Dear Members,

For some years our group has seen a decline in support for our activities and this has led to a reduction in income against a backdrop of rising external costs and at the AGM in May the committee’s concerns were again discussed. A short while later a committee meeting took place and it was agreed that we had to resolve the issues almost a make or break situation. The RSPB were consulted and as a result a mailing to Havering members living in post codes areas RM1- RM20 (over 3000 names) was carried out. The response was modest but rightly viewed as a case of quality not quantity. We have three new committee members and hope that others will step forward over the next few weeks. At the same time the committee still has concerns about overall support for our activities. With new committee members known and future and fresh ideas to promote our activities we hope to see a steady increase in support. There is a feeling of optimism so please help this gain greater momentum with your support.

Once again we have published a newsletter to include our programme of activities. We decided that one cost reduction we could achieve would be to reduce the number of pages that make up the newsletter, this will result in lower printing costs.

You will see from the table below that Mike Hughes and Ted Neller are working together to organise coach outings with the view that Ted will take over completely for the next programme running from September.

The committee also feels that both coach outings and the indoor meetings would benefit from having support, so that cover is readily available if a personal commitment prevents attendance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RSPB Havering Committee &amp; Volunteers</th>
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<tr>
<td>* Group Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Treasurer</td>
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<td>* Secretary</td>
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<td>* Indoor Meeting Organiser</td>
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<td>* Newsletter Editor</td>
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<td>* Coach Outing Organiser</td>
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<td>Publicity</td>
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<td>100 Club</td>
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<td>Film Night Organiser</td>
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<td>Quiz Night</td>
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<td>Raffles - Indoor</td>
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<td>Raffles - Coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Meeting Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach Outing Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Sales Table</td>
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</tbody>
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* Attend committee meetings twice yearly

Martin Runchman
Publicity

It is always said that a volunteer is somebody that misheard the question. Well my name is Mike Condon and I for my sins I have recently volunteered to take on the Publicity role and I would therefore like this opportunity to express my thanks to Martin & Marion Runchman for their sterling efforts and they will be a difficult act to follow.

My intention is to try and use technology to improve RSPB Havering’s means of communication, whether that is in the form of e-mails or through the great use of our website, so please watch the website for updates in the not too distant future – expected January 2011. However I would ask members to forward their e-mail addresses to me as soon as possible please rest assured that they will only be used in connection with the RSPB Havering Group and for no other purpose.

So it is not my intention to ‘throw the baby out with the bath water’, we still need to provide printed matter, but this is only going to become ever more expensive. It has a further disadvantage of being out of date as soon as it is printed. Where as electronic information is far easier to keep up to date, distribute quickly and seek to reach out to a wider bird-watching internet savvy audience. This will be process evolution not revolution, so please feel free to contact me on:-

Mobile telephone: - 07973-724969
E-mail:- rspb.havering@gmail.com

Mike Condon
NOTICE BOARD

Sales table

All donations of goods for resale (books, china, unwanted gifts, etc.) at our monthly indoor meetings are greatly appreciated. However due to limitations of storage space, if the items remain unsold after two meetings I will either offer them for return to their owners or give them to a local charity shop.

Janet Silver

Sheila Goodwin’s pictures

Those of you who attend indoor meetings will be aware that at the back of the hall Sheila has a table where she has her cards and pictures on display, which are for sale both before the slide presentation begins and during the interval. Sheila has reminded us that she donates 10% of takings to the RSPB and would welcome your support.

Editor

Money for used stamps

Please save all your used stamps from your mail, the RSPB can sell them to raise money for the continued protection of birds. Ray Baker, who has been doing just that for a long time, collects used stamps on behalf of the group, sorts them and presents them to one of the RSPB designated collection points. Ray can always be found at one of our published events. If you prefer, any one of our committee will be only too willing to receive them – thank you.

Editor

Thank you

We would like to thank Dorothy Clarke for the monies she has donated to our group’s funds. The money was collected from the sale of books from her late husband Alan.

Editor

100 Club Results

The results of the September 2010 draw were :-

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Ticket</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Janet Nash</td>
<td>£100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Pam Neller</td>
<td>£50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Howard Sawyer</td>
<td>£25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Anne Dowling</td>
<td>£12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Elizabeth Warner</td>
<td>£12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next draw is on 11 March 2011 at the indoor meeting.
If you wish to join the 100 Club or take an additional ticket please contact a committee member.

Remember this is a fund raising event where half the monies collected are donated to the RSPB for use with projects which enhance and protect birds and their environment
NOTES

Coach Outings

Please book and pay as early as possible to avoid the disappointment of having to cancel the coach outing.

Participants on coach outings should bring a packed lunch. On all outings we advise strong waterproof footwear and warm waterproof clothing and a change of footwear or boot-covers for the homeward journey to avoid excessive dirtying of the coaches especially when muddy/wet conditions exist.

Remember when booking a seat on the coach please send a stamped addressed envelope for a receipt or provide a telephone no. or Email address If you have not received your receipt by at least four days before the outing then contact Mike Hughes, or if unavailable another committee member, by phone to check that your booking has been made. If you have booked a seat for a coach outing and are unable to attend, please advise Mike as soon as possible as other members may be on a waiting list. Refunds cannot be given unless the seats are resold.

You can phone Mike on the morning of the trip, between 6:00 am and 6:30 am if there are any late reasons for non-attendance.

NB. It does cause distress to the organisers if we fail to pick-up members.

All the coach pick-up points are at bus-stops; -

Romford (St. Edwards Way); Gallows Corner (A12); Harold Hill (A12); Harold Park (A12)

If you require any further information as to the pick-up locations then contact Mike on 01708 250585

Please note that RSPB membership cards are required on all visits to RSPB reserves and failure to present a card may result in a non-refundable permit charge being levied.

Coaches will leave exactly on the time stated, so please do not have an extra ten minutes in bed.

We have been advised by Swallow Coaches that it is a legal requirement that “before the coach can move off that all passengers are seated and have their seat belts in place. Also that we take note of all emergency exits in case of an incident” – similar to the advice given by airlines.

Committee members

Group Leader: TBE

Group Secretary Janet Silver, 310 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex. RM2 5TB. & Indoor Meetings: Tel: 01708 452171.

Treasurer: Martin Runchman, 4 Cedar Gardens, Sandy, Bedfordshire. SG19 1EY Tel: 01767 690093 or e-mail: mrunchman@yahoo.com

Outings Organiser: Mike Hughes, 19 Bridge Avenue, Upminster, Essex. RM14 2LX Tel: 01708 250585 or e-mail: mich@el-hughes.wanadoo.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Mike Hughes, 19 Bridge Avenue, Upminster, Essex. RM14 2LX Tel: 01708 250585 or e-mail: mich@el-hughes.wanadoo.co.uk
Events Programme – January to June 2011

14 January 2011  Indoor Meeting – Over the Sea to Skye
Tonight’s presentation is by Barrie Mason who presents his illustrated talk entitled ‘Over the Sea to Skye’. “I obviously enjoy visiting the Isle of Skye as I have been five times in the last ten years. Although the scenery and wildlife is wonderful, Skye can be shrouded in mist and rain for days at a time. I look forward to showing you the various moods of Skye and its wonderful wildlife”

In the upstairs Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library; 44 North Street, Hornchurch RM11 1TB
Duration: 7:45 to 9.45pm  Admission: £3.00 per person

29 January 2011  Coach Outing to WWT Welney, Nr. Wisbech, Norfolk
The wintering wild swans at Welney are one of the best natural spectacles in the UK. Each winter up to 9 000 Whooper and Bewick's swans make their way from Iceland and Arctic Russia to spend the winter on the Ouse Washes at Welney. If you want to see the swans being fed, I have put us down for the 12.00am swan feed, so we have to be in position by 11:30am in the main observatory (which is centrally heated)

There is a new visitor centre with a café, toilets and a gift shop.

Coach leaves St Edwards Way Romford at 7:30 am, Harold Hill at 7:45 am.
Seats cost £ 13.50 each.  Entry fee into WWT Welney – Havering Local Group ‘Special’ rate - £3.00.

The entry fee is to be collected on the coach and paid in one transaction in order to get the ‘Welney group rate’
(Fee should be; Adult - £6.00; Concession - £4.50 (over 65 years, full-time students, unemployed) Child - £3.00)

11 February 2011  Indoor Meeting – Members Film Night
As in previous years we are looking forward to a relaxed fun evening where our members show their own photographs. John Pepper would like all those who want to take part to contact him in plenty of time to plan the evening.

John’s contact details: tel – 01708 470241 or email – wild2003@talktalk.net

In the upstairs Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library; 44 North Street, Hornchurch RM11 1TB
Duration: 7:45 to 9:45pm  Admission: £3.00 per person

26 February 2011  Coach Outing to RSPB Pulborough Brooks, West Sussex
Pulborough Brooks is set in the sheltered Arun Valley within the South Downs National Park. The reserve is open all year and boasts a great variety of habitats including wetlands, woodland, and heathland.

Pulborough Brooks is a haven for a wide range of wildlife, and a fantastic day out for people of all ages.

There is a visitor centre with a café, toilets and a gift shop.

Coach leaves St Edwards Way Romford at 7:30 am, Harold Hill at 7:45 am.
Seats cost £13.50 each.

Tonight’s presentation is by Brian Nobbs who presents his illustrated talk entitled ‘Bird-watching in the Mediterranean’. Covering varied locations with a variety of habitats and some of the resident and migrant birds. Starting on Lesvos, the presentation works roughly westwards through Crete, Corsica, Majorca and Menorca, plus a look at the Rhone delta (Camargue) as a reminder that the Mediterranean is not just about islands.

The 100 Club will be drawn tonight.

In the upstairs Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library; 44 North Street, Hornchurch RM11 1TB
Duration: 7:45 to 9:45pm  Admission: £3.00 per person

26 March 2011  Coach Outing to RSPB Dungeness, Kent
The Dungeness reserve is set amidst mile after mile of shingle. From the visitor centre you can look out through a huge picture window at all the waterbirds on the large gravel pit just outside. Often a rare grebe or diver is among them.

The nature trails lead around a series of hides. Dungeness's position, jutting into the English Channel, makes it ideally placed to watch for migrant birds arriving or departing, with wheatears, swallows, martins and warblers regularly seen.

There is a new visitor centre with a gift shop and there are separate toilets.

Coach leaves St Edwards Way Romford at 7:30 am, Harold Hill at 7:45 am.
Seats cost £13.50 each.
8 April 2011  **Indoor Meeting – Wildlife of Queensland, Australia**

Tonight’s presentation is by Phil and Ann Farrer who present their illustrated talk entitled ‘Wildlife of Queensland, Australia’

This talk takes us from the temperate wine growing regions in the south to the wild and humid tropics of the far north where many of the birds are specific to Papua New Guinea. On the way we will show you Australia’s rarest raptor on the nest and many of the animals which are unique to this environment such as the Platypus and the Koala. We will also show you why a visit to the cemetery in Cairns is essential.

In the upstairs Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library; 44 North Street, Hornchurch RM11 1TB
Duration: 7:45 to 9:45pm  Admission: £3.00 per person

**April 2011**  There will not be a coach outing in this month due to the double bank holidays

13 May 2011  **Indoor Meeting – A.G.M. and Gordon Bramham**

An illustrated talk given by Gordon Bramham, local camera club member and wildlife photographer extraordinaire; which follows the AGM – shortened version.

Note: If you feel you would like to give some time to assist the committee and would like to join in with our fund-raising efforts, then please contact a member of the committee. Do not forget your views and comments are important in keeping our group lively and interesting.

In the upstairs Meeting Room at Hornchurch Library; 44 North Street, Hornchurch RM11 1TB
Duration: 7:45 to 9:45pm  Admission: £3.00 per person

21 May 2011  **Coach Outing to Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, Huntingdonshire**

‘Throughout the summer Paxton Pits is a buzz with birds, insects, including butterflies, moths and dragonflies and is ablaze with wild flowers’

The Visitors’ Centre is run by volunteers who provide information and refreshments. There are toilets including a disabled toilet.

Coach leaves St Edwards Way Romford at 7:30 am, Harold Hill at 7:45 am.
Seats cost £13.50 each. Entry fee into Paxton Pits is £2.50 includes tea/ coffee and biscuit.

18 June 2011  **Ramble at RSPB Rainham Marshes**

Come and join us for a gentle stroll around our local RSPB reserve to enjoy the views, fresh air and see some good birds at the same time.

Our local reserve with its modern visitor centre which has a café, gift shop and toilets.

**We meet in the reserve car-park**, off the New Tankhill Road, Purfleet at 10:00am and we shall stay until around 13:00pm
COACH OUTINGS BOOKING FORMS

1. Make cheques payable to RSPB Havering Local Group.
2. If booking for more than one trip, please provide separate cheques in case of any cancellations.
3. Please include stamped addressed envelope or provide your phone number or Email address for confirmation of booking and return completed slip with your cheque to:
   Mike Hughes  19 Bridge Avenue, Upminster, Essex. RM14 2LX
4. In order to keep the cost of the coach outings to a minimum all raffle monies collected on our coach outings are included within the coach revenue.

Date: 29 January 2011  Venue: - WWT Welney Nr. Wisbech, Norfolk
From: ______________________________
Tel no. or Email address for confirmation. ________________________________
Pick-up point: (please tick)  Romford [ ]  Gallows Corner [ ]  Harold Hill [ ]  Harold Park [ ]
Note: There is an entrance fee of £3 per person, payable as a group - before entry into the reserve. This fee is being supported by our own funds; we will collect the entry fee on arrival at Welney.
Please confirm your status in order to advise Welney to claim the correct entry fee;
Adult [ ]  Concession - Over 65 years [ ]  Full-time students [ ]  Unemployed [ ]  Child - [ ].

Date: 26 February 2011  Venue: - RSPB Pulborough Brooks, West Sussex
From: ______________________________
Tel no. or Email address for confirmation. ________________________________
Pick-up point: (please tick)  Romford [ ]  Gallows Corner [ ]  Harold Hill [ ]  Harold Park [ ]

Date: 26 March 2011  Venue: - RSPB Dungeness, Kent
From: ______________________________
Tel no. or Email address for confirmation. ________________________________
Pick-up point: (please tick)  Romford [ ]  Gallows Corner [ ]  Harold Hill [ ]  Harold Park [ ]

Date: 21 May 2011  Venue: - Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, Huntingdonshire
From: ______________________________
Tel no. or Email address for confirmation. ________________________________
Pick-up point: (please tick)  Romford [ ]  Gallows Corner [ ]  Harold Hill [ ]  Harold Park [ ]
Note: There is an entrance fee of £2.50 per person, payable as a group, before entry into the reserve. We will collect the entry fee on arrival at Paxton Pits.
Web sites for you to visit:

RSPB : www.rspb.org.uk
BirdLife International : www.birdlife.org
East London Birders Forum : www.elbf.co.uk
Internet resources for Birdwatchers : www.birdguides.com
Walking world : www.visitengland.com

For status, distribution and habitats
of birds of the W. Palearctic : www.eurobirding.com
For status, daily news items, site reports : www.surfbirds.com

The RSPB speaks out for birds and wildlife,
tackling the problems that threaten our
environment. Nature is amazing – help us keep
it that way.

The RSPB is part of BirdLife International, the
global partnership of bird conservation
organisations

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