

**Welcome to the SE Essex  
RSPB Local Group**

**Indoor Meetings:** are held at Belfairs Woodland Centre, Eastwood Road North, Leigh on Sea, SS9 4LR. Note: turn down small road directly on the bend by the three flagpoles. Doors open at 19.30 for 20.00. Admission: Group members £3.00, visitors £4.00. **Membership Details:** can be obtained from John Ford  
Tel: 01702 540309.

**Field meetings:** are intended as short outings of 2-3 hours duration at sites. **For information on walks, please contact Steve Sanford on (01702) 544614. There is no charge for these walks.**

**2018**

**Wednesday 5th September: Indoor meeting - Brian Gallop, Icelandic Saga**

This talk will cover the natural history that Brian has found on the island, together with the fascinating volcanology and geology, as well as some history.

**Wednesday 12th September: Field Walk - Bowers Marsh RSPB**

Meet at 10am. From Southend, travel along the A13. Take the A130 Canvey exit and at the roundabout follow signs for Pitsea B1464. Drive for less than one mile and then turn left at the mini-roundabout with brown sign. This is Church Road - go left at the next T-junction and follow the road to the car park. Postcode SS13 2HG. All welcome.

**Sunday 30th September: Field Walk - Bradwell Bird Observatory**

Meet at 11 am in Eastlands car park. Follow the B1021 to Bradwell and then follow the signs to St Peters Chapel. . Postcode CMO 7PN. All welcome.

**Tuesday 2nd October: Field Walk - Wat Tyler/Vange Marsh**

Meet at 10am in Wat Tyler CP behind the Visitor Centre. All welcome.

**Wednesday 3rd October: Indoor meeting - Joanne Loman, African Penguins**

Jo is Education and Communications officer at Belfairs and took a 3 month sabbatical to undertake a Seabird Rehab and Care Internship at SANCCOB in Cape Town. This organisation supports the endangered African Penguin population

**Sunday 14th October: Field Walk - Dungeness Power Station and RSPB Reserve**

Meet in the car park at the Power Station at 10am. All welcome.

**Wednesday 7th November: Indoor meeting - Gary Prescott, The Biking Birder**

Gary will be talking about Green Birding, the growing interest in the sport, the reasons why people Green Bird and the most well-known participants. He will also talk about his 3 years of Biking Birder adventures, especially those years when he visited every RSPB and WWT Nature reserve in the U.K. - all 232 of them!

**Monday 12th November: Field Walk - Thurrock Thameside Nature Park \***

Meet at 10am. Take the A1014 exit off the A13 towards Shell Haven/Coryton/Stanford Le Hope. At the roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Stanford Road (A1013). Turn left at the traffic lights. At mini roundabout turn right into Butts Lane. Turn left onto Mucking Wharf Road. Follow signs onto Thurrock Thameside NR. Postcode SS17 0RN. High tide 1541hrs. All welcome.

**Sunday 25th November: Field Walk - Two Tree Island**

Meet at 8am in the car park. All welcome.

**Wednesday 5th December: Indoor meeting - Bill Coster, The Shetland Isles**

Shetland is one of the most spectacular locations for wildlife and this presentation is a result of a month spent on the islands, photographing the birds and other wildlife, as well as the landscape of the most northern part of Britain. It features many familiar British seabirds and waders as they go about their business of raising young in a British summer.

**Sunday 9th December: Field Walk - Tollesbury Wick**

Meet at 10am at Woodrolfe Green which is on the left just before you reach Tollesbury Marina. All welcome.

**Monday 17th December: Field Walk - Stambridge Mill to Stambridge Trout Fishery.**

Meet at Stambridge Mill at 10am. Postcode SS4 2AR. All welcome.

**2019**

**Wednesday 2nd January: Indoor meeting - Simon Ginnaw, A Year on my Local Patch**

Discover the charms and quirks behind watching a local patch and why everyone should have one! Simon has been visiting his local park since childhood and its wildlife has shaped his career to date.

**Monday 7th January: Field Walk - Wallasea Island RSPB**

Meet at Midday. Follow the road past the entrance to the Marina to the car park. All welcome.

**Sunday 20th January: Field Walk - Southend Pier**

Meet at 0945am at the lower level entrance. High tide 1230 hrs. All welcome.

**Wednesday 6th February: Indoor meeting - Colin Kirtland, The Birds of Gambia**

The Gambia is the smallest country in mainland Africa. It has a wealth of birdlife and a wide variety of habitats, from coastal lagoons and mangrove swamps to forest, wetlands and the Gambia river. This talk takes us from the coast to the eastern end of the country and includes local scenes and some of the people to be encountered there.

**Sunday 10th February: Field Walk - Chigborough Lakes/Heybridge Basin**

Take the B1026 Heybridge to Goldhanger road and turn left into Chigborough Road. This junction is just over a mile from Heybridge. Meet in the Chigborough Lakes car park at 1000 hrs. Postcode CM9 4RE.

**Wednesday 20th February: Field Walk - West Canvey Marsh RSPB**

Enter Canvey from Benfleet Railway Station. At the first roundabout take the 2nd exit (straight on). The entrance to the reserve is actually on the 2nd roundabout (3rd exit). Meet at 1000 hrs. All welcome.

**Tuesday 5th March: Field Walk - South Fambridge**

Meet at 10am. Travelling from Rochford take the Ashingdon Road and after approx. 1 mile turn right onto the South Fambridge turning and continue until the end of the road when you can park on the left.. All welcome.

**Wednesday 6th March: Indoor meeting - Jonathan Forgham, The Birds of Hel**

Jonathan will take us on a wander along the 25 ml long Hel peninsula in N. Poland. Lying between the Baltic and Gdansk Bay, it is a bird migration hotspot.

**Sunday 24th March: Field Walk - EWT Hanningfield Reservoir \***

Post code CM11 1WT. Non EWT members may be asked for a donation. Meet at 1000 hrs. All welcome.

**Wednesday 3rd April: Indoor meeting - Emma Stobart, Operation Turtle Dove**

Turtle dove numbers in the U.K. have declined by 91% since 1995. We will be looking at some of the factors behind their decline, the research being done in the U.K. and along the flyway as they travel to Sub-Saharan Africa in winter.

**Sunday 14th April: Field Walk - Wakering Stairs**

Take the Foulness Road from Great Wakering church to the M.O.D entrance. Follow the road to the seawall. Meet at 10am. All welcome.

**Tuesday 30th April: Field Walk - Hadleigh Country Park**

Meet at 9am in the new Chapel Lane car park. There is a charge for parking. All welcome.

**Wednesday 1st May: Indoor meeting - Neil Coe, Point Pelee and Northern Michigan**

Point Pelee is a long stretch of land jutting out from the northern shore of Lake Erie, pointing south to the

American southern shore. As well as other bird species, there are 36 species of breeding warblers to be found.

**Wednesday 8th May: Field Walk - Edwards Hall Country Park**

Turn off the A127 at Progress Road. At the bottom of the road turn left and then 1st right into Bosworth Road. Follow the road to the car park at 10am. All welcome.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May: Coach trip to RSPB Minsmere**

**Sunday 19th May: Field Walk - Canvey, Holehaven Creek**

From Benfleet railway station go over the bridge onto the island. At the 1st roundabout take the 2nd exit. At the next roundabout take the 1st exit onto the A130. Stay on the A130 until the King Canute Pub on the left. Turn right into Haven Road. Go to the end of Haven Road and park in the public car park in front of the Lobster Smack PH. Meet at 1000 hrs. Postcode SS8 ONR. All welcome.

*\* Ideal sites for sitting in the Visitor Centre/Café looking out over the reserve/feeders.*

**Independent Lady Birders Group**

A friendship and support group for our single ladies. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 10:30 at the Belfairs Woodland Centre, Leigh. Contact Kris Mee on (01702) 525152 or email: krismee28@gmail.com.

**This leaflet sponsored by:**



Seal and wildlife watching from Wallasea Marina

Booking details: <http://www.charterdiscovery.co.uk>

[www.facebook.com/groups/discoversealtrips/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/discoversealtrips/)



The SE Essex  
RSPB Local Group

Programme of Events  
2018/19

We are a very friendly group and you would be more than welcome to join us at any of these events.



Talks: Book a fully illustrated talk for your club. No group too small and no set charge (a donation of your choice to the RSPB is appreciated). Call Graham on (01702) 525152 or email: [grahamm@southendrspb.co.uk](mailto:grahamm@southendrspb.co.uk) for details.

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