

## **WELCOME TO 2020**

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

It is 50 years ago since the first RSPB local group was launched. It all started in Epping Forest in July 1969. The RSPB local group network has grown considerably since those humble beginnings. I understand that Lichfield group was established approximately 40 years ago, before my time, but perhaps we still have some members who remember it? Half a century later, local groups have achieved a great deal to encourage interest in wildlife in their local communities.

Highlights include:

- Raised more than £25 million for saving nature.
- Given more than 12 million volunteer hours.
- Led more than 120,000 guided walks showing people wildlife.
- Held more than 80,000 wildlife talks open to the public.
- Inspired a generation with thousands of talks in schools and communities, radio and TV interviews, attending events, writing news articles, websites and social media.
- Published more than 33,000 newsletters distributed in local communities.

Thank you all for your support of our local group.

### **COACH TRIP TO RSPB LEIGHTON MOSS**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

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, bittern and red deer. 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.

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.

**Dennis 0121 353 6886**

[www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lichfield](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lichfield)



**RSPB Lichfield Local Group**

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## **NEXT MEETING: 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

### **Wild Queensland and the Red Hot Centre – Presented by Gianpiero Ferrari**

We have a new speaker for our group tonight, Gianpiero Ferrari. He is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and has been interested in nature for many years. He started wildlife photography about 25 years ago and he loves every aspect of natural history, from the smallest flowers to the larger mammals. He has won several national competitions, and some of his work has been used in many publications for example BBC Wildlife magazine, RSPB calendars and Collins guidebooks.

He is going to show us wildlife in his favourite place - Australia. This presentation is about a six week trip to Queensland and central Australia, to photograph local wildlife, especially the native birds. Other subjects included are landscapes, flowers, a few insects, marsupials, and the Great Barrier Reef.

## **LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

### **Beacon Hill/Pipe Green**

We will be meeting at Bunkers Hill car park at 10am for an approximate 2 hour visit. Please come along if you can and share your birdwatching skills with us. 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](mailto:dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com)).

## **BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2020**

The 2019 big garden birdwatch takes place on the weekend of 25 – 27 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](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch).

## **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

The Museum of Cannock Chase at Valley Road, Hednesford (WS12 1TD) is holding an event on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January from 11am – 3pm called 'Birds of Hednesford Hills', as part of the Big Garden Birdwatch.

The event includes birdwatching, demonstrations and stalls and crafts. Learn about the birds of the Hednesford Hills with experts from the RSPB and Chelmarsh Ringing Group. Also meet owls with the World Owl Trust. Admission is £2.50.

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](mailto: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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