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The Selborne Society Bulletin

May, 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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I hope that you will forgive this being a few days early, but it is Open Day very soon, and I thought it would be good to send out the newsletter early.

Open day preparations are progressing well! We've bought a couple of urns, to help the catering, straw bales for the demonstration of the straw bale building, a banner is on order, and the Marquee that we borrowed off the Rugby Club last year is in the hut awaiting erection.

All we need now is good weather and lots, and lots of helpers ... see below! The set up starts at 10:00 am on Saturday 26th, and usually takes a few hours. All help very welcome! And of course we need help too for the Open Day itself, to help with stewarding, sales, and providing general bon homie! And the clear up at the end of the day! Turn up on either Saturday or Sunday, or call or email Tom (below) to say you are coming.

New Education Centre --- more progress



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It seems like quick, slow, quick quick slow, or perhaps, slow, slow, slow slow slow ... last time I advised that the Building Regulations application was in; how did 4 weeks pass so fast? So the technical stuff is perambulating through slowly now; but there is plenty of time!

For Open day we are planning a demonstration of straw bale building, and bales have been bought (Osterley Farm, only £2.50 each, but not construction quality) and are now at the Reserve; clay is in stock for puddling, and a rough foundation has been laid.

The bluebells are great at the moment; with luck they will last to Open Day itself. We have the usual collection of stalls from other organisations such as the RSPB and Ramblers, and the Wood itself is in fine fettle. Jams have been produced a plenty, and one of the Beekeepers at the Reserve will be selling honey.

The two grant applications (£25K each) have been launched, and a third preliminary enquiry (£50K) is on its way ... we are so close to getting sufficient funding for the building. Of course we will be fundraising at Open Day, so bring cash or cheque book (we hope to have chip and pin available too).

Whats on

The Society's activities for the next couple of months

- 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

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torch, and perhaps a flask. Something to sit on – some bubblewrap or a bottom sized jerry 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** (see note at foot of page 2)

7 Jun (Sat) **Field Meeting at Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve, 2pm;** Peter Warne will take us pond dipping, exploring the Reserve's ponds and streams, to see what lurks within.

8 Jun (Sun) **Conservation Management at the Reserve. 10.00 am** (see note at foot of page 2)

11 Jun (Wed) **Coach Outing to Selborne Village:**

See separate flier for full details; depart Ealing Broadway 09:00, Perivale Station 09:15; spend the day in this beautiful Hampshire Village, have a meal in one of the two pubs, or the Tea Room at the Gilbert White House and Museum. In the past this has been a fantastic day, hugely enjoyed by all. Places limited so early application recommended!

14 Jun (Sat) **Junior Section meeting Capture the sun with your own sundial!**

27 and 28 **Bioblitz at Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve**

June

To mark “National Insect Week” we will be holding a “Bioblitz” involving checking moth trap contents and beetle traps in the morning and exploring the reserve to draw up a list of invertebrates and other organisms present.

This is a joint event between the Amateur Entomologists Society, the London Natural History Society, and the Selborne Society. **Programme likely to include:** 27th, evening mothing session open to the public; 28th; examination of moth traps, pond dipping, bird walks, plant walk, and butterfly walk; further information and timings to follow. Stewards etc. greatly appreciate!



We were pleased that our Education Centre project has been accepted by Green Redeem as one of

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their projects. Those who live in Ealing may know that GreenRedeem is a new scheme under which you get points for recycling, and those points can either be converted to rewards, or donated to the project of your choice (gentle hint here! Please make the Selborne Society your choice!). The maximum is £1000, and we have bid for this.

If you live in Ealing (or anywhere that the GreenRedeem scheme operates) please register ... add the code HFR when you register, and the Society's account will immediately be credited with 25 points; As you recycle you will accumulate points, and when you have 200 points please donate these to the Society's Project (200 equals £1); amazingly we already have £57 donated, and only been registered a week! If all our local members do this, we will **very quickly** reach our £1000 target!

You can see more about [GreenRedeem](#) here. Our project is listed as "Education and Research Centre" and has our Gilbert White Logo (Top Left) as it's Icon. You can download instructions on how to donate from [here](#)

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 that 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

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Building a Straw Bale Wall for Open Day

We are planning to erect a sample of the straw bale wall that we will be using for the Education Centre construction. Demonstration quality Straw Bales have been delivered ... see above!

We've prepared the ground with some tyres (courtesy of Quick Fix in South Ealing, who are a great source of worn out tyres! Thank you guys, we know you would have thrown them away otherwise!) formed a base beam out of old pallets, and so are ready to build with bales.

The Demo will include, clay puddling for the render (wear old clothes if you want to have a go. might be a bit splashy!), building the wall, cutting and sharpening the hazel stakes that will stabilise the wall;

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.

Donations

We are very happy to accept donations towards the new building; payment can be made by cheque 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 opportunities - buy (us) a bale, and so on, and more information about that will be released soon.

Selborne Village, Coach Outing, 11th June

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and rendering with clay. The various activities will take place through the day ... it ought be a lot of fun, quite messy, and very interactive!

We will be looking for volunteers to help with the actual build, and if you would like to help, then you can register - there is a [form](#) on the [Blog](#),

There's a comments box you can tell us more about you, your skills etc.,

AGM

The AGM went very well; there were only about 33 members present, which in a Society with 1100 plus members is a disappointment, but we were quorate, and the business was conducted. The Notes have not yet been typed up but I will ensure they are available on line as soon as possible.

We were sorry to say farewell to Wendy Kinght, who has been a Trustee for a number of years - Thank you, Wendy for all you have done. But, very pleased to welcome 4 new Trustees Nic. Glen, John Morrell, John Sears, and Charles Bax-Robinson.

The Directors annual report and accounts can be [downloaded from the website](#) if you want to see them.

There are still a few places on this, and if you want to join us then book soon. We may take a few bookings on Open Day and that would fill us up. You can download a booking form from [here](#).



An article in the Gazette told us about the London National Park ... Daniel, who is heading up the project, will be speaking to our evening meeting in December, and you can see more about the proposal here <http://www.greaterlondonnationalpark.org.uk/> ... Dan. is particularly keen that you sign the Petition <http://www.greaterlondonnationalpark.org.uk/get-involved/help/>

Perivale Library

Members will know that keys to the reserve can be borrowed from Perivale Library in exchange for the deposit of a membership card .. this is very popular, and has worked well for about 50 years or so!! However, On Maunday Thursday I got a phone call from the Library that a member had presented and was quite persistent ... even though the Library staff were rightly refusing to hand over a key as the person did not have a current membership card.

I have apologised to the staff on behalf of the Society, and promised that I would report the incident in the newsletter; the conditions are perfectly clear, if you are not a member or do not have a current card with you, then you have no right to

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Air Pollution ... smoke has been seen rising above the Wood on a couple of occasions, and the source seems to be the industrial unit on the other side of the Canal, at the back of Owens Fabrications.

This has been reported to London Borough of Ealing Pollution Control Section, who have spoken to the unit concerned, and would like any further incidents reported to them - use telephone number [0208 825 8111](tel:02088258111), and if possible quote reference [wk/2014 09651](#)

be loaned a key. It is your responsibility to meet the conditions, not the Library's to bend the rules!

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