

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017

Our new 2017 programme is available tonight so if you have not yet picked one up, please get one from the table at the back of the room. If you know someone who may be interested in coming to our group meetings or events, please take extra copies.

In January, I will need to start contacting speakers for our 2018 meetings as they often get booked by other groups and organisations over a year in advance and can be difficult to contact early in the year as many of them are engaged to lead tours abroad. 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.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALK: MONDAY 12th DECEMBER

Ladywalk Nature Reserve (managed by the West Midland Bird Club)

Our next visit is next Monday to Ladywalk. This is one of the best reserves in the West Midlands and well worth a visit. A bittern has been seen regularly for the last three weeks.

We will be meeting at the Reserve car park 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).

Access is via Faraday Avenue at Hams Hall Distribution Centre, approached using the roundabout on the A446 approx 1 mile south of Junction 9 of the M42. Faraday Avenue leads to the car park via a padlocked security gate (turn right at final roundabout by Sainsbury's warehouse).

The WMBC require a permit fee of £3 from non-club members (collected on the day). 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 B46 1AL.

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2017

The 2017 big garden birdwatch takes place on the weekend of 28 – 30 January. The RSPB is keen to spread the word and get as many people as possible, particularly those who have not done so before, to participate.

So please encourage your friends or relatives to take part. They can count birds for an hour in their gardens or local parks and either record numbers using pen and paper or use the RSPB's online counting tool on a computer, tablet or smartphone. Further details can be found at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.

NEXT MEETING: 10th JANUARY

The Changing Seasons

Award winning professional photographer Paul Hobson returns with images celebrating nature throughout the year and around the world, including Yellowstone National Park, Hungary, Bulgaria and the UK.

LOCAL BIRDWATCHING WALKS WINTER/SPRING 2017

The walks 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.

The programme of walks is as follows:

Tuesday 24th January

Kingsbury Water Park, Bodymoor Heath

Meet at Broomey Croft car park (automatic barrier £3 per car). Postcode is B76 0DY

Thursday 16th February

Branston Water Park

Meet at the main car park.

Monday 20th March

National Memorial Arboretum

Meet at the main car park. £3 per car.

Friday 21st 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. Membership is free for Wildlife Trust members (you need to take your membership cards) or £2.50 for adults (£1.50 concessions).

I suggest we plan to 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.

Thursday 4th May

Cannock Chase – Seven Springs

Meet at Seven Springs car park off the A513 near Little Haywood ST17 0WT.