

WELCOME TO 2015

Welcome to everyone at the start of the New Year. Local birding seems to have been relatively quiet over the Christmas and New Year period although one exception has been the Great Northern Diver on Ryder's Mere at Clayhanger Marsh which took up residence at the beginning of January. It was showing well when I visited last week. Despite being surrounded by urban areas this location often attracts some good birds.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALKS IN 2015

As I mentioned last month we are organising visits to three local sites in the first half of this year. We will review what interest there is after these first three walks with a view to extending the programme later in the year.

The walks will last approximately 2 hours. Paths can be muddy so please bring appropriate footwear.

Either meet at the venue at 10.00am or contact me by phone (0121 353 6886) or email (dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com) and we may be able to share transport from Lichfield B & M car park.

Details of the 3 walks are as follows:

Thursday 12th February

RSPB Middleton Lakes

Meet at the reserve car park.

Friday 20th March

Doxey Marshes, Stafford

Meet at the car park at the end of Wootton Drive ST16 1JR (see following instructions)

From M6 Junction 14 - Leave the motorway at this junction and head south towards Stafford along the Eccleshall Road A5013. Take the first turning on the right to access the main reserve car park. This turning is sign posted with a brown tourist sign. Follow the road (Creswell Farm Drive/Wootton Drive) through the housing estate, down a slight hill and around the bend until you reach the car park and the playground.

Tuesday 5th May

Cannock Chase – Seven Springs

Meet at Seven Springs car park off the A513 near Little Haywood ST17 0WT.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

In December we asked members to give us their email addresses so we can contact you about events etc. If you would like to give us your email addresses please complete a form which is available on the back of the room. I will be responsible for collecting, recording and sending out emails to members. You will be able to unsubscribe from receiving future emails at any time, should you wish to.

GTKYB BRANSTON WATER PARK - 10 January

After a wet start to the day, the weather improved and it was a sunny, if very breezy, morning at Branston Water Park. We had five group members and three visitors. We saw a good selection of wildfowl on the lake, including Pochard, Shelduck, and Gadwall as well as plenty of Mallard, Tufted Ducks and Coots. Despite the strong wind, we saw a good variety of small birds, including several fine looking male bullfinches, a Great Spotted Woodpecker and a Jay. Towards the end of the walk, we saw Goldcrest. We finished the morning with a total of 26 species seen and identified.

Dennis

RUTLAND WATER COACH TRIP

Sunday 22nd February

We still have a few places left on our trip to Rutland next month.

Reserve your place tonight with Heather.
Cost is £15 per head and there is a discounted rate for entry to the reserve of £3.80 per head

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2015

**A reminder to carry out
your survey on 24-25
January**

NEXT MEETING: 10th FEBRUARY

ETHIOPIA - its landscapes, people and wildlife— from deserts to high mountains, forests to scorching soda lakes, Ethiopia is surely one of the most diverse countries in Africa. As well as the birds and mammals, this talk takes a look at the variety of landscapes, the people and their way of life and relates this to conservation and development issues. **Presented by Martin Davies.**

Martin Davies has worked for RSPB for more than 35 years and was for many years Head of International Funding. He is perhaps better known as one of the founders and co-organisers of the Birdfair, held at Rutland Water in August each year.

SPONSORS

We would like to thank our sponsors for 2015, who have pledged their support this year. Their adverts appear in our programme. Please use their services if possible and, if appropriate, mention the group and add your thanks.