

NOTICE board

What's going on at a club near you?

If your club has a special event, an anniversary to celebrate, an appeal for funds, or anything else it would like to publicise, email matthew.merritt@bauermedia.co.uk with full details (and photos, if possible), or call Matt Merritt on 01733 468536.

CLUB FOCUS

NORTH EAST LONDON RSPB GROUP

In early 2007, the RSPB became aware that there was an empty nest in the London Borough of Redbridge. It was agreed that this wouldn't do, and steps were taken to lay an egg and incubate it carefully.

It took a while until it started to hatch, but eventually the nestling became the North East London RSPB Group and in late 2009, it started to exercise its wings.

From those few hesitant flaps, confidence was gained and now, in mid-2011, the fully-fledged adult has a following and organises a modest programme of indoor meetings and walks.

We welcome all visitors, whether RSPB members or not, to our indoor meetings, which take place on the second Tuesday of most months at Snaresbrook Primary School, Meadow

Walk, E18 2EN (we take a break in the holidays over Easter, summer and Christmas – just look at the website or call if you're unsure).

This year, we have already heard about places as diverse as Mongolia, The Galapagos Islands and the Arctic, and we have a great programme of talks lined up for the rest of 2011 and beyond. You definitely won't need your passport to be transported to South Africa, Goa, The Camargue and, er, Redbridge... so please give us a try and come along on Tuesday 13 September to hear Neil Renwick tell us about the Kruger National Park.

For more information, call David on 020 8989 4746, email nelondonRSPB@yahoo.co.uk, or check out our website at: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/northeastlondon

The outdoors, indoors

This year's Wildlife Expo takes place at Alexandra Palace, London, on 14-15 October.

The comprehensive wildlife exhibition features specialist wildlife travel companies, binocular and camera specialists, outdoor clothing, wildlife art, underwater equipment, wildlife and conservation charities and more.

There's the opportunity to listen to

lectures and presentations from some of the best-known wildlife presenters, view over 70 of the winning and commended entries from the 2011 British Wildlife Photography Awards, and participate in workshops with photography experts.

Tickets are on sale now.

To buy, or for further information, go to: www.wildlifexpo.com

Get stuck in

Richmondshire & Hambleton RSPB Local Group will be carrying out conversation work at Staveley Nature Reserve, near Knarborough, on 20 August.

It will include the removal of invasive plants such as Himalayan Balsam. If you'd like to take part, please wear old clothes – it could be dirty work – and take a packed lunch, and meet at Village Green, Staveley

(grid ref: SE 366 627), at 10am.

The group will be back at Staveley NR later in the year, on 22 October, to be shown around the 81-hectare reserve by manager Carl Watts. Target birds will include Barn Owl, Tree Sparrow and Water Rail.

For further details on the latter event, contact Jim Brettell, 01748 850272.

BIRD POWER

The National Forest's Get Active In The Forest programme of walks includes several events for birdwatchers.

One of the best is Drakelow's Hidden Secrets, a one-hour walk around a hidden gem of a birding site in Derbyshire, Drakelow Power Station, which attracts waders, warblers, wildfowl, birds of prey and much more.

Held on Sunday 4 September, it costs £1, and you should meet at 1.45pm for a 2pm start at Drakelow Power Station Gate C.

Telephone 01283 563483 for more details.

BINS FOR BEGINNERS

Abberton Reservoir, Essex, is well-known as a great birding spot, always featuring heavily in our UKBS reports, but on 20 August it plays host to an event designed to help beginner birdwatchers.

If you're just starting out and are looking to buy your first pair of binoculars, or your first spotting scope, there's an Optics Day from 10am to 4pm.

The optics team at the reservoir will offer help and advice on binoculars, scopes, tripods, digiscoping kits and accessories, with the opportunity to try before you buy. Brands will include Opticron and Hawke.

Special offers and secondhand goods will be available on the day, and admission is free.

BIRD EVENTS ONLINE

Our extensive country-wide events listing is available on our website. Visit www.birdwatching.co.uk to find the best birding events near you.