



The Selborne

Society Bulletin

December, 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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Didn't they do well ...



The team have been having fun ... they were joined by a small digger, driven by our member Phil. Belman, who used it expertly to pull some trees that were in the way of the Education Centre. We hired the Digger for a week, and used it, too, to dig the new pond that we've been talking about for - er - years, and also to dig a trench, from the old hut to the Wood, on the North side of the hedge (beside the path); an electric cable and water pipe have been buried and the ditch filled in, so that we will be able to use mains electricity in the wood more easily and safely. The main use at the moment is moth trapping, and that's either been done by running out long (and slightly dangerous) leads. or using the Society's Generator, or a battery powered trap. both those can still be used, but hopefully the mains electricity will be very useful.

The water pipe was to enable the horse trough to be repositioned in the corner of the field - it's really ugly (any one up for building an attractive wooden housing to camouflage it? or at least paint it nicely!!) again, something that has been planned for a couple of years but we needed the Digger to be available for the trench.

They dug the long awaited new pond. It is massive - 20 m long and 4 m wide, it is an expansion of a the "sluice" on the Eastern Boundary - though a sea of mud at the moment, it will rapidly become colonised by appropriate plants and animals - nature is a WONDERFUL thing!! The "Sluice" which was there before has always been the first place that we've found frogspawn, so next year the frogs are in for a treat! Photo below.

Oh, and we cut down an Elm, which we think is suitable for the corner post for the new building - well done Peter and Paul! Needs to be checked and OK'd by our Structural Surveyor and Building Control, but if all is well, it will be a beautiful feature in a beautiful building.

Most of that, of course, is not actually related to the Education Centre Build, so back to the main plot! Last month the old hut was being partitioned. Now, the partition is complete, and we've moved tools and the bench in from the old garage. You can see them in transit and installed - neat! Tidy! Organised (well, nearly ...).

Next ... the Garage will be demolished - hopefully on Tuesday 2nd December. Being concrete slabs, we can dismantle it and hopefully the concrete slabs can be used as paving.

The next job will be to do the foundations for the Education Centre - digging holes

for the Rubber Tyres. And , of course, the drain connection which we hope will start in January 2015.

The blog has - at last - been updated ... <http://selbornesociety.wordpress.com/> (photo of the pond there) and there is a [flickr feed with more photos.](#)

The project has a name - Project 21 - inspired as we are building to serve the Reserve into the 21st Century, and a Logo -



Do come and see what we've been up to - a good time would be the Winter Bonfire, when we 'll be burning some of the scrap timber that we've got - We'll be at the Reserve from 1pm, till dusk; you can go for a winter walk round as well, or just Chill (hopefully not too much!)

What's on

The Society's activities for the next couple of months

- 2 Dec (Tue) **Evening meeting: 7.45pm Greenford Community Centre** - did you know that there is a proposal to make Greater London a National Park? Daniel Raven-Ellison, who's vision it is – will be explaining and the proposal and what it needs to progress –
- 6 Dec (Sat) **Field Meeting 1.30 pm (note earlier time!) at the Reserve** . John Winget will lead a winter walk around the Reserve.

13 Dec (Sat) **Junior Section, 2.00 pm at the Reserve**

Christmas and a New Year soon to come! Come and see this years last surprise! Remember – dress warmly and bring something to eat!

14 Dec (Sun) **Conservation Management at The Reserve. 10.00 am**

2015

Sat 3 Jan	1:30 PM	Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	Rendezvous at the Reserve for our annual walk over Horsende Hill with Martin Smith, wear appropriate clothing (warm. Waterproof) and footwear (boots recommended). Back to the Reserve Hut after for warming refreshments. Fascinating information about local history etc.,
Sun 4 Jan	01:00 PM	Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	Winter in the Wood – a chance for all members to visit the Wood in the Winter, and bring guests, family and friends. We'll be having a bonfire, and some warming food – tea and coffee but feel free to bring other beverages. You'll be able to see progress with the build, and hear about the next steps.
Tue 6 Jan			There is no meeting this evening.
Sat 10 Jan	1:45 PM	Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	Junior Section: Animal Homes – the wood in winter.
Sun 11 Jan	10:00 AM	Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	Conservation Management -one of our regular volunteer sessions to carry out essential work at the Reserve; see note at the foot of page 2 for more information
Wed 21 Jan	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	Hedgelaying Course: expert Clive Leeke will tutor hedgelaying one of the Reserves Hedges ... perhaps the first in a series of similar courses in the future. Limited to 10 places, so early booking advised - £50 for the day; all tools etc. supplied. Plus a warming lunch, and all the tea you can drink. See Clives website www.traditionalhedgelaying.co.uk for more information. Hint; a perfect Christmas prezzie for the mad axeman or woman in your life!

Conservation Management:

Every month we have a conservation management session at Perivale Wood - a 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 next date is the 14th December, 10:00 AM when we will be assembling next boxes to use in our Nest Box Scheme around the Reserve. The current joblist includes building a post and rail fence, pulling brambles, finishing off the boundary fence - Clearing vegetation around Little Elm Meadow Pond.

General clearance around the pond dipping platform is also needed in Pondfield

A longer term vision is to turn the eastern boundary from a scrappy line of sbrubs into a hedge. The resultant hedge , well managed, could mean that the fence would become, if not redundant, only a part of the boundary defences ... and of course hedges are brilliant habitats!

So 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.

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. Bring some Sarnies, we usually end up nattering afterwards.



We now have £540 donated through Ealing Council's Green Redeem project ... an astonishing £110 more than last month thank you so much if you are one of the Donors! And, if you are not, then **please read on**

GreenRedeem is a 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! We are last on the list, and titled "Education and Research Centre, beside the Society's Logo of good old Revd. Gilbert White). 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!

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](#)

Next coach Outing

the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust Nature Reserve at Welney, on the 10th February; we are also planning trips to Sissinghurst (2nd June) and Hever Castle (7th September) --- full information in the respective mailings.

Details for the Welney Trip are - coach seat, £17.00, admission, full price £6.70, concessions

Oops

In the recent mailing requesting Volunteers, the link to the Registration form did not work; Sorry! Here is a working link (I hope ..)

[Volunteer Registration Form](#)

(65plus, full time students, unemployed) ££5.10, free to members of the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust), Depart 8.30 Ealing Broadway, 08:45 Perivale. More information from the flier ([click](#))

Places are going fast - we are 2/3 full already, so do book early. If we find that we are oversubscribed, then first we'll have a reserve system, and then if numbers justify it we may organise a second coach on the same day.



Learn to lay a Hedge like this ... course at Perivale Wood 21st Jan. £50, under the expert tutillage of Clive Leeke, (www.traditionalhedgelaying.co.uk) - a few places left! but we will run other courses in future if you can not make this one. book via contact@selbornesociety.org.uk.

Found ... one Minute Secretary!

I ve been going on about this for AGES ... and so am really pleased to report that we have a new Minute Secretary ... Thanks to Kim Wakeham for stepping up to the plate and offering to do the Minutes for the Society's Council. Thanks, Kim ...If anyone else is wanting to help run the Society, then please feel free to let me know; we ve a range of jobs, and

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

if theres something you fancy doing just say! The more the merrier, spreading the load enables more to be done!

in.

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

Bug Hotel

Thanks to members Richard Goddard and Robert Fenton, who have volunteered to build a bug hotel in the Reserve, Its going in between the Central Clearing and the Forest Schools site. It will have great value for education, and biodiversity as there will be niches in it for critters to occupy that don't exist elsewhere in the Reserve.

Hello and Welcome / Farewell and Thanks!

Hello to Gillian Brown, who has agreed to be coopted on to the Society's Council - Welcome, and thanks for being willing.

The Farewell is to Gideon Letch, who has served as a Trustee on Council for about 4 years. Gid. has moved to Norway, his contribution to the Society has always been positive and practical! Thanks, Gideon.

Also - Charles Hurford has stood down from heading up the nest box scheme - whilst there is a supporting team, Charles headed it up it is a brilliant scheme, and has been running at the Reserve for many years - rumoured to be one of the longest running conservation projects in the world, but I m not sure that can be proved!! Charles continues to be a Trustee, and recently became a Dad for the 2nd time, so welcome too to our

Perifest 2014

This was a good event, though the air pollution implications of fireworks always trouble me! but having one big show at modest cost rather than lots of little shows in back gardens has to be

a good idea; it was a good community event too - everyone had fun, we made new friends and told a lot of locals about the Reserve and the Education Centre project. Hopefully some new volunteers to recruit to the build.

Nest Boxes:

We badly need new nest boxes; the old ones have got very tatty ... so at the Conservation Management Session on the 14th December we will be putting new ones together. 10:00 am. Bring sense of humour, everything else supplied (hammers, gloves, safety specs, nails, and kits, tea, biscuits, conversation, and great company!).

newest Junior Member, Apolline, sister to Hebe and Congratulations to proud Dad and Mum, Charles and Virginie.



Farewell Lizzie and Fire

who are, of course the Horses who have graced the Reserve with their presence (and enriched it with their manure!) during the Summer months; Lizzie is the Piebald one, and Fire the Chestnut; They've left for their winter quarters and will be back in May. I love seeing them in the Reserve, and they are a very important part of our Conservation; there have been horses grazing the paddocks for, probably 50 years or more. The photo shows them admiring the newly dug pond

No longer a member?

We've seen a number of people leaving recently; possibly as they did not want to pay the new Subs (it £4.00 and £6.00 for more years that I can remember). At the moment the Database has not been updated to remove those who have not renewed, but it will be soon .. this may be your last email from us. I will perhaps see if I can send a specific to those who have left lest it is an oversight or inertia, but if you have made a positive decision to leave, so long, thanks for your support in the past, and you will be welcome to rejoin at any time in the future.

Wildlife Gardening Forum Conference 28th November 2014

I attended the conference held in the Flett Theatre at the Natural History Museum on behalf of the society. I took Selborne Society leaflets and managed to speak to lots of delegates about what a wonderful society we are.

This year's conference theme was Citizen Science. An American term we have adopted for people recording wildlife data. Really this is something we have been doing since

Gilbert White and all those gentleman clergy who had time on their hands who went out and logged what they saw.

The speakers were from a cross section of organisations, all have systems in place to record different aspects of the natural world. What was incredible was the sheer number and size of the surveys being done. From the biggest, the RSPB “The big garden Bird watch” with over 500,000 people taking part to BTO’s continual bird count which has 17,000 people recording sighting every month.

There are many organisations you can contact to and be a Citizen Scientist. Being a member of the Selborne Society and interested in wildlife it can be opportunity to contribute to the overall knowledge of British Wildlife and it can be fun. A great opportunity for families to work together and it can be a learning process for both adults and children. At the end of this article I will list some of the projects you can join in, but there are many more.

This made me think about the Perivale Wood and what we can do. We have a book in the cupboard next to the hut door to record what we see, but could we start our own records page on the website for members to upload their sighting, preferably with a photo to make sure the sighting is correct? One for the Trustees to discuss.

In conclusion I enjoyed my day at the conference, met some very interesting people and gain some knowledge. Although a gardening forum they have interest in improving the habitats for British wildlife in all areas. I would like go again. (Look them up their website is www.wlgf.org)

Citizen Science groups:

- OPAL - This is really interesting research with surveys in many subjects. It has lots of partners run by the National History Museum (www.opalexplornature.org).
- RSPB The Big Garden Bird Watch – Held early in the year for one hour over a weekend. Great to do with children and now they are looking at other animals as well (www.rspb.org.uk)
- The National Garden Bioblitz weekend – Again great for the family, we held an event on the reserve this year as although their name includes Gardens in fact they want data from any site e.g. Allotments & Reserves. 2015 weekend 30th / 31st May (www.gardenbioblitz.org)

- Peoples Trust of Endangered Species PTES – A continuous survey of our most loved mammals. Of course we all love Hedgehogs and their decline is known. The more information we can get the better. (www.ptes.org).
- British Trust for Ornithology BTO – They do a continuous bird count using volunteers who pay to be part of the project (£17 per Annum). (www.bto.org)
- Froglife – You can record sighting of amphibians on their site or using an app They also record road kill sightings (www.froglife.org)



Finally ...

Happy Christmas and New Year

to all. It promises to be a great year for the Society, with the Education Centre and all ... we look forward to working with all our members to make it a happen, a beautiful building to grace and enrich our beautiful and special Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve, serving it, us, and future generations - the Apolline's and the Hebe's, their Children their Grand Children, long into the future.



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