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# The Selborne Society Bulletin

January 2014

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

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## Happy 2014!

we hope that it is going to be a great year for the Society, with the new Education Centre construction commencing in - we hope - April. More information below and as the story evolves! We'll keep you up to date with news through this monthly Bulletin, but also via the Blog, as it happens.

In the mean time, our usual programme of activities - evening meetings, walks, coach outings, and Junior Section meetings continue, and of course the new High Level Hide (the ladder is now on order, so that will be finalised soon) will bring a new view of the Canopy, which should be fascinating.

## 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.,

In addition to working on the boundary fence - all the materials are now available and thanks to some excellent work by St Benedict's School and other Volunteers, most of the panel are where they need to be - we hope to build a post and rail fence

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between Little Elm Meadow and Willow Mead, build a bug hotel, fix the ladder for the High Level Hide, and maybe have a bit of a clear out of the Garage in readiness for the new tool store that we'll be getting. Oh, and maybe doing some rubber tyre foundations for the tool store too.

And Gillian will be leading a Forest Schools session too - see below! ought be a good morning.

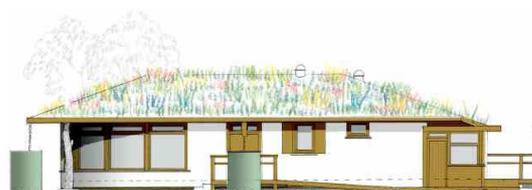
## Diary, January and February 2014

- 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 Announcement above.
- 18 Jan (Saturday) **Junior Section 2.00 pm at the Reserve** "Food chains – learn how the sun transfers energy to animals."
- 1 Feb (Saturday) **Field Meeting at the Reserve, 1:30 pm;** John Wells leads on Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens
- 4 Feb (Tuesday) **Evening meeting: 7.45pm Greenford Community Centre .**
- Chris Cockel of the **Environment Trust** <http://www.environmenttrust.co.uk/> will speak about our local River, the Brent, its ecology and the eel monitoring programme that has been commenced. This project featured recently in BBC1' s "Urban Jungle" with David Lindo.
- 8 Feb (Saturday) **Junior Section 2.00 pm at the Reserve** "Trees – sleeping still but can we wake them?"
- 9 Feb (Sunday) **Conservation Management at the Reserve. 10.00 am**

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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. Your text caption goes here



## New Education Centre

The grotty news is that our grant application was not valid, which is down to me for not having understood the process properly; however we are in discussion with Entrust and Veolia, and it is likely that they will be able to grant aid the "Green Roof" and may be other parts of the project. We've also got positive response from BAA Community fund, so will be popping an "Expression of interest" in to them, and crossing our fingers.

The detailed design has been commissioned; Strawworks ought to be working on that soon, and that will give us a clearer idea of prices. A couple of us are booked on a Course with Strawworks at the end of January, which will help us with project planning too.

### Forest School, taking shape in Perivale

#### Woods

A group of volunteers have been working to clear a new area where the Reserve can host a forest school. The next steps are to create a large seating area for up to 20 people, a fire pit and surrounding enclosure. We want to get as many people to help us at the next volunteer session on Sunday the 12th January from 9.45 onwards. We will cover the principles of Forest School at this session.

### **Fauna of Perivale Wood**

Nic. Ferriday's been working on this "Account of the Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, and Fish of Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve" working from the many thousands of observations that have been

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If all goes well, then we ought to cut the first sod at Open Day (27th April) with work commencing in earnest soon after. As always, information will be available on the blog [The Perivale Wood New Education Centre « All about our new education centre.](#)

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.



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

Sorry, but the coach is now full, and there is a reserve list of 2. We often do have a few cancellations, so it is worth applying if you want to come but have not done so; fill in the form and send a cheque, which we'd not bank until we've definitely got a place allocated for you.

I'm hoping to book Highgrove - its a very popular venue so hard to get a place, and at the moment the booking office is closed; but we'll beat a path to their door as soon as they open with fingers crossed.

We are still finalising the 2014 programme, but hope too to take coach outings to Selborne Village in Hampshire again, and English Heritage's Wrest Park in Bedfordshire. Details to follow soonest.

If any one would like to help organise the Coach Outings, please get in touch! It actually is not very difficult, or timeconsuming, and people really enjoy them. I m sure we could run more if we had someone willing to help with the organisation!

## The Big Lunch

This is promoted by the Eden Project in Cornwall, and they are offering all expenses paid - including travel - training at the Eden Project itself; it would be great to have a programme of Big Lunches organised through Selborne - visit <http://www.thebiglunch.com/> to find out more, and get in touch if you want to go on it.

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