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The Selborne Society Bulletin

December 2013

Whats on, whats happening, and what has happened
...with the Selborne Society and at the Perivale Wood
Local Nature Reserve.

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On the 11th November we were pleased to welcome a group from Wrigleys, of chewing gum fame, who visited the Reserve, had a guided walk, and then helped with some conservation work - cutting down the massive hedge between hutfield and the Paddock, and pollarding some willows. It was a very wet day, but we had a good time, and valuable work got done! Thanks, guys (and gals).

This was set up through Business in the Community, who liaise between Charities and Companies who want their staff to have a team building event, and do some useful volunteer work at the same time. We've had teams from Imperial Innovations and DTZ in the past, and the next day is scheduled for the 14th May ... I wonder who we will get then, and what they will do for us!

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Diary, December 2013 and January 2014

- 3 Dec (Tuesday) **Evening meeting: 7.45pm Greenford Community Centre**
- Society Vice President Professor David Bender will talk about his recent trip to Ecuador: Amazon and the Galapagos
- 7 Dec (Saturday) **Field Meeting 1.30 pm at the Reserve;** John Winget leads us on a winter walk.
- 8 Dec (Sunday) **Conservation Management at the Reserve. 10.00 am**
- 14 Dec (Saturday) **Junior Section, 2.00 pm at the Reserve** Christmas is nearly here – soon snow and the shortest day. **Collect stuff from the wood to make a winter wonderland!** Guess the animal quiz, fun food.
- 4 Jan (Saturday) **Martin Smith will lead us on our annual Horsenden Hill Walk. Starts at the Reserve Hut, 1:30 pm. Wear warm clothes and suitable footwear.**
- 12 Jan (Sunday) **Conservation Management** at the Reserve. 10.00 am & winter bonfire and bbq from noon onwards. - see below.
- 18 Jan (Saturday) **Junior Section 2.00 pm at the Reserve** “Food chains – learn how the sun transfers energy to animals.”

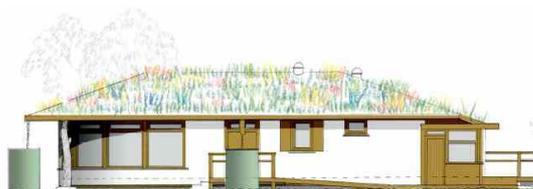
The meeting on the 3rd December will be in the Canteen on the Ground Floor of the Community Centre, rather than the usual room 9 (upstairs).

And a change to the future programme - Gillian Brown can not now speak at the March meeting, so we have Henry Johnson, the Hedgehog Officer for the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, who will tell us about hedgehogs - wonderful creatures that were so common but I've not seen locally for ages. He'll tell us what we can do to encourage them, in our gardens, allotments and open spaces, and how healthy their populations are locally.

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Invitation to a bonfire and BBQ

We've a lot of prunings from the hedge and trees we need to get rid of them! so we re inviting all members to come to our January Conservation Management day on the 12th January - we need a lot of volunteers, as we ve had a lot of fence panels delivered, and they need carrying up the paddock, and fixing in place; so we'll spend a couple of hours doing that - which may well complete if we get enough volunteers - and then have a bonfire with baked potato's, soup, camaraderie and other good things! Should be a fun way to spend a Winter Sunday! Commences 10:00, bring friends, family, potato's for baking, silver foil, sense of humour, warm clothes, etc.,



New Education Centre

Planning consent has been granted. It was 2 weeks overdue, but we got the approval in time and just in time to meet the deadline for the Veolia Environmental Trust grant application to make progress, we've been busy with more preparation – the order for the straw bales has been sent, and we've commissioned Strawworks to develop the scheme to Building Regulation Approval – the cheque for this was posted off on Thursday.

Some more work was done at the Reserve – a willow near the hut has been “reduced” so that there is room for our new tool store.

We've put in an application to Biffa too, as

Trouble at The Reserve ...

There has been a bit of vandalism at the Reserve; the locking bar on the canal gate - off the towpath - has been sawn through. We'll get a new bar fitted, but in the mean time the gate is secured with a chain - the same lock is fitted so keys will work as usual.

On the South, we've suffered some damage to a fence; has been building an outhouse in the shared driveway and the associated excavations have caused the fence to subside. The Reserve remains secure and the damage will be made good in due course.

Fauna of Perivale Wood

Nic. Ferriday's been working on this "Account of the Mammals, Reptiles,

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no grants approvals are ever guaranteed:

Some of us are booked onto a Strawworks course in January on progressing the build. The next step will be to get the storage cabinet on order and in place – which will involve bridging the ditch (stream) that it is going to sit over. An interesting project! Any one interested??

Exploring the Thames Wilderness

This is the book that Wendy Yorke had available following her fascinating talk on the 5th November; she sold them at the discounted rate of £12, and we have another 4 copies available, which Ill make available at the Greenford Community Centre on the 3rd December - £12.00 cash on the day please. If you can not make it to the Community Centre, then Wendy is willing to post copies out - again £12.00 each, but £3.00 postage.

Email contact@selbornesociety.org.uk and we'll put you in touch.

Amphibians, and Fish of Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve" working from the many thousands of observations that have been recorded over the past 40 or so years. It is a great publication, very readable, and identifies what we have had, still do have (and do not have) in the Reserve! Likely to be available in the New Year - price to be decided.

Natural History of Selborne

Of course, Gilbert White's famous book; a "beautiful, illustrated" edition with annotations to the text has recently been published - fuller information [here](#)

We will be setting up a discount deal with the publishers for Society Members, and expect it to be fully reviewed in the next newsletter. But again a potentially good Christmas Present!

Of course the Selborne Society was named to commemorate the Rev'd White, who was the Curate at Selborne in Hampshire, which is how we have our name, so it is great that there is a new edition of this, a pioneering book on Natural History.

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Our next coach outing will be to Slimbridge, the Wildlife and Wetland's Trust Centre in Gloucestershire. 19th February 2013; full information from www.snipurl.com/ssslimbridge.

A few places are still free, but it is filling fast!

We've tweaked the times again - sorry! There is a lot to see and do at Slimbridge so need to have as long as possible there; so we've reverted to the original departure times - we will leave Ealing Broadway at 08:30 and Perivale at 08:45. We will have a stop on both the outgoing and return journeys, and we'll aim to leave Westonbirt at 5pm so we get to see the "commentated feed"; we'll be back at about 7:30 to 8 pm. A long, but hopefully a brilliant day, in a wonderful place!

Invitation:

Trees for Cities in partnership with Ealing Council would like help **plant 10,000 trees** in the Northolt Recreation Ground in the next few weeks! This project will create a valuable natural resource and tree legacy for the local community and users of the rec. The planting aims to increasing the biodiversity of tree species in the area, enhancing both the local wildlife as well as providing more diversity of trees increasing colour and interest for the local community in a relatively under used space.

The main activities involve planting tree saplings and mulching, and all will receive full instruction and supervision on how to plant from friendly staff. So lots of chances to learn new skills, meet new people and come out to enjoy your local outdoors and improve this green space. Experience also shows us that participation of the local community in planting can lead to long term community involvement and sustainability of the new trees planted.

All planting days are scheduled during the week except for our Community Planting Day which takes place on a Saturday and has additional fun elements, free food, live music, arts and crafts activities, face painting and lots of children and family friendly activities. We are inviting all members of your centre to come along. All welcome! The dates are as follows:

Weekday planting:

Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th, Thursday 5th **December**

Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th **December**

Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th **December**

All days: 11am – 3pm

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Consultation

Residents of Greenford and Sudbury are most affected by this proposal, but there is a consultation out for the redevelopment of the GlaxoSmithKline site at Barclay Avenue, Greenford - a massive scheme with housing, cinema and so on.

You can see the consultation [here](#)

White Christmas?

too early to tell whether it will be a white Christmas or not ... but we hope that you have a great Christmas and New Year, and wish you the best for 2014!

It should be a great year for the Society, and the Reserve too. Let's make that happen together.

And, of course thank you for your support and interest in 2013.


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