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LICHFIELD RSPB JANUARY NEWSLETTER



www.rspb.org.uk/groups/lichfield/

COUNTING THE PENNIES

You will remember the plight of the English Hen Harriers that I mentioned at the December meeting, only 1 breeding pair in the country despite research estimating sufficient habitat to support 300 pairs! At a recent meeting the committee decided to use £100 of the money collected at our late treasurer's funeral to support an appeal to raise £600,000 towards their protection and we also held a collection at the meeting which raised £40.

A cheque for a total of £140 was posted to the appeal along with a covering letter explaining how the money had been raised and that acknowledgement should be made to Lichfield RSPB Group.

We hope this meets with the approval of all our members.

I also emailed Rex's son Jon with the above information: his response was immediate, approving our action and wishing the appeal and the group the best of luck.

At the committee meeting we were informed by the treasurer that we had sufficient surplus funds to send a larger than usual annual donation to HQ.

In the past we have sent £500 from our account but this year we felt it was possible to send £1000 while still retaining a healthy working balance.

We are in this fortunate position because of the support you have given the group over the last few years. Audience numbers have remained high and your support for the raffle and purchase of refreshments have created a surplus at each meeting despite rising costs of speakers and hall hire.

THANK YOU

Remember, over 90% of money donated to The RSPB goes directly into conservation

LOOKING AHEAD

I know we've only just started 2013 but I've now got to think about the programme for 2014. I get the dates application form from St Mary's before Christmas and have to return it with our dates for the next year as soon as possible otherwise another group or society may ask for "our" Tuesday.

As applications are dealt with in strict order of return, it would be possible for us to lose our favoured day and have to meet on a different night - that would feel wrong! You'll be pleased to hear we shall continue to meet on our usual second Tuesday of the month.

I begin to phone and email speakers in January to get in before they are booked by other groups and organisations, it's surprising how many other RSPB groups meet on the second Tuesday of the month. Also, as soon as Christmas and New Year are over many speakers are engaged to lead tours abroad or go away on extended holidays and expeditions so become difficult to contact.

If there are any subjects you would like covered and which would be of interest to all or any speakers you can recommend, please let me know.

As change from our usual guest speaker I'm thinking of a film night for one of the months, there are plenty of RSPB films available, I just need to get my head round the technology!

Bob