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The Selborne Society Bulletin

July, 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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The Build Continues ...



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We have a floor, we have walls, we have a roof, we have windows* and we have a door frame (making the door is next on the agenda)

The accessible loo is really taking shape; Many thanks to our volunteers John Morrell (pictured, putting the door frame in), John Sears, John Gilbert, Mani, and Howard have I forgotten anyone? I hope not!

More pictures of work in progress on the Blog, which I am trying to keep up to date (not very successfully!).

Next Volunteer day Tuesday 5th August, 10:00 at the Reserve ... the next jobs include

- outside cladding,
- insulate ceiling and internal wall and line with ply.
- Cleaning up basin and pedestal,
- running water piping and
- putting in windows

and the following working session will be the 12th, when we may tile floor, install toilet and basin, paint the outside, varnish the inside.

And for the new Education Centre, the wheels continue to turn - Hannah Hunt of Strawworks has answered the Building Inspector's enquiries, and so we are moving along to get building regulation approval

We are trying to find Builders able to quote for drainage and this is becoming urgent! if you know a company who would be willing to do this kind of work then do please let me know as soon as possible - contact@selbornesociety.org.uk

As a new building for charitable use, we think there is a prospect that we can recover the VAT, if you are, or know any, vat experts able to advise us, don't be shy!

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As always, you can keep up to date on the Blog selbornesociety.wordpress.com

*rather stylish stained glass ones courtesy of a neighbour who had them at the back of their garage for some years!

Whats on

The Society's activities for the next couple of months

- 2 Aug (Sat) **Adult Field meeting. 2.00 pm at the Reserve;**
- Fiona Barclay will lead one of her fascinating walks looking for Bumble Bees in the Reserve, telling us about these creatures and their importance as pollinators. She usually finds a few other things of interest too
- 9 Aug (Sat) **Junior Section Colour games and a picnic in the meadow.**
- 10 Aug (Sun) **Conservation management at the Reserve. 10.00 am** (see note at foot of page 2)
- 6 Sep (Sat) **Adult Field meeting. 2.00 pm at the Reserve;**
- Laura Belton will take us on a tour of the Reserve, sharing her knowledge and expertise on Ferns.
- 13 Sep (Sat) **Juniors Section 2pm at the Reserve. Fruit, nuts, berries – magic spots!**
- 14 Sep (Sun) **Conservation Management at the Reserve. 10.00 am** (see note at foot of page 2)
- 20 Sep (Sat) **Astronomy Evening at Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve: 8pm** in conjunction with our friends from the West of London Astronomical Society (WOLAS) ... No Moon or planets about that night , we'll just have to look at the constellations, star clusters, nebulae and galaxies. Fingers crossed for a clear night, and wrap up warm ... 8 pm start.

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Our first winter evening meeting will be on 4th October and we do not yet have a speaker booked suggestions for something relevant and topical, conservation or wildlife interest, gratefully received. We pay speakers fee of £35 plus travel expenses.

Oak Processionary Moth



I was contacted in mid July by contractors for the Forestry Commission, to survey of Perivale Wood for Oak Processionary Moth (OPM for short). OPM is an invasive non-native species that arrived in the UK in 2006 or thereabouts. It came in on trees that were used to landscape a housing estate in the Kew Area, and has slowly spread out from there despite efforts to control it.

It is significant as it produces many, highly irritating hairs - these blow on the wind and can cause rashes, asthma, eye irritation and even in severe cases anaphylaxis; It is also damaging to Oak Trees, which are its preferred habitat.

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Unsurprisingly OPM was found in the Reserve - just 8 nests, a light infection - and so at the end of July contractors came and hand picked off the nests, to remove the infestation.

It is unlikely though that **all** the nests have been found and removed and it is likely that there are other nests present; there is therefore a risk that visitors to the Reserve could be affected. There are some signs on display warning and giving advice.

As a further precaution, the Forestry Commission are requiring us to treat the affected trees, and those close by, in the spring with an insecticide, BT. This is not specific to OPM, and will certainly affect larvae of other species to a greater or lesser extent.

OPM is now widespread in West London - nests have been found on Horsenden Hill, and places such as Richmond Park and Kew Gardens are also affected. The intention is to control rather than eradicate it.

The Society's Council are considering its position - so far treatments have been funded by the Government via the Forestry Commission, but if not then the Society will have to pay for treatments at the Reserve.

Surveys

There are a couple of other survey going on at the Reserve - John Dobson is surveying flies, and has been at the Reserve in the past couple of weeks complete with Sweep Nets and Specimen Jars, collecting all manner of beasties for identification. and Nigel Cane - Honeysett has been doing Spiders, leaving pitfall traps out to catch spiders (and others too of course) and sweep netting too to see what he can find. And of course David Howdon and others continue moth trapping and transect surveys on a regular basis, and Nicola Goddard is monitoring our slow worms.

If you'd be interested in carrying out survey work for us, please get in touch using contact@selbornesociety.org.uk; some surveys are quite simple, requiring persistence rather than expertise. And we have the "bycatch" from the spider pitfall traps (thats all the other things that fell into the traps that were not spiders" that it would be great to identify and record and preserve mainly beetles, but other things too.

Conservation Management:

Every month we have a conservation management session at Perivale Wood - an important time when we carry out essential jobs to preserve the Reserves biodiversity, and to carry out any maintenance or improvements that are needed. The current joblist includes building a post and rail fence, pulling brambles, finishing off the boundary fence - there is plenty of work for willing hands. Even if you can not help with physical work, wielding the teapot is a valuable role much appreciated by our eager volunteers.

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If you can help, we will be delighted to see you ... 2nd Sunday of every month from 10:00 am to about 12:30 or beyond.

Mailing

You ought to have received the Summer Mailing through your letterbox by now; You can download the documents from here:

[Newsletter](#)

[Diary](#)

[Wrest Park Coach Outing Flier](#)

At the moment most of our 3 times a year newsletters are distributed in paper, but they are available electronically too from the website - see above. If you are willing to receive yours only by email, it will save the Society costs as well as trouble (Rae is a saint, enveloping 700 odd copies of the newsletter and diligently labelling the envelopes, then distributing them either to volunteers who hand deliver them, saving us hundreds of pounds in postage, or taking them to the Post Office to be posted. Please let me know either by completing [this form](#) or email contact@selbornesociety.org.uk



We now have £180.00 (£117 last month!) donated through Ealing Council's Green Redeem project ... **thank you so much if you are one of the Donors!**

For those of you who are not using the project, our Education Centre project has been accepted by Green Redeem as one of their projects. 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); If all our local members do this, we will **very quickly** reach our £1000 target!

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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](#)

"Social" Media

The Society is increasingly using its [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts for news and information; do please Like and Follow us as appropriate to keep up to date. And of course there is the [blog](#) that is updated regarding the Building Project. And you can find us on [Streetlife](#), too; its a sort of local version of Facebook.

Happy Holidays

August, and the Schools holidays have started - with luck we'll have some good weather and a lot of people will be going away - if you are going away then why not make an effort to discover the local wildlife - buy a guide to the area you are visiting, pack binoculars, magnifying glass, camera (of course) note book, and explore what there is around you. If your on the coast, rock pools are fascinating - and look out for sea birds too of course.

Check out the local attractions - do any of them have wildlife interest; check out museums (boring maybe not!) and places like National Parks, National Trust properties, and Reserves run by our friends the RSPB, Wildlife and Wetlands Trusts and Wildlife Trusts.

Locally, then there is masses to do in London - the Natural History Museum is of course great, as is the Science Museum; there's the Wallace Collection, the Wellcome Institute and further afield but accessible by public transport, the Horniman Museum (South London) - all these are free entry.

Downe House, which was Darwin's home, run by English Heritage can also be visited by Public Transport (it takes some planning I am told!) and is a truly inspiring place to visit.

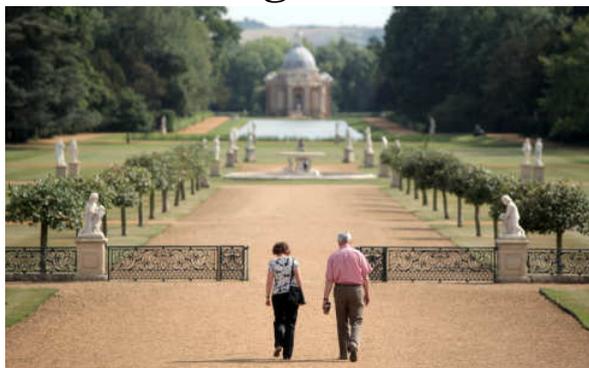
There's London Zoo and in Hanwell the Animal Centre at Brent Lodge Park.

And of course Members of the Society can borrow a key to Perivale Wood - from the Library or the Cafe Rendezvous, and visit the Reserve - but remember the code of conduct when you are there please.

Have a great summer!

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Coach Outing to Wrest Park



Bookings are now flowing in for the outing to Wrest Park near Luton in October ... the 14th. Pick up will be at Ealing Broadway at 9:00 am or Perivale Station at 9.15am.

Costs are - Coach £16.00 per person; Entry to Wrest Park £9.00 (£8.10 for concessions or free for English Heritage Members) - suppliments include a guided garden tour £2.00 and "Uncovered Treasures" - a behind the scenes artifacts tour £3.00.

Wonderful Gardens to enjoy, and it should be a great day out. Open to Society Members and their Guests, booking form with fuller information was enclosed with the recent mailing or you can download it from [here](#).

Jars and Fruit ... and Lavender

Open Day Jam sales raised over £700 ... fantastic, thanks to the Jam makers Clare and Elsa ... but they need

- JARS, 1/2 and 1 lb jars please with metal or plastic lids., and

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'll be setting up an on line donation page in the near future!

The Selborne Society Library - an update

In the previous bulletin I mentioned that the Society's Library is on the move from Southall to Ealing Central Library. Southall Library closed

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FRUIT - all kinds and tomatoes -- surplus from allotments and gardens, to be frozen down and Jammified for next year.

Email clarecvernon@hotmail.co.uk or elsapawley@hotmail.com to offer either Jars or Fruit.

And Lavender ... Gillian Brown would like Lavender (with the heads cut off the stalks please) to turn into fundraising lavender bags. Please keep any you have spare for Gillian,

Citizen Science:

A couple of programmes are runing that members may want to take part in; one the [Big Butterfly Count](#)

And a couple of apps ... the People's Trust for Endangered Species have an app for reporting road kill ([IOS](#)) or ([Android](#)) - depressing but a surprisingly good source of information about what is (was) living where! And the Mammal Society have an App for recording Mammals ([Android](#)) and ([IOS](#)).

Wildlife Gardening Forum:

The next Conference will be on Friday 28th November at the Natural History Museum in London. The theme will be "Biological Recording and Citizen Science in the Garden", but there will also be a workshop based on the next few year's goals for the Forum, and we are planning

recently and the collection is now in storage, the Cupboards that we ordered are nearly ready and will be delivered to Ealing Central Library in the near future; we'll then be able to have the collection, accessible and on display. Looking forward to this --- in my 20 plus years membership of the Society and 6 years as a Trustee and 4 and a half as Secretary, I've never seen this collection!

Thanks to Frances Hounsell, our Volunteer Librarian, who has been instrumental in setting this up.

And the old cupboards are being stored as they'll be of use in the new building!

Alice in the Walled Garden

I've been asked to mention this, a performance in Walpole Park; *"Meet Alice, the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat the Caterpillar and their friends in the magical world of the walled garden. This beautifully crafted promenade performance brings this story to life for a modern audience whilst staying true to Carroll's classic text."* 21st-25th August; more info & TICKETS, FROM <http://www.sixteenfeet.co.uk/portfolio/alice-in-the-walled-garden-2/>

sounds like fun

A visit to the Linnean Society

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a launch for the new website.

Please ink the date in your planners.

Steve Head

wlgf@stephenmhead.com

Next Bulletin

I m away at the beginning of September, so there will not be a September bulletin - sorry! Next issue will be October, and so this contains a bit more diary information than usual

Monday 3rd November, 2pm. Piccadilly to see the Society's collection of Books that are housed there; lead by expert Dr June Chatfield, former Curator at the Gilbert White House in Selborne Village; free, but booking essential ... make your own way to the Linnean. More infor and book your place (free, but places limited so booking essential) <http://snipurl.com/sslinnean>. Includes Gilbert Whites Manuscript "Garden Calendar".



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