

## RSPB NE London Local Group

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Dear All,

Hope you are all well.

Our next four meetings will be on zoom, as follows:

9th February Andre Farrar - My Life with Birds concentrating on Hen Harriers and Wading Birds

9th March Simon Ginnaw - Birding in the Heart of Europe (Hungary)

13 April Speaker to be confirmed

11 May Richard Pople – What's in your garden

Walks and Events, as you have probably guessed, are still suspended until there is an improvement in the current situation.

### Big Garden Bird Watch

A reminder that the Big Garden Bird Watch is 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January. You can sign up for all you need to take part, including your free guide, help with identifying what you see and expert advice on feeding the birds at [Big Garden Birdwatch | Join the fun - The RSPB](#)

Thank you again to all those who have made a donation to the RSPB following one of our talks

Warm regards,  
Your Friends on the Committee

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**Website** - [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/northeastlondon](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/northeastlondon)

**Contact us by email** - [nelondonRSPB@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nelondonRSPB@yahoo.co.uk)

**Keep in touch** - on Twitter [@RSPBNELondonGrp](https://twitter.com/RSPBNELondonGrp)  
- on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/nelondon](http://www.facebook.com/nelondon))



## Are you ready to get out and about in nature this winter?

**Gather up, Winterwatchers!** Learn some key skills to help you get outdoors and find out more about the birds in your environment with a very special Live Lesson at **11am** on the **28th of January 2021**.

This cross-curricular programme in partnership with the [RSPB](#) and [BBC Two's Winterwatch](#) will allow Key Stage 2 pupils to experience the magic of nature in the winter from their classrooms and homes, and arm them with the necessary skills to go out and explore their local wildlife with the [Big Schools Birdwatch](#) (for children taking part from school) and the [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) (for children taking part with their parents or carers from home)

For more details [The Big Schools Winterwatch Live Lesson - BBC Teach](#)

We are all children at heart!

## Diverse Gardens

As I sit indoors, watching the rain running down the window pane, my



attention turns to the garden and how I can make it more attractive to wildlife. The quick and easy answer is probably to provide a selection of bird feeders which attract a variety of birds to them.

However, for the

more adventurous amongst us, the RSPB have identified a range of activities that can increase the diversity of creatures to your outdoor space whether it be a flat balcony or a large garden. These creatures will comprise birds, small mammals, including hedgehogs and insects.

These can be seen on their website [Things to do in your garden |](#)

[Activities to help nature - The RSPB](#)

These activities range from giving your lawnmower a summer rest to

digging a pond. The idea is that these small projects help increase the number and diversity of invertebrates in your garden and in turn help to produce a well-balanced environment. Growing plants, such as honeysuckle or sweet rocket are nectar rich



and attractive to moths which in turn are a tasty treat to bats and a range of birds. Flower meadows will attract a wide range of insects to fertilise plants and encourage other creatures and the best bit is that you need to do nothing at all – leave the mower in the shed and sit and watch the grass and flowers grow. Easy!

## Big garden Bird Watch

### Share your Big Garden Birdwatch videos

The Big Garden Birdwatch is fast approaching and we need your help!

Before and during the Birdwatch weekend (29 to 31 January) we'll be sharing videos from influencers, supporters and RSPB volunteers across our social media channels. So, for your chance of Birdwatch fame, please submit your videos of 30 seconds or less

to [facebook@rspb.org.uk](mailto:facebook@rspb.org.uk) or share your videos and photos directly on social media using #BigGardenBirdwatch. You could let us know how you're taking part, what you've seen or perhaps what you're hoping to see.

Taking part in the Birdwatch is a great way to switch off for an hour and enjoy nature, so why not encourage your friends and family to take part? Our advice is to join in with the Birdwatch from the safety of your own home this year. This could include a birdwatch from your window if you overlook a green space or courtyard. Remember to only count the birds that land!