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**Sent date:** 27/09/2017 - 08:54  
**To:** david.bender@btinternet.com  
**Subject:** October, news from Perivale Wood and the Selborne Society



## The Selborne Society Bulletin

October, 2017

### **GREAT NEWS:**

We received an email from Ealing Council 's Building Control, and attached was the Completion Certificate for the Bluebell Centre. It is officially finished and useable.

We "broke the ground" back in January, 2014, so it has taken a bit over 2 years to complete (more in the planning - it was February 2012 that inspiration struck). Much hard work by probably over 100 volunteers, who have spent many thousands of hours working on the project. To them, **thank you** - we are working up a Roll of Honour to recognise their contribution. We think we have a comprehensive list of names but if you ve helped and are not sure we got you noted, then do email in and we'll check.

Thank you too to those who donated - we could not have done it without you; we got one grant of £25,000 from the John Lyon's Charity, one anonymous donation of £60,000, which matched the Society's £60,000 set aside for a new building, and the balance was funded by donations.

We are right on budget - about £1000 underspend.

Weve used free and recycled materials where we can - so one door was salvaged from Walpole Park (the toilets!) and all the other internal doors were from a Furniture Project in Rickmansworth for £3.00 each. the flooring in the main room is Oak planks, recovered from Walpole Park; Basins were via Ebay. Boot room leaded light windows are from local houses adding period style and character to the building.

Where we salvaged materials and were not able to use them theyve gone on to other projects - huge windows from the Rickyard in Walpole Park are becoming a

greenhouse on the Fielding Allotment site in West Ealing.

We 've made new friends, had a lot of fun, worked hard, got fitter, learned new skills, got wet, cut ourselves, sworn a bit. But done it! Oh, and we ve been shortlisted for a Greater London Authority "Team London" Award - the award ceremony is the 6th November 2017 at City Hall. So news in the December Bulletin.

So, now, the future ... we have to get used to owning, and having available, such a resource; what should we do in it? A main reason for building it was to enable schools to have more educational sessions in the Wood, but what else. We 're trialling an art class. Our own meetings, both business and the evening lecture programme, have relocated to the Centre. There's the prospect of other groups using it for their meetings - the British Naturalists Association have asked if they can use it for their AGM, and the local bee keepers want to use it for some courses. Our first aid trainer is interested in using it for courses. We can run craft, and other courses using both it and Perivale Wood - hedgelaying, coppicing, archaeology, who knows what else? A great resource that could be hugely popular, the opening of a new chapter in the Society, and Perivale Wood's Story;

We hope that you ll be a part of it.

### Future Events

All events are now held at Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve, Sunley Gardens, Perivale, UB6 7PE

- Tue 3 Oct 7:45 PM Bats – Huma Pearce, a bat supremo, from the Herts and Middlesex Bat Group will tell us much about bats – fascinating creatures. Huma has stepped in as Keith Barker, our usual bat expert, is not available.
- Sat 7 Oct 2:00 PM Shared with the British Mycological society national fungus day so ought be on their website etc., A Fungus Foray with acclaimed expert Alec Henrici ... always fascinating, the Reserve is a rich in fungi, so there is usually plenty to find and learn about.
- Sun 8 Oct 10:00 AM Volunteer Working Morning \*
- Sat 14 Oct 2:00 PM The Perivale Wood Rangers will go on a fungus foray, finding out about the food web and why fungi are important. Once again the National Mycological Society have provided some goodies to help us – fungi guides, magnifiers and more! \*\*\* Adults must be accompanied by a Ranger! \*\*\*
- Tue 24 Oct all day Coach Outing, Winkworth Aboretum; booking essential, form will be circulated

10:00 Volunteer Working Morning \*  
AM

Sat 4 Nov 2:00 PM Field Meeting at Perivale Wood - TBA

Tue 7 Nov 7:45 PM Swifts – House-hunting for Survival

The Swift is now Amber Listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern in the UK. Catherine Day, RSPB Swift Volunteer from the RSPB Central London Local Group, will describe its life-cycle, how electronic tagging has revealed the story of its migratory route, and how there are new London and nationwide initiatives to try and prevent its move onto the UK Red List of Threatened Species.

Despite leading the most aerial existence of any bird on Earth, the Common Swift is suffering its own severe housing crisis. Come and find out more about these dashing summer visitors, how to choose and site ready-made or DIY swift nest boxes, and hear about some very varied swift projects from cottage bathrooms to church towers and supermarket carparks. Catherine will also talk about her own Chiswick Swift Project.

Sat 11 Nov 2:00 PM Perivale Wood Rangers. We're finalising the programme but it is likely to include exploring the wild depths of Perivale Wood, visiting places no Ranger has ever been before! Plus craft activities – acorn collage, sticky headbands, finding out why trees lose their leaves and why animals hibernate \*\*\* Adults must be accompanied by a Ranger! \*\*\*

Sun 12 10:00 Volunteer Working Morning \*  
Nov AM

Tue 28 10:00 Volunteer Working Morning \*  
Nov AM

## ART CLASSES at THE BLUEBELL CENTRE

Interested in exploring drawing  
and painting?

Come and join us in the  
beautiful  
and tranquil surroundings  
of the newly opened Bluebell  
Centre

Tutor: Andrea Tierney

First and last Friday of the  
month from 10.30am - 1.30pm  
£80 for a block of 4 sessions  
Materials not provided



Please register your  
interest:

Email:

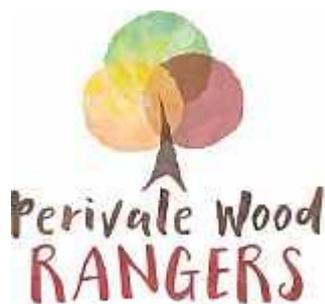
[a.tierney@virgin.net](mailto:a.tierney@virgin.net)

Mobile: 07939590562

5 min walk from Perivale  
Tube station

297 bus from Ealing

Parking in Sunley Gardens  
or Selborne Gardens



The Spider session was wonderful and some wonderful spiders appeared, sharing a massive web!



The October Session will explore the world of mushrooms and toadstools - we've some goodies to share, and it should be GREAT

## Newsletter, Coach Outing and Diary.

A reminder that you can download the

[Newsletter](#),

[Diary](#) - and, the

The outing on the 24th October to the National Trust's [Winkworth Arboretum](#) - is now fully booked, sorry, but future plans include a trip to TITCHWELL RSPB RESERVE,

# Membership Renewals

Our membership year runs from the 1st Jan for 12 months, and there are quite a few who receive this have not paid this years subscription.

If you pay annually (cheque) you may want to check that you are up to date, as very soon you 'll be deleted from membership. If you you 're not sure, or want to know how to pay, then email and I ll check and let you know.

The membership fee is a main source of income for the society, and we really do appreciate it.. We hope that we provide value for money, and welcome suggestions on what to do.



A new approach to management; we 'd realised that the wildflower populations in the Meadows and Paddocks were not as rich and diverse as they ought to be - there are complicated reasons, one of which is nutrients. Nutrient rich soils favour grassland, and the horses did not remove nutrients - nitrogen and so on simply got recycled in pee and pooh.

So this year we ve not had horses in

NORFOLK, on .MONDAY, 19TH,  
FEBRUARY, 2018 - more  
information soon.

# Going paperless!

**In this day and age, paper is both expensive, laborious, and unsustainable in Environmental terms - and we are Pioneers in Conservation. So the Society's Council have decided that from the end of the year, if we have an email address for you, you will only receive mailings from the Society electronically unless you opt in by emailing and requesting paper copies.**

## Interested in helping us run Perivale Wood?

why not join our team of our wonderful volunteers who help us maintain our Wonderful Perivale Wood in tip top condition. We work on the 2nd Sunday of each month, 10 am till about 1 pm. and on the 4th Tuesday of each month, same times.

Tea and biscuits, training and conversation provided.

Future plans include

- clearing the ditch to the bridle path and rebuilding the bridge to it
- making the roof drainage from

the Reserve - but have had these awesome machines come and mowed, and will remove the mowings and arisings, and with that, many nutrients.

We ve already seen benefits - I found Selfheal in Willow Mead for the first time (apparently it has been there before, I d just noticed it!) but the horses used to graze it down before it got to flower and set seed. So it will be great to see if this new approach improves the Fauna.

We did notice a Kestrel foraging in the mown area, while the machinery was still on site and working. Has been seen before and welcome back, of course!



# Photo Exhibition

♦♦♦♦

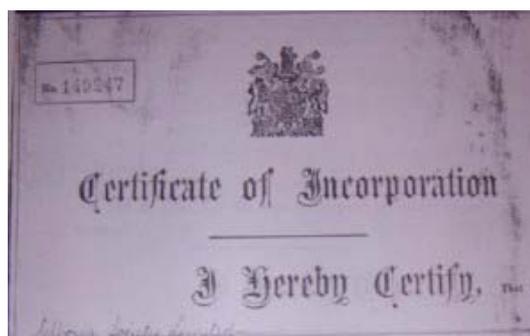
If you are on Facebook you may know of the [Ealing Wildlife Group](#) - and they organised a photo competition; the results can be seen at an exhibition at Walpole Park starting on the 30th September; there are some great photos, so do go and have a look! More

the bluebell centre top up the pond

- rebuilding the pond dipping platform and
- clearing some overgrowth on the canal towpath.

information [here](#)

All Welcome - just turn up! Tools and gloves provided.



Happy Birthday to us ....

## Jam - and Jars ...

Thanks to all those who have provided jars - aware that we've not picked them all up yet, but your offer is not forgotten, thanks. the immediate need has passed, but if you find you have spare jars do please say.

its easy to overlook anniversaries, but there have been several recently which we ve overlooked - 2002, 100 years of the Society managing the Hedges at Perivale Wood for birdlife; 2016, 100 years after we leased the land from the Church Commissioners. One that is coming up is the 100th anniversary of our Incorporation - when the Society became a legal body in its own right, we were registered at Companies House on the 28th December 1918. Thats a small and inconsequential one, but in 2020 is the tricentennial of Gilbert White's Birth (18 July 1720), and 2020 will be the 100th anniversary of the Society purchasing the Freehold of Perivale Wood.

### Access to Perivale Wood

...

We 've had a new gate put in, and in use. The double gates are now locked with a new lock, and the old lock has been transferred to the new, smaller, side gate, so access to the Reserve is maintained for those with existing keys. Keys for the old gate will be supplied only to those needing to bring vehicles onto the Reserve.

This is another step towards the electronic access control system to the Reserve.

Dont forget that the rendezvous cafe, who hold our keys - have

### RSPB London Group

Have a series of talks - they are on Thursday evenings at 6.45pm, as follows:

12th Oct 2017 'Icebound' by Darren Rees, SWLA, Artist in Residence on Scott Polar Research Institute expedition 2015.

closed for refurbishment, so the only place that keys can be borrowed from is the Perivale Library. Their opening hours are [here](#). We are sorry as this reduces availability considerably, but it will be for a few months till the Cafe re-opens.

## Ecology and Conservation Study Society

is an organisation based at Birkbeck College, part of the University of London; they hold lectures in the Autumn and Spring - free admission. They are generally excellent! The Autumn Series is on "Birds and Us" - wild birds are popular creatures: twitchers seek them out to list them, ringers study their movements, fanciers enjoy racing them and egg collecting was popular before it became illegal.

Birds have interesting historical, cultural and religious significance. Birds can even be tourist attractions, and lots of people delight in feeding them in their gardens and parks. Bird guano even boosted our agricultural fertility. Significantly, wild bird populations are used to indicate the health of our biodiversity and have been the subject of "citizen science" for many years. On the other side of the coin, however, there are problems. Birds can suffer at our hands, either deliberately or because they are in the way. For instance, albatrosses die caught on fishing long-lines and the Quelea is second only to the locust as a tropical plague. Alien species can be very controversial.

9th Nov 2017 The Madagascan Pochard Project & The Flight of the Swans by Peter Cranswick, WWT.

14th Dec 2017 Birds of The Gambia, A Photographic Journey by Czech Conroy, RSPB Central London Local Group member.

11th Jan 2018 Filey International – Arrivals and Departures: North Yorkshire's Bird Observatory by Mark James Pearson.

8th Feb 2018 The Conservation of the Sociable Lapwing by Dr Rob Sheldon, Chairman of the Ornithological Society of the Middle East, The Caucasus and Central Asia.

8th Mar 2018 The Selbourne Society: Pioneers in Conservation by Andy Pedley, Selborne Society.

12th Apr 2018 Creation of the Ouse Fen Nature Reserve by RSPB Senior Project Manager for the Hanson-RSPB Wetland Project at the Ouse Fen Reserve.

10th May 2018 'FaB Peregrines' – A London Peregrine's Year by Nathalie Mahieu, Fulham & Barnes Peregrines.

St Columba's Church Hall, Pont St, Knightsbridge SW1X 0BD.

There is a fee charged, but the meetings are open to all whether or not members of the RSPB.

Food premises need to be bird-proof and gulls breeding in our towns can harass us.

Bird 'flu risks crossing the species barrier to plague us. Bird strike is a hazard for aircraft. Game birds show us both sides of the coin; conserving their habitat conserves other species, but their harvesting kills the birds, and predatory birds may be killed illegally by gamekeepers.

This series explores some of these issues between birds and us, and sounds fascinating!

13th October to 17th November, 18:30 to 20:00, Lecture Theatre B01, Clore Management, Centre, Torrington Square, London WC1E 7JL (opposite the Birkbeck main building).

more information from [here](#)

And Finally:

The National Bee Unit has confirmed a sighting of the Asian Hornet at an apiary near Woolacombe in Devon. Work to identify, destroy and remove any nests is already underway.

The Asian Hornet is an invasive, non native species that predates honey bees and is capable of destroying whole hives of bees. There have been other nests found in the UK but they seem to have been successfully destroyed before they issue queen hornets, the reproductive stage.

More information from [here](#)



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you are - or were - members of the Selborne Society!*

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