

The RSPB Macclesfield Local Group



The Heron



Newsletter - October 2020

We look forward to our second ZOOM speaker David Boag on Tuesday 13th October starting promptly at 19:45 His presentation is titled *Heading North*

A new speaker for the Local Group who lives in Dorset and who we recently discovered gives zoom presentations, so he is one not to miss. David will take us on a journey further north starting in the Scottish Highlands, then up through Norway to Iceland and the wilds of Greenland to finish in Svalbard. He is an accomplished photographer and author of eighteen books who has travelled widely giving lectures and working overseas.

His presentation will aim to capture the remoteness of icebergs, snowy landscapes and craggy mountains showing the incredible fauna and flora, from seabirds, waders and polar bears to stunted plants and trees.

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 2020

Tuesday
13

ZOOM Meeting: Heading North by David Boag

Contact: Lydia Taylor by eMail - membership@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk if you haven't already shown interest in receiving our Zoom presentations and would like to be added to the list.
Zoom introduced by Ray Evans

NOVEMBER 2020

Saturday
7

Macclesfield Library and Wilmslow Charity Card Shops OPEN

Assuming no changes in Government Guidelines we understand the annual Charity Card Shops plan to open today.
For more details see the article later in the Newsletter

Tuesday
10

ZOOM Meeting: Birds of Moor and Mountain - controversy or co-operation by Andre Farrar

Contact: Lydia Taylor by eMail - membership@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk if you haven't already shown interest in receiving our Zoom presentations and would like to be added to the list.
Zoom introduced by Rob Cameron

Christmas Charity Card Shops

The Local Group have received confirmation that, subject to no changes in Government Guidelines and Restrictions, plans are being made for the Charity Card Shops in Macclesfield and Wilmslow to go ahead this year. Macclesfield's will be held in the library, but probably in the larger room, whilst Wilmslow's will be relocated to a retail unit in the pedestrianised part of town. The card shops plan to be open for four weeks, with reduced opening hours. The key dates for your diary are:

Saturday 7 November to Saturday 5 December 2020

We have been advised that both venues will be COVID-19 secure with one-way systems, hand sanitisers, face masks required and screens around the till etc.

The Committee are presently considering whether we can help with volunteers to attend the shop on duty days because the RSPB stress that any sales activities must not put volunteers at risk. The health of volunteers is much more important than any income generated.

All of this assumes that there are no changes to government restrictions to prevent the card shops from happening or the way they operate.

The Charity Card Shops are a good source of income for the RSPB and last year our Local Group sold cards to the value of £1,591 at Wilmslow and £1,413 at Macclesfield.

The Local Group have also received confirmation from the RSPB that Local Groups will be able to obtain stocks of Christmas cards. The Committee are exploring how the Local Group can offer Christmas cards for sale to the Membership while we are not holding indoor meetings. More to come on this and the Charity Card Shops after our next Committee meeting later this month.

Ian Taylor
Editor

Local Group Membership and Zoom meetings

Membership fees are now due and I (Lydia) would like to say thank you to everybody who has renewed their membership by either standing order, cheque or on-line payment. It's disappointing that we cannot meet socially together at the Senior Citizens' Hall or go out for a guided walk in the countryside finding birds to watch. We must acknowledge the need to all stay safe in these challenging times of COVID-19 and our solution to these restrictions is to hold Zoom online meetings. We apologise if you are not able to join us in this way, hopefully we will be able to get back to the *new normal* and hold indoor meetings in the future.

Our first Zoom meeting in September with Ashley Giles went well with 43 devices logging into the meeting and we estimate that the audience total was in the region of 45 to 50. We did have several learning points that we hope will make the next meeting run even more smoothly. For example, the Zoom Host will hopefully no longer create black boxes in the screen while admitting members to the meeting and participants will not be able to accidentally unmute themselves without the Zoom Host's permission. We would like to encourage you to submit questions to the speaker through *Chat* to the meeting Co-Host, Ray Evans. We are exploring whether we can enable members to submit their question personally, if they prefer. To do this we need to be able to identify you so the Zoom Host can unmute and spotlight you, so you can ask your question. If you don't already, please can we encourage you to rename your device with your identity and turn-on your video as well as sound.

We look forward to our next zoom presentation on Tuesday 13th October. I will send out the meeting invitation on Monday 12th October to those who have either requested an invitation or shown interest in this meeting format. The zoom waiting room will be available from 19:15 for you to log in and I will admit everybody in good time for a 19:45 prompt start.

Lydia Taylor
Membership Secretary

Surveys

It is almost time to return spring and summer Garden Bird and Wildlife Survey (GB&WS) forms that were circulated by email during the early stages of lockdown back in March/April. There is some overlap with the usual winter Garden Bird Survey we sent out with the August Heron and membership pack. I'm really keen to see what has turned up in your gardens during the survey period and I hope to be able to analyse the information during the dark evenings of November and report back in the December Newsletter.

Also, don't forget the winter Garden Bird Survey started on the 28th September and this year it has been extended to include animals, butterflies and moths that come into your garden. Don't worry if you have missed the start, all information is welcome and I will undertake the usual analyses next summer.

Thank you for participating in the surveys and I look forward to receiving your forms. Please return your survey forms with your name and address included to: Ian Taylor, 39 Leamington Road, Congleton, CW12 4PE

Alternatively you can scan the form and email the file to: newsletter@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk

Ian Taylor
Garden Bird Survey Analyst

Virtual Events with our Wildlife Explorers

Global Bird Rescue 2020: 5 - 11 October 2020

Macclesfield RSPB Wildlife Explorers are once again delighted to add support to this worldwide initiative to raise awareness about the threat to birds of collision with our built environment. Global Bird Rescue (GBR) is an annual event hosted by FLAP Canada (Fatal Light Awareness Programme) that uses the Global Bird Collision Mapper (GBCM) to document bird-building collisions across the globe. The goal of GBR is to raise awareness of this critical issue and encourage the use of effective migration techniques to reduce bird-building collisions.

Although no live events can be organised for GBR2020 - please support the Wildlife Explorers involvement by taking some time to explore the website to understand the threat of the built environment to bird populations.: <https://flap.org/global-bird-rescue-2020/>. There are lots of tips on how to make your home safer for birds.

Virtual Welly Walk and Nature Needs You – 10 October 2020

This annual event is going virtual this year because it cannot take place in West Park as planned. Instead on 10 October there will be a number of activities published and promoted online to get you outdoors to have fun. If you have young children or grandchildren in your family please look out on social media for the links to all the activities so you and your family can join in.

A Poem for Welly Walk from our Local Group Laureate Frankie Badcock

*Hey! Wild Child!
Turn off the telly!
Put on your Wellies!
Do just talk the talk!
Go and walk a Wild Welly Walk!*

Tina Hanak
Wildlife Explorers Leader