

WELCOME TO 2019

Welcome to all of you at the start of the New Year.

We started our RSPB Lichfield Facebook group a year ago and it has grown steadily since then. We now have 29 members and quite a lot of activity on the group page with over 400 photographs and other items of news etc included.

NEXT MEETING: 12th FEBRUARY

Green Birding – Gary Prescott (The Biking Birder)

Gary Prescott, The Biking Birder, will be talking about Green Birding, the growing way in which birders are being more environmentally friendly when birding. You will meet the characters from around the World who participate in Green Birding and find out why they do what they do.

Gary will also be talking about his Biking Birder adventures, telling stories from his three years on the road as he cycled around the UK visiting every RSPB and Wildfowl & Wetland Trust nature reserve – twice! The first person ever to do this, Gary also has some Green Birding records to discuss, as well as tales from his Biking Birder adventure in Peru last year.

Biography

Chris Boardman, Chris Hoy, Jason Kenny, Chris Froome, Laura Trott, Bradley Wiggins in 2016 Gary Prescott attempted to add his name to this long line of illustrious British cycling champions. At 60 years old, asthmatic and (by his own admission) slightly over-weight, Gary – often simply referred to as the Biking Birder – cut a slightly surprising figure as a potential cycling record holder but what he may have lacked in physical prowess he more than compensated for in sheer will and determination and in 2016 he reached for the stars in attempting to set a new European Green Birding record for the most species recorded in one calendar year.



Gary, a retired special needs teacher from Worcestershire, had always been a keen birder, cyclist and promoter of environmental causes so the world of Green Birding, not incurring a carbon footprint in the pursuit of the birds – a growing movement particularly in North America – came naturally to him. 2016 was the culmination of six years of preparation as Gary attempted to set a European Green Birding record, trying to surpass the 304 species seen by Ponc Fileu Latorre of Catalonia in 2014.

In 2018 Gary spent six months in Peru cycling from the Peruvian Pacific coast to Machu Picchu, and across the Andes, before heading down the famous Manu Road to the Madre de Dios river, then kayaking and rainforest trekking to Puerto Maldonado and Tambopata National Park. In Peru Gary managed to see over 800 different species of birds, whilst raising money for the RSPB, the WWT, Asthma UK, and a Peruvian charity for a group of indigenous rainforest children at Chaskwasi-Manu.

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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www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lichfield



RSPB Lichfield Local Group

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COACH TRIP TO RSPB YNYS-HIR

Sunday 5th May

It will be five years since our last visit to Ynys-hir so we have decided to go back in May.

There are a mixture of habitats to be explored at Ynys-hir. Stunning Welsh oak woodland which in spring has breeding pied flycatcher, redstart, wood warbler and lesser spotted woodpecker as well as the early spring flowers such as bluebells. The estuary saltmarsh and lowland wet grasslands support breeding lapwing and redshank. Other areas to explore include freshwater pools, reedbeds and peat bog. Birds to be seen here include grasshopper warblers and water rail.

There are three waymarked trails, visiting the saltmarsh and estuary, the oak woodland and wetland. There are five bird hides. There is a small visitor centre where hot beverages and light refreshments such as cakes and flapjacks are available.

Therefore please reserve your place tonight.

Cost for this trip will be £17 per head.

Free admission to Ynys-hir for RSPB members, otherwise £6 for adults.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: THURSDAY 17th JANUARY

Kingsbury Water Park

We will be meeting at Broomey Croft car park (automatic barrier £3 per car) at 10am for an approximate 2 hour visit. This is the first entrance after crossing the canal on Bodymoor Heath Road before the bridge over the motorway. Post code is B76 0EE (Note this is **not** the main entrance by the visitor centre)

Please come along if you can and share your birdwatching skills with us. If anyone requires a lift from Lichfield please contact me either by phone on 0121 353 6886 or email (dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com).

SPONSORS

We would like to thank our sponsors for 2019, 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.

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2019

The 2019 big garden birdwatch takes place on the weekend of 26 – 28 January. The RSPB is keen to spread the word and get as many people as possible, particularly those who have not done so before, to participate.

So please encourage your friends or relatives to take part. They can count birds for an hour in their gardens or local parks and either record numbers using pen and paper or use the RSPB's online counting tool on a computer, tablet or smartphone. Further details can be found at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.