



The Selborne

Society Bulletin

January 2015

Whats on, whats happening, and what has happened ...with the Selborne Society and at the Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve.

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2015 what a year we have to come

it will be all go this year - we start with a Bonfire at the Reserve on the 4th Jan, then the drainage installation will commence on the 12th, so we'll have proper sanitation for the first time; a hedgelaying course, the first of many woodland skills courses, we hope, and a Forest School is a coming; Of course the Education Centre Build, and to go with it an Education Programme for Schools so we can provide excellent education for all age group.

Didn't they do well ...



December came and the old Garage went! it has served us well for 40 years or so and was built by volunteer labour, I understand "recycled" ... having been taken down from somewhere else and moved to the Reserve; oh the joys of sectional buildings.

We were surprised that the garage was not actually attached to the slab it stood on! having removed the roof sheets and many of the concrete planks that filled in the sides,

we removed the roof trusses and pushed gently, and over it fell! The next week we cleared up and got a jackhammer to break up the slab. Fuller story and some pictures on the blog <http://selbornesociety.wordpress.com/> but do, please 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, on Sunday 4th January, till dusk; you can go for a winter walk round as well, or just Chill (hopefully not too much!); we'll have some simple food, should be a good way to enjoy the Reserve in the winter, and will also get rid of a lot of the arisings that have come from clearing vegetation.

The forward plan ... the volunteers have been resting over Christmas! well earned rest! on January 12th we expect Tim Bonner to start work with his crew, installing the foul drainage so we can, for the first time ever, have flushing loos at the Reserve. Tim will also dig out the foundations for the new Education Centre for us, and then we'll be getting shingle and tyres in to make the foundations. ONce that's done, then the floor structure will be built. We are aiming to have that done by Open Day, with a ceremonial laying of the first bale during Open Day itself.

What's on

The Society's activities for the next couple of months

Sat 3 Jan	1:30 PM	Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	Rendezvous at the Reserve for our annual walk over Horsenden 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	1:00 PM	Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	Winter in the Wood & Bonfire ... a chance to explore the wood – enjoy a bonfire, hot food (baked potatoes, burger, maybe soup or a stew) and see our progress with the building project. *** Please Note that the Reserve is quite wet and muddy and wellies or other sturdy footwear strongly recommended***
Tue 6 Jan			There is no meeting this evening.
Sat 10 Jan	1:45 PM	Perivale Wood Local	Junior Section: – The Wood in Winter; What will we find; frost, snow? Whatever, it is always a magical place!

		Nature Reserve	
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 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 on 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!
Tue 3 Feb	7:45 PM	Greenford Community Centre	“Flying in the Face of Adversity” Erica McAllister, Curator of Diptera at the Natural History Museum will tell us about the Museum, it's History and Collections and then more about her speciality - the flies, telling us why they are amazing. The world famous Natural History Museum is a dynamic institute and the fly collection is incredibly important in understanding key environmental issues that we face today.
Sat 7 Feb	1:30 PM	Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	John Wells will lead our regular monthly field meeting at the Reserve, looking at Mosses and Liverworts.
Tue 10 Feb	8:30 AM	Coach Outing	To the wonderful Wildlife and Wetlands Trust Nature Reserve at Welney in Norfolk. The Coach will depart Ealing Broadway, 08:30 AM and Perivale Station 08:45 AM; it's a long way so a long time in the coach; comfort stop about half way! More information in the flier. Expect a late return too 7:00 ish? ... ticketed event ... prior booking essential.
Sat 14 Feb	1:45 PM	Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve	Junior Section: A walk through the wood to the Grand Union Canal to explore the Canal, its history and find out what lives there
Sun 15 Feb	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 more information

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 next date is the 11th Jan, and we'll be major-ing on getting the nest boxes completed and installed for the spring brood!

Other jobs includes building a post and rail fence round the new Pond, pulling brambles, finishing off the boundary fence, and 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 £614 donated through Ealing Council's Green Redeem project (£540 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 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. You can download instructions on how to donate from [here](#)

Welney Coach Outing

At the time of writing, there are just 6 places left, so if you want to come, do get your booking in soon. Should the trip fill completely, then we'll hold subsequent bookings as Reserves, and may consider getting a 2nd coach if demand is sufficient. More information from the flier ([click](#)).

A reminder the trip is to 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 future mailings.

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](#) |



Reimagine London: What if we made London a National Park? [Greater London National Park* at Southbank Centre](#) Tuesday, 24 February 2015 from 10:00 to 16:00 (GMT)
Greater London National Park*, United Kingdom
Ticketed event, but Selborne Society Members get a massive discount .. book [here](#) use the Promotional Code Selborne

and theres [a petition](#) too ... do sign up if you think its a great idea!



The Hedgelaying Course is now full --- all 10 places taken. We expect to run other courses in future.

Donations

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

Trustees ...

Last month I mentioned that Kim Wakeham had offered to take minutes at the Society's Council Meetings; however it then transpired that she might make rather a good Trustee, so Kim is considering standing for Election at the AGM; Nicola Goddard, who is writing our Education Programme for us, is also considering standing for Election, and will be presenting the work that she has done to the Society's Council at its next meeting (13th Jan). The AGM itself will be on the 7th April, at the Greenford Community Centre - do put the date in your diary please, and do your best to attend. It really is a crucial moment in the Society's life as it gives you, our members, the chance to see what's been going on, encourage, give new direction, and if you want to stand for election as a Trustee yourself.



We've registered Project 21 - the New Education Centre - with Spacehive, which is an online crowdfunding system; you can view the project [here](#), and support it too.

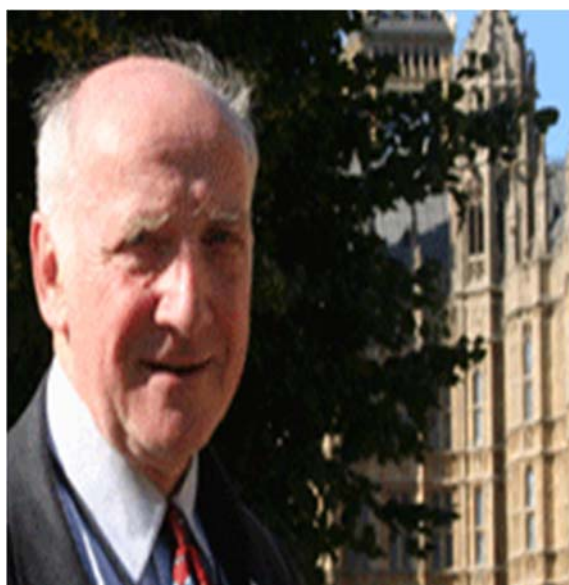
Guardian of the Wood

Dusty, as he was affectionately known, died in December. Dusty was a real stalwart of the Society, spending many hours at the Wood digging out ditches and knotweed, and all sorts of other jobs. He'd been

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!

Our President



Is John Palmer, Fourth Earl of Selborne. He and Steve Pound, the Ealing North MP met up recently, and Lord Selborne sent his greetings to the Society via Steve. Greatfully received and Greetings returned. Lord Selborne is a leading Environmentalist, and spoke recently at the Natural History Museum, at the beginning of National Insect Week. He hopes to put in an appearance at Open Day.

unwell and so not able to visit and work at the Wood for some years - this photo caught him on what was probably his last visit to the Reserve, a Field Meeting in 2010.



Rest in Peace, Friend, and thank you for all you did!



This is a really good piece of work by our friends the RSPB ... the dates are 24th and 25th January, and the information that we submit on our sightings during the weekend builds to give a hugely valuable and important picture of the health of our wildlife. If you can, do take part. full information [on line](#).

[And](#) theres a Big Schools Bird Watch too 5th Jan to 13th Feb. More information [from here](#)



Horsenden Hill

There are plans afoot for Horsenden Hill; it first came to notice via [Streetlife](#), where there is quite a good discussion about it, and the full Council report and Proposal can be found [here](#). The Society does not, at the moment have a formal position on it, so it would be wrong of me to comment, but several members have emailed in about it (thank you!) and clearly there is "interest". We thought it important to raise it in this bulletin so local members are aware of it, engage in the discussion and can lobby Councillors as they see fit.

Ellis and Melissa

We are sorry to see Ellis and Melissa leave Ealing: Ellis particularly was very instrumental in the early stages of Project 21, with considerable knowledge and expertise in Sustainable Building, which he generously shared, helping us eventually decide on Straw Bales as a material and Strawworks Ltd., as designers. The sliver lining is that they are moving to Alton, which is close to Selborne Village, so we can still get together there from time to time, and Ellis expects to take part in the Community Build in due course. But sorry to see you go ...

Finally ...

Happy 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 - , long into the future.



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