built that – making a first class job of it! Thank you so much, all of you. That was a part of the "Business in the Community" initiative, and they also removed the old "Visitors Centre" and relocated it into the Wood, close to the Toilets, where it will become a new bird observation hide. Oh, and they painted pretty well everything, were wonderful and hard working and did a great job all round.

So site preparation is well in hand; there will be other little bits and pieces going on – we need to put up a new steel cabinet for storage as the old garage will come down sooner or later, and we need to find a home for the stuff in there. Though there's a fair amount that can be thrown away too. One job that needs doing is moving the water trough for the horses; that needs to be fairly soon and will involve quite a deep trench for a new pipe. While we are about it we can give it a lick of paint and site it in a corner where it's a bit less blooming ugly! That needs to be quite soon so if anyone fancies doing a bit of digging, we've a place where you can practice.

After our "due diligence" checks, and a bit of a delay, we appointed Strawworks, and Barbara Jones. The contract was signed and the cheque drawn and posted off on the Tuesday; will have been at Todmorden on Wednesday 22nd May. I was a bit surprised to receive first draft plans on Sunday the 26th! And they are good, and the timing was very good as we had a design group meeting on the 28th, yesterday, so we were able to review them, and suggest refinements. Hopefully there will be a 2nd and final draft very soon, and when that happens I'll ask Barbara for permission to post them so all can see.

So, all that is good, and I've saved the best bit to last ... Council met 20th May. Treasurer – John Wells – presented his report, announcing that we have had a substantial, anonymous donation – combined with the £60,000 that Council has already allocated, a big dent in the cost of the scheme has been made! There will be other costs, preparing the site, and fitting out the building. But all of that ought to be possible with grants and odd bits of fundraising.

Huge thanks to all who have donated, it is a real boost to have our vision for the future supported so tangibly! And thanks too, to all at the Cafe Rendezvous who put together, and donated the pack lunches for the DTZ team ... very much appreciated!

#### The Next Steps ...

The planning group will meet on the 24th June, and a new fundraising subgroup on the 17th to explore grants and so on.

We'll need a Soil Survey so we have an idea of the ground conditions and the loadbearing capacity so that the foundations can be designed accordingly.

We need to order straw bales (in the autumn), and have them stored in the dry until we need them.


Planning application needs to go in before the end of July, to benefit from the fee that we've already paid for the abortive scheme last year.

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And since we also need a lot of car tyres (car tyre foundations are favoured, apparently!) so need to "source" those, and get them on order. Ought n't be a massive problem, but getting them all the right size is stretching my imagination a little!

Updates on our blog: <http://selbomesociety.wordpress.com/>

## Forthcoming Events:

- 1 Jun (Saturday)     **Field Meeting at Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve, 2.00 pm**, Peter Edwards will talk about the Trees and Shrubs in the Reserve.
- 8 Jun (Saturday)     **Junior Section, 2.00 pm at the Reserve** Catch a butterfly – meadow brown, comma – using a large net.
- 9 Jun (Sunday)       **Conservation Management** at Perivale Wood. 10.00 am
- 19 Jun (Wednesday) **Coach Outing to Selborne Village**; advanced booking essential. See separate flier for more information.
- 6 Jul (Saturday)     **Field Meeting at Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve, 2.00 pm** – pond dipping with Peter Wame
- 6 Jul (Saturday)      **7:30 pm The Mikron Theatre Group** will visit the Reserve with their new production "**Beyond the Veil**" a play suitable for all ages. Free, but suggested donation £9.00 at the end. Bring a picnic and something to sit on. More information nearer the time and from <http://www.mikron.org.uk>. Gates open at 6:00 pm so you visitors can picnic and explore the Reserve.



## Beyond the Veil

Hives...Honey...Homicide

CSI meets Camberwick Green in a tale of sleuths and bees in this crime thriller with a buzz.

The gardeners of Thistledale Allotments feature in this lively show full of music, fun and facts about bees and beekeeping. After a year of shenanigans with the council, Thistledale allotments are safe, but the fragile peace in this idyllic setting is about to be shattered.

A body is discovered on and foul play is suspected, Detective Starkey has plenty of suspects but just can't find a motive. The allotmenters give him beekeeper April's advice; "talk to the bees", but will understanding the bees and their ways really lead him the clues he needs?

Mikron Theatre company are unique, the only company in the world to tour professional theatre by narrowboat, bringing performances to places that don't often see theatre; pubs, village greens, canal basins, and this year, to allotments and apiaries.

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Beyond the Veil is a gentle comedy with larger-than-life characters, live music and a fascinating insight into bees, beekeeping and all things apicultural.

Marianne McNamara, Mikron's artistic director explains why she was drawn to this subject, "Deborah McAndrew, wrote our 2012 show "Losing the Plot" and set the show on Thistledale Allotments, she wrote such a fabulous script with such colourful characters and one of them, April, is a bee keeper. We got a glimpse into the art of beekeeping and I just wanted to develop that, I wanted to know more! Deborah is a beekeeper herself, so it seemed like a natural choice. Of course, bees are in the news at the moment, as they risk becoming an endangered species, so I am hoping that the show will fire some people's enthusiasm and help people to understand what vital little creatures they are!"

Beyond the Veil will be shown at:

Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve rear of 36-38 Sunley Gardens, Perivale, UB6 7PF

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm

You do not need to buy tickets for this performance as a collection (suggested £11 / £9.00 concessions) will be taken by the cast after the performance.

Bring your own picnic, chairs and blankets. Feel free to come early to explore the woods or picnic in the meadow – gates open at 6pm.

download a poster for display, circulation at schools and so on from [here](#)



## Coach Outings

A booking form with full information about the "Selborne Village and the Gilbert White House" coach trip on the 19th June 2013 can be downloaded from [here](#) - there are [very few](#) places on this still available, it is a brilliant place and a brilliant outing. if you've not booked and want to come, email [contact@selbornesociety.org.uk](mailto:contact@selbornesociety.org.uk) or phone 07832 903 531, to make sure that there are still places available before you send off a booking form. All bookings on a first come, first served basis!

We've 2 other coach outings planned; one to the National Arboretum at [Westonbirt](#), (16th October) and another to the WW at [Slimbridge](#) (probably February 2014). booking information on those is in preparation.

## Open Day 2013

Was a great day: 1348 visitors, a very happy day; the sun shone (some of the time) the day was bright (much of the time) and the company was excellent, all of the time. The numbers were double last years dismal 688, (but not as many as 2011's 1788!) - it was busier in the morning (warm and bright) than the (cold and cloudy) afternoon.

We made lots of new friends, and did some great networking; a fair number of new members too. And the Bluebells were GLORIOUS!



## Mailing

The next paper mailing is in preparation, and will be out in the next couple of weeks.

Some have asked to receive this only by email in future, and we'll do our best to respect that - but might be a bit confused about whos asked for what. Everyone who receives this bulletin will get a bulletin with links so they can download it for themselves. If you dont want paper, but receive a package, then do please email to say! and if you dont get paper copies but want them, then email to advise and we will sort it out somehow.

Of course the advantage of email is that it is cheap, saves paper, printing, enveloping, and so on ...

It is quite an effort, so thanks to the team who put it all together - John Kane, who edits the newsletter, everyone who writes an article for it, Rae Hall who "stuffs envelopes", and the delivery team who walk and cycle round to deliver it - saving the society about £500 per annum in postage each year!

## Situations Vacant:

Many thanks to Maggie Bannister, who has been our Minute Secretary for the past couple of years, attending Council Meetings and the AGM taking notes and turning them into neat, typewritten Minutes! But Maggie is moving away, and so the situation is vacant. If you feel you could help us with this (there are usually just 4 meetings a year, and it is a huge help!) do email [contact@selbornesociety.org.uk](mailto:contact@selbornesociety.org.uk) or phone Andy on 07878 594290 to discuss.

We'd also like a "Commissioning Editor" for the newsletter - someone to suggest suitable articles and invite worthy people to write them! again,

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if you are interested phone or email as above.

## Membership:

For 20 years subscriptions to the Selborne Society have been held at the same rate, but the time has now come when they must be increased.

From January 2014, minimum subscriptions will be as follows:

Adult subscription: £10.00 Two Adults at the same address, £15.00. Juniors (under 18 years) £3.00.

Life Subscriptions: £200 for a single adult, or £350 for two adults at the same address.

Members who pay by Standing Order are requested, if necessary, to change the order with their banks and a new standing order mandate will be sent.



## Keys

We are waiting on news of the Library reopening (builders have all but finished when I was there last week, and books being delivered to be put out on shelves).

Until it does reopen you can borrow keys to the Reserve, from the [Hope Community Church Cafe Rendezvous](#). The Cafe is only open on Monday to Friday 10 to 4, (not bank holidays!) 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.

## Legacy ....

If you've not made your Will, or intend to change it, you could consider making a legacy to the Society; speak to your Solicitor who will arrange it for you - thank you (hopefully a long way in advance!).



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