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The Selborne Society Bulletin

April, 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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April promises to be a busy month!

This is deliberately a few days early, to remind you about the Society's AGM, which is on the 1st April, and while these have a reputation for being long and tedious they are vital to the life of the Society; it is the moment when our Members elect the Society's Council, when Members can if they want stand for Election, you can respond to our annual report and Accounts (but you can download that from [here](#) in glowing colour and A4 format ... there will be copies at the AGM but A5 booklet and dull old monochrome!)

I am delighted to say that we have two nominations for Council, John Morrell and Nick. Glenn. John has been very active in the new building project, and Nick has been bringing a group of younger volunteers to the Reserve to assist with Conservation Tasks for a couple of years. Both will be very welcome additions to the Society's Governing Council. It is with regret though that we note the Resignation of Wendy Knight; Wendy has been on Council for several years and is one of our longest standing members. Wendy has found new interests - BATS! - but will continue to support the Society. Thank you, Wendy for your contribution in the past!

Other documents you might find useful for the AGM include the [draft minutes of the last agm](#), the [notice and agenda](#)

Following the AGM, there will be an update on the new building project and a

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chance to see the models that John Morrell has made.

Secondly there is the **Open Day** on the 27th. This promises to be bigger and better than ever - do please give it publicity (download fliers from [here A4](#), or [here for 2xA5 on A4](#) and publicise locally - in shops, through schools, Churches, other faith groups, at work - where ever! invite friends and family. I ll email later with more news of open day, but we are planning to have a presentation about the new building, which with luck will include a straw bale building demonstration - rubber tyres are "in" for a demonstration of rubber tyre foundations, and we ve got some clay to puddle to turn into render. We will have some Straw Bales and will build and render a demonstration "corner" of a straw bale building. Volunteers will be welcome to help with this --- see below - - beware ... it will be messy, but fun! Old clothes, that do not matter if they get a bit of clay on them, are indicated! (it should wash off just fine).

As always local community and environmental groups will be have stalls, and it should be a great day!

New Education Centre --- more progress



Momentum is building; though we ve not got full funding yet, there are a couple of grant applications pending.

The really exciting news is that the Building Regulation work is now more or less completed and the Application to Building Control was submitted on the 28th March. This is the technical stuff, to ensure that the building is properly designed and constructed, is safe, secure, well insulated and so on. It will take some weeks for the Building Control Division at Ealing to satisfy themselves about the building; the chances are that they ve will never have dealt with a building made of straw and sitting on recycled car tyres before, so they might take some convincing (in fact, one reason why we are using the Council rather than an independent contractor is so that Officers get to see and experience sustainable buildings).

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The Society Council met in March to consider the new building, and adopted a cautious approach - since funding is not yet completed, the decision was to start this year with preparatory work, which will included the laying of drainage to the Reserve for the very first time, and the installation of a proper, flushing toilet - the current proposal is that this will go to the north of the existing building (theres a very rough sketch [here](#)), so, for the very first time, there will be proper loos at the Reserve.

The next phase will be to form a new tool store in the existing hut, which will need clearing first, and then to transfer the tools from the tool store into the new store. That will complete the programme for 2014, but put us in a great place to start work in 2015 on the main build. We have a Gantt Chart you can download from [here](#)

Incidentally, Strawworks, who have designed and inspired our building, have an open day on a project in Banbury on the 3rd April - information from [here](#) if you want to go.

Whats on

The Society's activities for the next couple of months

29 Mar (Sat) **8:30 pm – Earth Hour At the Reserve <http://www.earthhour.org> - The event encourages individuals, households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour as a symbol of their commitment to the planet.**

We will Join this event by assembling at Perivale woods and sitting around a camp fire, a source of natural light, in the spirit of times past when the earth's natural resources were often shared by communities. In doing so, we will be contributing to the Earth Hour movement simply by being away from our homes and not using electrical power.

Bring a lantern or torch, something to drink (alcoholic beverages permitted) and a fold-up chair if you have one. Snacks to be passed around are welcome but it is not a food event per se. If you would like to bring an instrument to play, all the better.

We look forward to seeing you there in a communal spirit of environmental awareness

1 Apr (Tue) **Our annual General Meeting 7:45 followed by Refreshments and a talk. At Greenford Community Centre.**The AGM is a vital moment in any organisation's life – a moment when you, the members, can comment on the Society and it's activities,

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vote for members of Council – stand for election yourself if you wish – review the accounts. It usually only lasts about 45 minutes, but it really is important! Followed by a talk about the new building project, progress and timescale

Please come if you can.

- 5 Apr (Sat) **Field meeting at Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve: 2pm;** Nic. Ferriday will lead on “wildflowers”.
- 12 Apr (Sat) **Junior Section 2.00 pm at the Reserve -** Look deep into a pond - come pond dipping with the water boatman.
- 13 Apr (Sun) **Conservation Management at the Reserve. 10.00 am**
- 26 Apr (Sat) **Open day preparations 2pm onwards ...** Please come and help set up for this important day in the Society's Life.
- 27 Apr (Sun) **Open Day 10 am to 4:30 pm** if you are able to help, stewarding, making produce, etc. do please let us know.
- 3 May (Sat) **Field Meeting at Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve, 2pm"An introduction to Entomology"** with Fiona Barclay, Stephen Menzie and Steve Rutt. There will be a moth-trap, butterflies and bees and bees will be chased, and there will be an insect sized pit-fall trap. Sounds full and fun!;
- 4 May (Sun) **Dawn Chorus - our annual celebration of the Dawn Chorus 04.00 am!** led by sharp eared experts, see the sun rise and greet the new day, with nature's own accompaniment. It is a brilliant way to start the day.
- Meet at the Reserve Entrance at 04:00 Sharp, bring warm clothes (waterproofs too), a torch, and perhaps a flask. Something to sit on – some bubblewrap or a bottom sized jiffy bag – is a good idea too!
- 10 May (Sat) **Junior Section Sensory trail - discovering what birds and mice see.**
- 11 May (Sun) **Conservation Management at the Reserve. 10.00 am**

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Open Day

Open Day relies on a team of about 50 members who volunteer to help set up, staff and clear up afterwards! It is when we showcase the Reserve, and recruit new members, so it is really important tht it goes well. This year we will have a big presentation on the new building, including the models (see above); we expect to have the Tree Hide open for visitors, and

As usual we'll have and selling of the jams; the bees and their honey; clearing the paths and putting up notices; dealing with members and doing the posters; getting in books, plants and bric-a-brac; making cakes and doing the teas; (cleaning the toilets); leading a butterfly walk; talking about ponds; manning the gate – nature trail leaflets, wild flowers and mini beasts; children's conservation game; putting up tents and tables; clearing up – dealing with rubbish and what's left! And lots more still to do!

Can you help? Please ! Either - just come along on the morning of Saturday, 26th April – around 11am - or phone Tom Berry on 020 8422 3284 to ask how you can help! And – help is needed on the day itself!

Is it worth it? Definitely! People come again and again. They love to see the wood and how lovely it still is. The helpers chat over and over sharing their enthusiasm with the visitors. The wood is what enthral them all. For this one day in the year Perivale Wood really does fulfil its commitment to the wider community – educational, social and practical.

you can download a poster - [A4](#) or [2x A5](#) to print, display, hand out to friends and colleagues, at school ... wherever! Like us on Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin and any other social media. We're hoping to have the usual selection of like minded organisations - RSPB, FoE, Ramblers and so on - if you are a member of a group who would like to have a stall, do please get in touch - contact@selbornesociety.org.uk



Eel Monitoring

Chris Cockel from the Environment Trust advises that the Eel Monitoring Training will be on April 29th and May 16th, Both training in the Residents' Club Room at Brentford Dock, TW8 8QH, starting at 6pm.

They are looking for people who live relatively locally and would be able to helping monitoring elvers over the 2014 season that runs from late April to September. The amount of commitment required depends largely on how many volunteers we get. Last year, some people helped out just a couple of times, while others helped out perhaps once or twice a week.

More information from their poster, which you can

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Building a Straw Bale Wall for Open Day

Will you help to get ready for Open Day, please?

We are planning to erect a sample of the straw bale wall that we will be using for the Education Centre construction.

If anyone can volunteer for a few hours before the end of the month that would be great.

The activities we need to carry out are;

1. Dig a shallow trench in which to sit our tyres and fill them with gravel to create the foundations. Using tyres to sit our build on is a recognised method for our type of building, it is environmentally friendly and provides protection against rising damp.
2. Cut from the wood, and sharpen, hazel to provide stakes that are needed to pin the straw bales together as they are built up on each other.
3. Puddle some clay. We have a few bags of clay that requires to be squished and squashed to provide a thick paste so that open day visitors can try hand 'plastering' the straw bale wall. This is a potentially messy activity as it means walking around on pieces of clay in wellies, adding water, until it is a nice sticky paste.

A plea for help!

Our Minute Secretary has hung up her quill pen! It would be great if there was someone willing to come to Council Meetings (and the AGM) - typically only 4 or 5 meetings a year, take notes, and turn them into typewritten (ok, word processed) minutes! offers to contact@selbornesociety.org.uk.

Calling all Allotmenters

Horsenden Allotments and Gardens Association are having a Spring show (vegetables/flowers/handicraft etc) at the All Hallows Church Hall (Elton Avenue/Horsenden Lane North, Greenford) on the 12th April

The Association als has a 'trading hut' on one of the allotment sites where they sells gardening products at VERY competitive prices the hut is at the allotment site [behind the Scout Hut in Whitton Avenue East](#) - there is a price comparison poster [here](#)

Donations

We are very happy to accept donations towards the new building; payment can be made by cheque

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7. Erect some bales to part form a wall. This wall can then be used as a demonstration on the building and clay plastering of the wall. Visitors will be able to try hand plastering.

Proposed days for volunteering;

Saturdays – 5th, 12th, 17th April - Final preparation 26th

Tuesdays - 8th, 15th, 22nd April

Times; 10.00am to 4.00pm

but those are provisional at the moment; if you would like to help, then you can register - there is a [form](#) on the [Blog](#), and if you register then we'll be in touch to confirm details.

If you can not make these dates and times but would like to help, or would like to help in the future so would like to be kept in touch, then register too. There's a comments box you can tell us more about.

drawn to the Seborne Society Ltd and sent to 36 Ferrymead Gardens, Greenford, UB6 9NF the Society's Registered Office. If you are a uk taxpayer we can claim the tax back; there's a gift aid form [here](#) you can download and fill in.

We will, at open day have a variety of sponsorship opportunites - buy (us) a bale, and so on, and more informaion about that will be released soon.

And we are grateful to the family of Christopher Goddard, who died recently; his family have asked "no flowers" and donations to the Selborne Society to commemorate his life and acheivements. We will have a Roll of Honour in the New Building to mark such donations.



Budding young scientists across the UK to take part in The Big Bumblebee Discovery and to record information about bumblebees visiting lavender plants this summer. If you would like to find out more or join in, please [sign up](#)

Selborne Village, Coach Outing, 11th June

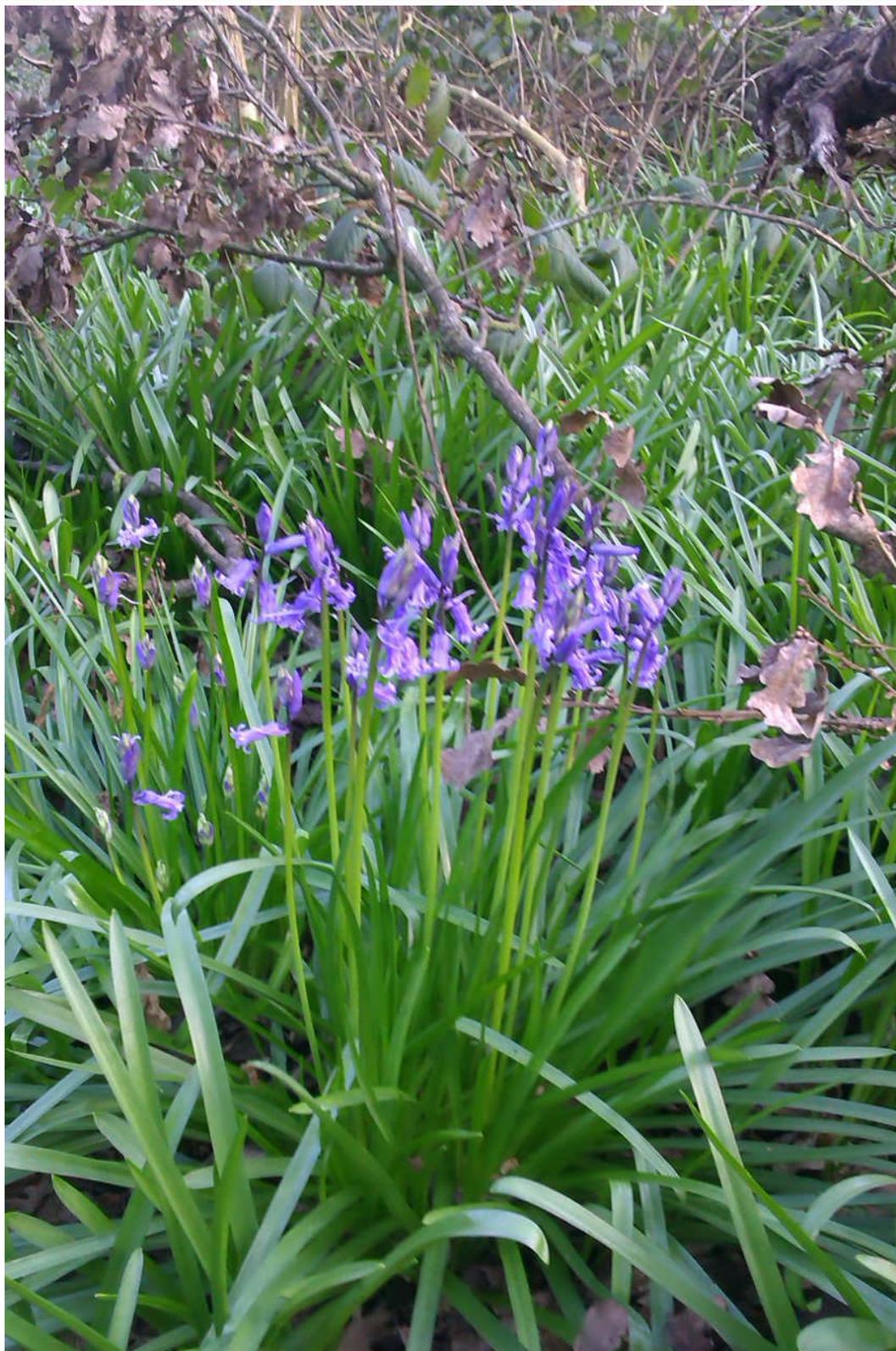
Places are going fast for this, and if you want to join us then book soon. You can download a booking form from [here](#)

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Some early bluebells ... this was taken on the 18th March, an isolated clump that are ahead of the others.

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