

I have been asked by the RSPB to publicise their new “Say Yes to the RSPB” campaign - asking volunteers, supporters and members to opt in to hearing from the RSPB, on their terms. The following letter from Mike Clarke, the RSPB chief executive, explains the campaign:-



The RSPB has a fantastic track record of achieving amazing results for nature. And we couldn't do this without the tremendous support given and actions taken by our members and supporters. This includes you, our fantastic Local Group members. Together, we do great things for nature.

Now we're asking our members and supporters to “Say Yes to the RSPB” and opt in to hearing from us on their terms. It's about them having more control over their relationship with us. It's about strengthening our connection.

We need existing members and supporters to opt in before May 2018 (when new rules come into effect) and give their express permission for us to contact them. If they don't, we won't be able to keep in touch directly about our work and developments, about getting involved, and about supporting the RSPB in other ways – for example, through volunteering, supporting an appeal or taking part in an activity or campaign. We will be able only to contact those people about their membership and/or in their existing role as a volunteer.

As a member of a Local Group, your support is invaluable to the RSPB. We'd love you to “Say Yes” and tell us how you want to hear from us in the future. Were we unable to contact you and ask for your help when nature needs it, our ability to work for nature would be greatly diminished.

If you're an RSPB member and receive winter's Nature's Home, make sure you read the letter from Mike and make your opt-in choices online, via our dedicated phone line or by filling in and returning the paper form. If you've already made your choices, thanks very much.

If you aren't a member, as an active supporter you can make your opt-in choices now. Go to rspb.org.uk/yes or call 0300 777 2610 (open Monday-Friday, 9am-8pm, calls charged at standard rate). Please also help us by encouraging family and friends who are RSPB members or supporters to make their choices too.

The passion and commitment of our members and supporters keeps the RSPB going in our work for nature. Saying “Yes” will keep us strong. And please do the same for all those other nature conservation charities you might support. We need to stay together to help save nature.

Thank you!

RSPB Chief Executive Mike Clarke

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I am pleased to announce that we have three new committee members to help develop our Lichfield group. They are Dot Giles, Sue Ridley and Colin Walton.

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.

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lichfield

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TRIP TO BURTON MERE

The weather was fine and sunny and quite warm, more like a summer day than autumn. Twenty of us made the trip to this Dee Estuary reserve which has a wide range of habitats, including woodland, marshes and reedbeds. There was a good range of birds, with plenty of ducks and waders including black tailed godwits, avocets and several little stints. A large flock of pink-footed geese flew high over the reserve. Birds of prey included marsh harrier, buzzard and kestrel. As well as a number of little egrets, we had good views of a cattle egret. We finished the day having seen 63 species between us.

NEXT MEETING: 12th DECEMBER

Christmas Social with a short presentation by Colin Walton, Photo Display, Food and Drink

Please bring your favourite wildlife photographs from the last 12 months to display at the December meeting. Please make sure the subject matter is wildlife or landscape based and mounted on card so they can be presented on our display boards. Please note this year that we would like photographs to be no larger than 8" x 12" (A4 size).

Please bring a plate of food. We will provide squash but of course you can bring your own drinks.

If you can't make December, the first meeting of 2018 is on 9th January when we will welcome back Peter Holden MBE who will present a talk, "Inspired by Birds", which covers the art, music and science that has originated from the natural world and birds in particular. Peter Holden is a renowned ornithologist, conservationist and author of more than a dozen books which have together sold more than a million copies. He also devised the Big Garden Birdwatch and has contributed to TV programmes such as Springwatch.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER

Belvide reservoir (managed by the West Midland Bird Club)

For those of you who have not been here before it is well worth a visit as it is one of the best reserves in the West Midlands with several hides overlooking the reservoir. It is home to a wide variety of waterfowl, gulls and woodland birds. I have obtained a permit for us to visit the reserve and the WMBC requests a donation of £3 from non-club members (collected on the day).

Go to junction 12 of the M6 on the A5 from Cannock. Continue west along the A5 and after approximately 3 miles, turn left onto Horsebrook Lane signposted Brewood, Codsall and Homestead Caravan Park, about 200 yards before reaching the Bell Inn. Take the second right onto Shutt Green Lane (half mile) signposted Homestead Caravan Park. After passing the caravan park, the car park is on the right after about 200 yards. A code is required to open the gate to the car park so I will get there at 9.30 to open the gate. Postcode is ST19 9LX.

The walk will last approximately 2 hours. Paths can be muddy so please bring appropriate footwear.

Either meet at the venue at 10.00am or contact me by phone (0121 353 6886) or email (dennis.muxworthy@btinternet.com) and we may be able to share transport from Lichfield B & M car park.

SPONSORSHIP

At this time of the year I have been contacting our sponsors detailing the group's activities over the last year, thanking them for their support and hoping they will continue sponsorship for the next 12 months. Each sponsor gives us £1 a week.

In my letters to sponsors I have expressed the gratitude of the group for their support and promised to circulate any advertising material they provide. I would like to encourage group members to use our sponsors if possible and, if appropriate, mention the group and add your thanks.