

PLEASE REMEMBER NO MEETING IN MARCH

The Guildhall is closed for refurbishment in March so we have decided not to have a meeting in March.

Our April meeting will be on Tuesday 14th as usual, when we welcome back Nadia Archer, the RSPB Volunteering Development Manager for England, to talk about their “Saving Nature” campaign. You may remember Nadia gave us a very interesting presentation on Sherwood Forest last year.

COACH TRIP TO RSPB LEIGHTON MOSS

Sunday 10th May

We are going to RSPB Leighton Moss in Lancashire.

Leighton Moss boasts the largest reed bed in north-west England and is home to a wide range of spectacular wildlife including otters, bearded tits, marsh harriers, egrets and red deer. Other wildlife includes otters and bitterns. Leighton Moss’ diverse habitats include reeds, woodland and limestone grassland. It also incorporates extensive areas of mudflats, coastal marsh and saltwater lagoons along the shores of nearby Morecambe Bay.

- Extensive reed-fringed wetlands providing a home for nationally and regionally important breeding populations of bearded tits, marsh harriers, reed warblers and bitterns.
- Mixed woodland with nesting marsh tits, nuthatches, bullfinches and tawny owls as well as roving long-tailed tits, treecreepers and woodpeckers.
- Wildlife ponds supporting dragonflies and damselflies, as well as newts, toads, frogs and fish such as pike, eel and perch.
- Coastal saltmarsh lagoons attracting large numbers of wading birds including avocet, oystercatcher, curlew, redshank and dunlin.

There are 7 hides and 3 signposted trails. There is a visitor centre including a café serving hot and cold food and a shop.

Therefore please reserve your place tonight.

Cost for this trip will be £17 per head.

The coach will leave the Bird Street (B & M) car park at 7.30 am as usual.

There is free entry to Leighton Moss for RSPB members and £8 for non – members.

Can those of you who have already booked please pay tonight as we will have to pay for the coach before the next meeting in April.

SUTTON COLDFIELD RSPB GROUP COACH TRIPS – Sutton group are running a coach trip to Blacktoft Sands on Sunday 23rd February. For further information and to book please contact Tony Green on 01827 750633 or tonygreen777@hotmail.co.uk.

RSPB England is part of the RSPB, the UK’s largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.

The RSPB is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654.

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RSPB Lichfield Local Group

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BIRDING IN JANUARY



How many of you keep an annual bird species list? For the last few years I have done so and it does add some interest to the birdwatching. I have set myself a target to see 200 UK bird species over a year and I have managed to do this in 5 of the last 7 years. To achieve this, a good intermediate target is to see 100 species by the end of January, so on 24th January I set off with my friends for a day trip to Norfolk at 6.30am.

First stop was at Eldernell near Peterborough at 8.30, where we hoped to see cranes but the place was flooded. We did however see whooper swans fly over. Then on to Flitcham in Norfolk, where the hoped for little owl had gone AWOL. Not deterred we moved on a few miles to nearby Sedgeford where after 20 minutes we saw the target bird, an Alaskan yellow wagtail (see photo), in a muddy field along with 20 other birdwatchers.

After a brief stop at Thornham Harbour to see twite, we spent a couple of rewarding hours at Titchwell. Highlights included marsh harrier, spotted redshank and long tailed duck. We moved on to Holkham and quickly saw a rough-legged buzzard before going onto the beach to see snow buntings. Unfortunately the shorelarks were missing but we did see red-breasted merganser and hundreds of scoter out at sea. As we left to go home we were lucky to see a barn owl flying over the fields near Holkham.

This increased my January list to 84 and we had another day out on 3rd February to Slimbridge where we saw some more great birds including crane, cattle egret and white fronted geese. So I finished on 99 species which I am pleased with.

Next day-trip in February is to look for black grouse at World's End near Wrexham, then on to New Brighton for purple sandpipers and finish at Burton Mere and Parkgate on the Wirral, where we will hope to see hen harriers.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: TUESDAY 10th MARCH

RSPB Sandwell Valley

We are going to Sandwell Valley for our next local birdwatching walk.

We will be meeting at the Reserve car park at 10am for an approximate 2 hour visit. Please come along if you can and share your birdwatching skills with us.

The reserve is between Great Barr and West Bromwich, brown signposted off the A4041 (Newton Rd) North of Hampstead, and take Hamstead Road (B4167), which is fifth on the left near the bottom of the hill by the church (look for the brown sign marked RSPB nature centre). Postcode is B43 5AG.

If anyone requires a lift from Lichfield please see me this evening or contact me either by phone on 0121 353 6886 or email (dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com).

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

I have been asked by Lichfield Camera Club to advertise a meeting in March. Details as follows:

Lichfield Camera Club is hosting David Noton's amazing "Chasing the Light Roadshow" on 7th March at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas. David is internationally recognised as one of the finest landscape and travel photographers around and his show has played to packed audiences at home and abroad. Anyone interested in travel, nature, the environment, geography and of course, photography will enjoy David's lively presentation and stunning images of some of the most beautiful places on earth. Further details on the club's website www.lichfieldcameraclub.org.

If you no longer wish to hear from RSPB Lichfield Local Group, please contact Dennis Muxworthy on 0121 353 6886 or dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com to unsubscribe from communications, confirming your name and address and stating that you wish to unsubscribe from RSPB Lichfield Local Group's communications.

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