

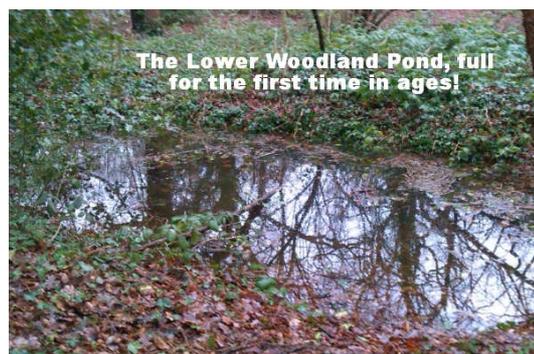
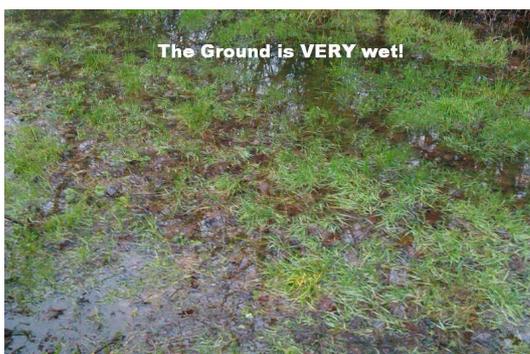
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The Selborne Society Bulletin

February 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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New Growth ...

The Reserve is awakening after a warm but very wet winter; bluebells are pushing their way up through the leaf litter (photo above), and working parties at the Reserve

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are now having to work from the paths and in bluebell free areas so as not to damage the delicate shoots.

And the Reserve is very wet! as you enter, the hutfield area is completely saturated; wellies or boots the order of the day; the bridle path has about 3 inches of water on it in places, the ponds are full (good) and the ground VERY soft!

Its been a busy month; the Society's Governing Council met early in January, and as always considered the future Activities of the Society, and the Mangement of the Reserve; and of course our new building project - more on that below! Hence the slight lateness of this bulletin, plans continue to develop, and field meeting slots are being filled! We are always delighted to have new leaders and speakers, so if you have expertise or knowledge that you are willing to share, or know someone who could lead either an evening talk or a field meeting, then do please put them in touch.

Diary, February and March 2014

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**

19 Feb
(Wednesday) **Coach outing to Slimbridge ("Wildlife and Wetlands Trust")** departs Ealing 08:30, Perivale 08:45, pre booking essential; flier with mailing or download from snipurl.com/ssslimbridge

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translat](#)**1 Mar (Saturday) Field Meeting at the Reserve, 1:30 pm**

Charles Hurford, who head up the Reserve's nest box scheme, will lead, introducing the scheme and the results, and also speaking about the small mammals survey work that he does at the Reserve

4 Mar (Tuesday) Evening meeting: 7.45pm Greenford Community Centre

n. b. Change of speaker and topic Henry Johnson, the Hedgehog Officer of the People's Trust for Endangered Species (www.ptes.org) will speak to us about Hedgehogs ... Henry will tell us about these wonderful, evocative creatures and what we can do in our Gardens and elsewhere to encourage them.

8 Mar (Saturday) Junior Section 2.00 pm at the Reserve ; Minibeast safari – chase beetles in the wood.**9 Mar (Sunday) Conservation Management at the Reserve. 10.00 am**

29 Mar (Saturday) 8:30 pm – an event to mark Earth Hour: <http://www.earthhour.org/> - a global event - the largest Environmental Action in human history – we will be joining our voices with others, internationally, to say “we care” and to make a commitment to take action and take better care of our Planet in the year ahead.

Bonfire and BBQ

A good morning was had by all who came and some work got done too; all the prunings and a lot of scrap timber got burned, all preparation for the new Education Centre, as we are preparing the site - a temporary (only been there about 5 years) wire fence was removed, posts to be recycled, and the wire to go to the dump. The wire mesh that we bought fits well on the fence posts, and a number of sections were put in place and securely strapped - the significant holes in the Reserve Fence were covered and the site is now secure, but there's a lot more of that to do - that section of fence is about 150 metres, and we've done maybe a third, so that job will continue at our next conservation management session on the 9th February (10:00 am; all hands welcome!)

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A reminder that 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. 4th March (Tuesday); 7:45pm, Greenford Community Centre, room 9.



New Education Centre

Things are happening, in the background, at a pace ... the Technical Drawings are being worked up by Strawworks, for submission to the Council for Building Control Approval; and another Grant Application "Expression of interest" has been submitted. Another funder has expressed interest, and Groundworks are helping us with an application to the National Lottery not only for capital funding for the build, but to fund the later Educational Work that the new building will enable.

Although Planning Consent has been granted we've been tweaking the scheme, and one realisation is that the project as approved did not meet some of the design objectives, and John Morrell has come up with an amendment that we are now working on - replacing what would have been an ugly steel cabinet as a tool store,



Following the Swift Conservatoin Trust's talk in the Autumn, we are considering building a Swift Tower at the Reserve; this is the kind of project that will attract Grant assistance, and the tower could attract, and support a colony of Swifts, which would grace and enhance the Reserve. We're waiting on advice from the Trust whether the Reserve would be a suitable location, and where best to place such a tower, before we progress grant applications and commissioning work.

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with a purpose built structure containing an Accessible Toilet, a canopied area and the cycle stands. This will mean that the old "hut" need not be altered externally (we'd planned the canopied area to be there) but can form the tool store and a "mess room" for working parties, plus perhaps a bit of a workshop.

John and I went on a trianing course with StrawWorks on the 29th Jan, and one realisation is what a huge amount of ground work needs to be done before we can start the build proper- a work programme is being worked up and we will be looking for volunteers to help us get the whole area ready - the work will involve for instance clearing the existing hut of much of the stuff that is stored, to enable the construction of a secure tool store and shelving, then moving things from the garage / tool shed into the new store, and demolshing the garage, digging trenches to accommodate water pipes, cables and so on, and repositioning the water trough for the horses. When its finalised we'll publicise the plan on the blog

<http://selbornesociety.wordpress.com/>

and ask for Volunteers ...

The sharp eyed will notice that the image above has changed slightly; the planning approval is for a cedar roof, cheaper and lighter, than a green one, which we've not been able to identify funding for.

Coach Outings:

The February Slimbridge outing is now full with a waiting list of one, if you want to come and have not booked it would be worth phoning or emailing to get on the waiting list, as often there are cancellations. But no guarantees!

And we are planning our next outing for the 11th June to Selborne Village. Full information with the next Mailing, which will be out in the next few weeks.

And in the autumn we hope to organise a 3rd outing, this time to [Wrest Park](#), an English Heritage property near Luton.



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