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Sent date: 30/11/2016 - 23:45
To: david.bender@btinternet.com
Subject: December news from Perivale Wood and the Selborne Society



The Selborne Society Bulletin

December 2016



The Bluebell Centre

Coming together nicely we really are on the home straight for the Bluebell Centre; the aim is to finish all the inside work by the 19th December, when contractors come to do the last, big job - sanding the floor in the activity room, and sealing it. Then it (and the team) will be "rested" over the Christmas period while the sealer sets really well! January we'll get the necessary sign offs.

In the mean time, work continues - the paths and drainage are complete, the ramp is in progress. Len's making up coat hooks off site, out of slices of scaffold board and coppiced hazel from the Wood.

Storm Angus did upset the timetable a bit, as the marquee was badly damaged, so we've had to clear the contents, either to one of the two skips we've had on site, or to other temporary storage. But the silver lining to that particular cloud is that the area has been cleared and will now start to recover. Storm Angus did bless us with quite a lot of rain, too, and the area has again become very muddy, very quickly! It will recover, given time, and we may decide to use the area for something interesting. In the mean time, we're following Darwin's "Lawn Experiment", seeing what springs up in the area, and what is naturally selected - one of his simplest, but most elegant experiments.

MUSCLES NEEDED PLEASE

On Sunday 11th December, the Working Morning, we want to move the Records Cupboard from the old hut to the new.

It is about a quarter of a ton, as it is fireproof. It will need to be tipped over (carefully); put on its side (carefully) carried out through the door, across to the new building (carefully) in to the Activity room, then into the laboratory, where it will need to be stood back up and pushed into position.

We need more Muscles! Please, if you are free and willing to help, please come at 10:00 AM, We will aim to have the cupboard cleared by Noon.

The usual lubricant (Tea) will be available in quantity; We'll also need help carrying the contents over, in boxes, so it can be refilled in the new building. So while we particularly want strong people, there will be jobs for others; and a welcome, of course.

Future Events

Sat 3 Dec 2:00 PM Beneath our feet ... Victoria Burton (@soilscholar) will investigate what is underground at the Wood the little things that are easy to miss or ignore and

undervalue! They are important ... think woodlice, slugs, earthworms, and other soil organisms.

Tue 6 Dec 7:45 pm Mike Hyde of the Woodlands Trust will speak to us about the work of the Trust. The Venue will be the Greenford Community Centre, Oldfield Lane South, Greenford (car park entrance in Wordsworth Avenue).

Sat 10 Dec 2:00 PM Rangers – for our younger members – A christmas party and christmas crafts.

Sun 11 Dec 10:00 AM Volunteer Working Morning *

Sat 7 Jan 2:00 PM Starting at Perivale Wood, we ll have our annual walk over Horsenden Hill led by Martin Smith – who's knowledge and expertise are great. Recently this has been a very wet and muddy event, so please come equipped with good boots or shoes! It all adds to the fun.

Sun 8 Jan 10:00 AM Volunteer Working Morning *

Sat 14 Jan 2:00 PM Toasting Marshmallows over an open fire ... and other “Forest school type activities.

Tue 24 Jan 10:00 AM Volunteer working morning



The Rangers meet on Saturday 10th December 2016, 2:45pm at Perivale Wood, and will be celebrating [Tree Dressing Day](#) by dressing a tree, with the Woodlands Trust's Tree Dressing Pack.

Theres something about a Christmas Party too, apparently;

Adults MUST be accompanied by a Ranger!

Mailing is out ...

You ought to have received your newsletter and diary by now ... the distribution of the paper version started a couple of weeks ago, and an email went round to everyone too. If you missed it here are the links again:

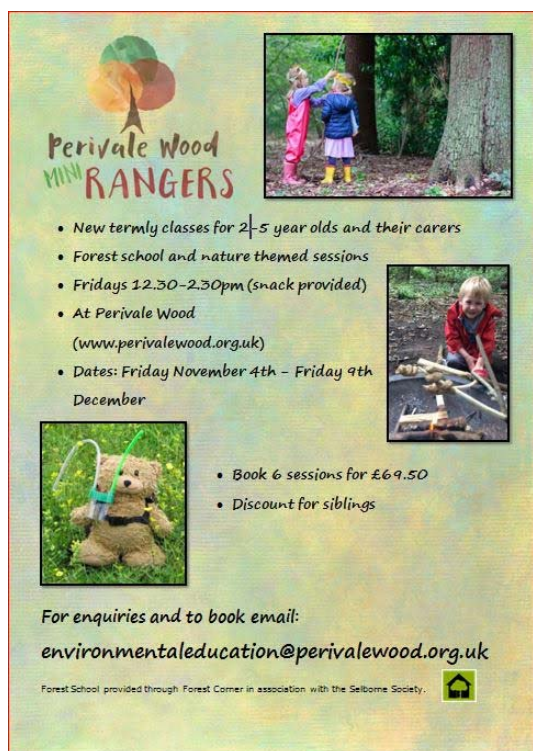
Newsletter [here](#) and

Diary [here](#)

If you've told us that you are happy to receive only electronic copies, thats been passed on ... and if you've not got a paper copy but are expecting one please say, and we'll check what has happened to it.

Mini Rangers

Some great sessions with Perivale Wood Mini Rangers -no extended to 2 to 5 years ... [click on the poster below for a full size version.](#)



**Perivale Wood
MINI RANGERS**

- New termly classes for 2-5 year olds and their carers
- Forest school and nature themed sessions
- Fridays 12.30-2.30pm (snack provided)
- At Perivale Wood
(www.perivalewood.org.uk)
- Dates: Friday November 4th - Friday 9th December

• Book 6 sessions for £69.50
• Discount for siblings

For enquiries and to book email:
environmentaleducation@perivalewood.org.uk

Forest School provided through Forest Corner in association with the Selborne Society.

Events by Friends and Associates

We've been asked by Danny Monk to circulate [his questionnaire](#) about woodlands - if you've got a few minutes do please fill it in and help him with his research! He says it should take 8 minutes or less, and he'll be really grateful!

The People's Trust for Endangered Species have organised a course on [Hedgehog Ecology and Management ... 2nd December](#), that will be in Battersea.

And something Seasonal ... Christmas

Volunteering at Perivale Wood

Every month our wonderful volunteers help us maintain our Wonderful Perivale Wood in tip top condition; tools gloves, etc provided. 2nd Sunday of each month, 10 am till about 1 pm. and there will be another session on the 4th Tuesday of each month, same times. Tea and biscuits provided.

All Welcome

Membership Renewal

Those of you who are annual members (pay each year), your subscriptions are due on the 2nd January. Cheques (payable to the Selborne Society Ltd) can be sent to the Membership Secretary, The Selborne Society, 89 Daryngton Drive Greenford UB6 8BH. Please make sure its clear who payment is from (Name, address and phone number needed please!)

Subscription Rates are currently:
Single Person, £10.00
Two people at the same address, £15.00
Rangers (Under 18's) £3.00 each

If you'd like to pay by standing order, there's a [form here](#).

News Letter Deliveries:

We got a great response to the request for volunteers - so good that we've not yet taken every one up on the offer! Thank you to all who have

at Horsenden Farm ... an unforgettable Sunday afternoon is promised, in the magical setting, with Santa Claus, festive crafts stalls, farm animals to meet and feed, food and drink, live music and carols around the Christmas tree.

For details click : [here](#) or [here](#)

volunteered, and we'll be in touch.

Key Dates in 2017:

The Annual General Meeting is (provisionally) 4th April, 7:30 pm. All members are entitled to attend and vote.

Open Day will be the 30th April (the Bank Holiday Weekend) and set up the 29th, Assistance for both gratefully received!

The last, and the next 100 years ...

This bulletin goes exclusively to our members and supporters - and I'd like to thank you for your continued membership and support! We hope that you will continue in future years.

We are not very good at anniversaries - but I noticed that 2017 is the anniversary year for the Selborne Society having been "incorporated" as a Limited Company. It was a change in our legal status, small but important. Incorporation was on the 28th December 1917.

It was a period of considerable activity for the Society ... we'd had a management agreement on the hedges at Perivale Wood since 1902 according to the History documents, and leased it in 1914 (sadly we forgot about that anniversary!). We went on to purchase the freehold in 1922 following a very ambitious fundraising campaign which was launched in 1920, the 200th anniversary of Gilbert White's death. You can find full accounts on the publications page of [the website](#).

Roll the clock forward by 100 years, and 2017 promises to be a great year for the Society - the Bluebell Centre will be finished, formally opened, and we hope used wisely and well to further our "charitable objectives" - a main one, according to our Constitution, is "to promote the study of natural history and antiquities". It is an exciting time as we use the new facility to achieve this. We hope to build a mixed programme, adding to our existing programme of field meetings, lectures, Rangers, and school visits, to include craft courses (our coppicing, scything, photography and hedgelaying courses were successful pilots ... so we'll try to build a monthly programme of similar craft courses) and see the Reserve used by like minded groups - we've already some requests, and we'd like to see more. Do you have suggestions for activities? please [send them in](#) - the next 100 years depends on you, our membership, to have ideas and help implement them.

This will need to be supported - course leaders, people to take responsibility and run the courses, facilitate on the day; help with reserve management ... if you've some spare time and are able to help, [please say](#).

Your support - and help - is both appreciated, and essential!

On that note, can we wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year!

Coach Outings

We're planning to take a coach to the Devil's Punchbowl and the Haselmere Museum on the 6th June the booking form will be circulated with the next mail out in the New Year.

There will be another outing in October 2017, probably the 24th, but we've not finalised it yet.



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