

## INDIAN SUMMER

After a fine September the last week's weather has reverted to normal. However I will long remember the fine sunny day in September when I managed to combine the best of my two favourite hobbies, birdwatching and walking. I had just climbed the Lawley near Church Stretton in Shropshire, a fairly strenuous walk, and my friend and I decided to stop for lunch at the top. As we munched our sandwiches, a group of twelve ravens arrived and started performing an aerobatic air display all around us. I have seen one or two in the past flying around but never so many together like this. For a full 15 minutes they chased each other around the hill-top, soaring up and diving into the valley below, flipping over on their backs and cartwheeling around each other, often flying within a few yards of us. A truly memorable experience.

If you have been anywhere or seen anything interesting recently, please let me know so we can include it the next newsletter. My email address is at the bottom of this page.

## RSPB MEMBERS DAY- SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

There is still time to book a place at the RSPB Members' Day and AGM which is taking place for the first time at the ICC in Birmingham.

There's lots for you to enjoy on the day, including talks by David Lindo (the urban birder) and the RSPB president Miranda Krestovnikoff, who is well-known from TV shows Coast and The One Show.

There are plenty more inspiring talks too. You can find out about huge conservation projects, where whole landscapes are being improved for wildlife and people, as well as the effects of flooding.

The day (10 am – 5 pm) with lunch provided, costs £45, but if there are a few of you from the group who want to go along, then speak to Abbi Jinks on 01767 680551 to see if a discount is available. Alternatively, you can book your place by emailing [AGM@rspb.org.uk](mailto:AGM@rspb.org.uk)

## VOTE FOR BOB

The RSPB's campaign, "**Vote for Bob**" to get politicians to do more for wildlife and nature aims to raise a petition of 150,000 votes to present to Parliament. So far 98,000 people have voted so if you have not done so yet, please go to [www.voteforbob.co.uk](http://www.voteforbob.co.uk) and vote for Bob.

## TRIPS FOR 2015

At a recent committee meeting, we discussed trips for 2015. We shall continue running solo trips using the 29-seater coach from Grayshells but for the trips to be viable we do need to fill it. We only had 18 people on the trip to Gibraltar Point last weekend.

In 2015 we have decided to have three trips as follows:

**22 FEBRUARY**

**RUTLAND WATER**

**10 MAY**

**LEIGHTON MOSS**

**18 OCTOBER**

**MARTIN MERE and MARSHSIDE**

There will be more information available later but you can sign up for any or all of these trips now. If you need more information now about these sites please visit their websites.

## UPDATE ON MIDDLETON LAKES

The long awaited bridge over the River Tame to connect the main reserve to the pools on the other side is at last being installed. The supports have been built and the rumour is that the bridge will be erected in November.

## SKY AND HOPE

Two young satellite-tagged hen harriers, named Sky and Hope have vanished in Lancashire in unexplained circumstances despite round the clock protection. Both chicks fledged this year and disappeared within 3 days of each other in September in the Bowland area of Lancashire. Only three pairs of hen harriers have nested this year in England. The RSPB would welcome donations to its hen harrier appeal to save them from extinction as a breeding species.

### **DON'T FORGET**

To sort out your photos to display at the December meeting. You don't have to be an ace photographer, just share your favourite wildlife pictures from the last twelve months. Please make sure the subject matter is wildlife or landscape based and mounted on card so they can be presented on our display boards.

### **NEXT MEETING**

David Tolliday, an award winning photographer from Cheshire, is going to show us **Sights and Sounds of British Wildlife**

**TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 7.30**