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Subject: Happy New Year from the Selborne Society



The
Selborne
Society
Bulletin
January, 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2017, full of promise as the Bluebell Centre is finally ready for use; we've already had enquiries from the Ecology and Conservation Study Society, the Amateur Entomologist's Society and Thames 21 who want to host events there.

The 2016 Archaeology is complete, and being written up and the finds assessed. Planning - and funding applications - are being prepared for 2017's programme, which is based on the findings.

We are going to start the Oral History project, with two people attending a course to collect Oral History, first of the Reserve, then of the Environs.

We've other plans, which will depend on funding being available before they can be put into operation - in particular the grant funding for the Education Programme has ended - British Airways Heathrow Community Fund awarded us £19,800 18 months ago, and with that we've given education sessions to over 60 classes, 1300 children; the sessions are linked to the curriculum and age appropriate, and expertly delivered by Trustee Nicola Goddard and her assistants.

We've hedgelaying sessions planned and other work at the Reserve

So it's a great year in prospect



The Bluebell Centre

December was a time for finishing off, and the last job was done by Contractors, who came in and made a beautiful job of sanding the oak floor, and sealing it; The Build Team have taken till the 10th January off, but will return then to do snagging and a clean up, plus finishing the ramp, which could not be done till the archaeology was completed. During January we'll be getting sign offs, and hope to be able to start using the building during February. If you fancy getting your hands dirty, feel free to turn up on the 10th to get stuck in, or email for futher information about other dates.

Future Events

- 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
- Sat 4 Feb 2:00 PM** Field Meeting at Perivale Wood TBA
- Tue 7 Feb 7:45 PM** Evening Meeting ...The English are deeply in love with nature. Millions of us spend time gardening, birdwatching, fishing, hillwalking; tens of millions have pets and bird-feeders. How that came about, starting in the 18th century, the books that triggered it, including Gilbert White's 'Natural History of Selborne', and how it grew through popular movements from animal cruelty to conservation and birdwatching, from art to gardening, from fossil-hunting to photography (and more) is the subject of this talk. Ian Alexander the Speaker, is the author of “The English Love Affair with Nature” I have been in love with nature all my life, exploring one aspect after another. I had phases of birdwatching, looking at lichens, fossil-hunting, orchids; of photographing natural patterns and colourful insects, especially butterflies, dragonflies, and ichneumon wasps. My work (in

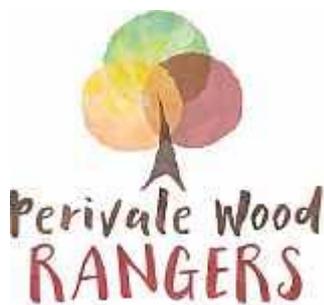
engineering) took me to Sweden and Germany, and I spent holidays in France, which still has many more wild flowers and insects than England, and started to wonder what it was about my country that made people so passionate about Nature.

- Sat 11 Feb 2:00 PM Rangers – for our younger members – Birds of Prey. Learn about the birds of prey that visit Perivale Wood and dissect an owl pellet.**
- Sun 12 Feb Volunteer Working Morning ***
- Tue 21 Feb all day An outing to the wild, wet RSPB Reserve at Dungeness ...This is now fully booked.**
- Tue 28 Feb Volunteer Working Morning ***

The venue for Ian's talk on the 7th Feb. will be the Greenford Community Centre.



Are Londons Sustainable Office Supplier and have offered to sponsor the Education Programme to the tune of £8000 over the next 3 years; we are just sorting out the final details. They ve also offered to help us source IT equipment for the Bluebell Centre; they work with a local company to recycle old computer equipment; Thanks Guys!



The Rangers meet on Saturday 14th Jan at 1:45pm at Perivale Wood,

Adults MUST be accompanied by a

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

Hedgelaying

it is time to dust off the billhooks and start hedge laying again. The plan is to repair and replace any broken poles and binders, plant a new hedge alongside the between the entrance and the field (outline is already established) and to continue laying into the paddock. Dates to be decided, [let us know if you are interested](#) its good fun, working outside in the open air with great company and lots of mud!

Ranger!

Perivale Wood Heritage and Archaeology Group

Kim reports that the test pit has now been finished and back filled. We came to the limits of where a person could reach! Although preliminary at this stage, there are indications for substantial early to late medieval activity, and for prehistoric activity. The post excavation report will now be written. I have also registered the test pit with OASIS who are a company who help create digital versions of the post excavation report to exist in the 'grey literature'. There is a considerable amount of work to be done including finds analysis and photography, hand flotation of samples and digitisation of the records.

One of the outcomes of the test pit is that the area uncovered was not big enough to indicate what the features are. Therefore, it is anticipated that further work will need to take place adjacent to the building to see if we can answer these questions. One question for example, is: how wide and deep is the ditch that we uncovered a corner of? A plan and timescale of the proposed trenches will be available in a couple of months for review before they commence.

There are two other strands to PWHAG - Oral History and document research. Both of these will start in January, with

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](#).



We are members of the Foundation for Social Improvement are offering some training courses in February; topics include:

- Gift Aid and How to Claim it
- How to Prepare Your Annual Reports
- Developing Corporate Relationships
- Developing Community Fundraising
- Legacy Fundraising
- Developing Your Case for Support
- Trustee Role in Strategy
- Trustee Role in Risk Management
- Supporting and Managing Volunteers
- Statutory Commissioning
- Develop Your Fundraising Strategy

Adrian Cantor and Deborah Connolly taking the helm for the Oral History project. There will be a bulletin in the the next newsletter about how you can get involved both as an interviewee and interviewer.

The other project currently being planned is a geophysical survey of the paddock. As this will be planned not to coincide with the flowering season, it'll probably take place in late autumn. It is hoped that a university might take it on as a training exercise.

If you are interested in helping with this rather exciting project, [do get in touch.](#)

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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Demonstrating Your Impact
Project Management

More information on these from [here](#):

Some of these would benefit the Selborne Society, so we are prepared to sponsor places on the courses against an undertaking that the knowledge and skills learned would be used to assist the Society. If you'd be interested please [apply](#).

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