

RSPB NE London Local Group

Dear All,

Hope you are all well.

Time does fly as it is now a year since our last meeting at St. Mary's church hall. Whilst the government has outlined a planned route map for a return to near normal life, our next meetings will still be zoom ones.

On 13th April we welcome Andrew Cleave MBE who is speaking on Birds and Wildlife of Lundy.

Andrew is a committee member of the Lundy Field Society and is presently involved with a survey of the island's flora. His published works, numbering over 30 titles so far, cover a range of natural history and environmental subjects, and include field guides to Birds, Trees, Wild Flowers, Seashore Life as well as Biology Revision Guides and numerous articles in magazines and journals.

Walks - These are potentially the first of our activities that we can start up again. This is dependent on the roadmap out of the Covid restrictions staying on course and the guidance of the RSPB to advise us when it is legal and safe to do so. We are planning to have a walk on the 17th April. At that time, groups of six will be allowed to meet, so a walk of two groups of six should be possible. Further details to follow nearer the date.

Following on from this, a dawn chorus walk is planned for the 22nd May. By this time, a group of up to 30 people should be able to meet outside.

Don't forget to look out for the results of the Big Garden Bird Watch.

With warm regards,

Your Friends on the Committee



Call for nature's recovery by 2030

The RSPB has linked up with 50 other conservation and wildlife organisations and they have joined together to launch a petition to encourage the government to commit to turn round nature's decline by 2030.

Almost half of UK wildlife is in long term decline and 15% of our species are at risk of extinction.

The Environment Bill is the last chance to set this right. By writing the recovery of nature into law, the Environment Bill could start to address the nature and climate crisis. But the current wording fails to reflect the ambition or the urgency we need.

We're calling for a change to the Bill to strengthen the law. It would require the UK Government to set a legally binding target to reverse the loss of nature in England by 2030.

Sign the petition at [Wildlife and Countryside Link \(e-activist.com\)](https://www.wildlifeandcountryside.org.uk/e-activist.com)

Walthamstow Wetlands

Goods news! The future of the Walthamstow Wetlands has been secured for the next five years with the London Wildlife Trust taking over operational responsibility for the whole site.



Walthamstow Wetlands is a 211-hectare site comprising ten reservoirs that provide drinking water for London and which are internationally recognised for their importance for migrating birds – particularly overwintering wildfowl.

They are currently open from 10.30am to 4pm, but only for recreation. Bird watching is currently not allowed, but as the situation eases this should hopefully change on the 29th March. We are all looking forward to being able to go bird watching again there.

Photos courtesy of Peter Salter



Emily Williamson

Emily Williamson, 34, was so horrified by the fashion for feathered hats that she launched a campaign to halt the plumage trade. She invited her friends to tea at her home in Didsbury, Manchester, and asked them to sign a pledge to wear no feathers. And so, the Society for the Protection of Birds was born. The year was 1889.

All of its members were women.

In 1921, following a 30- year campaign, the Plumage Act was passed, ending the trade in exotic bird skins.

Vulnerable species began to recover and the RSPB moved onto other campaigns and issues.

Emily Williamson's story faded from the history of conservation.

We think that this inspirational woman, founder of the UK's largest conservation charity, deserves to be remembered. That's why the RSPB has launched a competition for a statue to honour her legacy, to be erected near her home in Manchester. Find out more [here](#). The selection process is now down to the final four contenders.