



giving  
nature  
a home

## Lichfield RSPB Local Group APRIL NEWSLETTER

### NEW VENUE FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

I announced last month that St. Mary's won't be available for meetings next year as it is going to be redeveloped into the new Lichfield library.

I am pleased to report that we have been able to book the first floor of the Guildhall for our meetings starting in October and throughout 2017 on our usual second Tuesday date. The only date we have not been able to book is the December 2016 meeting as it has already been booked for a Christmas party. **Therefore we have moved the December meeting to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.**

We have been very fortunate to get the Guildhall, which I think you will agree is probably better than St Marys. It is larger, has good catering facilities, and is conveniently located, all for virtually the same price. There is a lift to provide easy access for anyone who cannot manage the stairs.

We will continue at St Mary's for our May and September meetings. **Please make a note in your diaries that we will move to the Guildhall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.**

### COACH TRIP TO RSPB BEMPTON CLIFFS

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

Our next coach trip is to RSPB Bempton Cliffs in June.

We have had a good response so far with 36 booked on the trip so we have been able to order a larger 49 seater coach. Therefore there is still plenty of room if you would like to go.

This is the peak time to see all the nesting sea birds, including of course the puffins. Bempton has the largest mainland breeding colony of gannets. You can get close to the action from six, safe cliff-edge viewing platforms. Inside the seabird centre, which has been rebuilt in 2015, there's an exciting exhibition area, large TV screens screening live images from the cliffs. There is a café and decked area overlooking the reserve with tables and chairs.

Therefore please reserve your place with Heather tonight. We would appreciate early payment as we will have to pay for the coach soon.

Cost for this trip will be £17 per head and the coach will leave the B&M car park at 7.30 am.

Free admission to Bempton for RSPB members, otherwise £3.50 for adults.

### NEXT MEETING: 10<sup>th</sup> MAY

#### Living with Nature – by day and night

Alan and Sylvia Williams, who last visited us in 2009 to talk about barn owls at their private nature reserve at Tean Valley, are returning to show us a film and talk about how they created and developed the reserve over 14 years. Their last talk was very popular and they recently appeared on the BBC Countryfile programme in February.

The RSPB is the country'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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## OCTOBER COACH TRIP TO FRAMPTON MARSH

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Following last month's meeting and helpful comments received we have decided to change the October coach trip venue and date. Instead of visiting Whisby, we are going to RSPB Frampton Marsh, which is located near Boston in Lincolnshire, close to the Wash, so it attracts many migrating and overwintering birds. Autumn/winter can be spectacular, with thousands of Brent geese grazing the saltmarsh and thousands of ducks on the freshwater scrapes. Hen harriers, merlins, peregrines, barn owls and short-eared owls favour the saltmarsh or wet grassland. With luck you may see a small flock of twite, or even the elusive Lapland bunting.

A major new extension to this coastal wetland reserve includes a reedbed, large freshwater scrapes and wet grassland. These habitats have all been created to bring the wildlife of the Wash closer to visitors. New facilities include a small visitor centre with toilets; the centre has a refreshments area where you can get a hot or cold drink and a snack. There are three hides - two with 360-degree views - and over 3 km of new footpaths to explore.

I don't think the group has visited this reserve before. I have been there several times and have seen some good birds there. **Please note that we have changed the date of this coach trip from 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October.**

Please reserve your place with Heather tonight.

Cost for this trip will be £17 per head and the coach will leave the B&M car park at 7.30 am. It is just over 100 miles to Frampton and will take about 2 ½ hours to get there.

There is free admission to Frampton Marsh.

## LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL

### Brandon Marsh

This is the headquarters of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, near Coventry. This reserve contains large areas of pools created by gravel extraction. It consists of reedbeds, willow carr, grassland and woodland. There are seven bird hides throughout the reserve. It holds a good variety of birds and the warblers have started to arrive.

Membership is free for Wildlife Trust members (you need to take your membership cards) or £2.50 for adults (£1.50 concessions). Meet at the main car park at 10am as usual.

It is just off the A45 to the south-east of Coventry. From the Toll-Bar Island where the A45 and A46 meet, follow the A45 away from Coventry for about 200 metres, then turn left just after a 'Texaco' filling station into Brandon Lane. The Nature Centre is about 1 mile along on the right hand side. Just follow the brown Tourist Signs for Nature Centre. Postcode is CV3 3GW.

I suggest we have a 3 hour visit rather than the usual 2 hours as it is a large reserve and a bit further than normal to travel to. There is a good café at the visitor centre and I propose to have some refreshments here after the walk.

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).

## LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY

### Cannock Chase – Seven Springs

Our May local birdwatching walk is at Seven Springs car park on Cannock Chase, the day before our next monthly meeting.

This is usually a good place to see newly arrived summer visitors. When we visited it in early May last year, common warblers were there, a wood warbler was singing in the trees near the car park and we found tree pipits nearby. Hopefully they will all be there again this year.

We will be meeting at Seven Springs car park (postcode ST17 0WT) off the A513 about 1 mile west of Wolseley Bridge 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).