

**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 in the local area or within short travelling distance; it is up to the individuals how long they stay. **For information on walks, please contact Steve Sanford on (01702) 544614. There is no charge for these walks.**

2017

Wednesday 6th September: SE Essex RSPB Indoor Meeting - Derek Nieman "Birds in cage"

The true story of four young men held as POWs in Nazi Germany who kept their sanity by watching birds and went on to become post-war giants of conservation.

Sunday 17th September: Rainham Marsh RSPB *

Meet at the visitor centre at 10am. From the M25: Exit M25 at junction 31. At the J31 roundabout take the A1306 west, signposted to RSPB Rainham Marshes. Continue along the A1306 for 1.5 miles. At the traffic lights turn left, signposted Purfleet and RSPB onto New Tank Hill Road flyover. The entrance to the reserve is signposted approx.. 300 metres along this road, just after the bottom of the flyover on the right-hand side. Postcode RM19 1SZ. High tide 1135. All welcome.

Monday 25th September: Two Tree Island Walk

Meet at 9am in the car park. Cross narrow bridge over the creek and park on the left. High tide 16.28. All welcome.

Wednesday 4th October: SE Essex RSPB Indoor Meeting - Chris Collins "Birds of the Russian Far East"

This is Chris' most popular talk and includes photos of spoon-billed sandpipers, Stellar's Sea-Eagle, Tufted Puffin and Ribbon Seal.

Monday 9th October: Wat Tyler/Vange Marsh Walk

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

Sunday 15th October: Coach Trip to RSPB Dungeness

Cost £15. Coach leaves Southchurch Blvd at 07.20 and picks up at further points. Entrance fee for non-RSPB members. To book, call Cath Williams on (01702) 293357.

Sunday 22th October: Canvey Seafront Walk

Proceed on to Canvey from Benfleet. From the first roundabout take the first left (B1014). Follow this road through High Street until it becomes Point Road. At the very end turn right in to Beveland Road and park towards the end. Walk up the bank to the point. Postcode SS8 7QU. Meet at 11am-High tide 1450. All welcome.

Wednesday 1st November: SE Essex RSPB Indoor Meeting - Duncan MacDonald, Speyside Wildlife

Speyside Wildlife is a company offering holidays to watch wildlife in Scotland and this talk shows the variety of birds and animals visitors can expect to see.

Monday 13th November: RSPB Bowers Marsh Walk

Meet at 10am. From Southend, travel along the A13 towards the M25. Take the A130 Canvey Island exit and at the roundabout follow signs for Pitsea B1464. Postcode SS13 2HG. All welcome.

Sunday 26th November: EWT Ingrebourne Valley Walk *

Meet at 10am. From Southend on the A127 go past the M25 turnoff. After approx. 3-4miles turn left onto Wingleye Lane. At the first roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Ravenscourt Grove. Turn left into Suttons Lane and drive to Squadrons Approach. The reserve is a little further along the road. Postcode RM12 6TS (close by). All welcome.

Monday 4th December: Paglesham Lagoon Walk

Meet at 10 am in the layby opposite the Trout fishery at Great Stambridge- Postcode SS4 2AX. All Welcome.

Wednesday 6th December: SE Essex RSPB Indoor Meeting - Bill Baston "Goa"

Goa is India's smallest state and offers a variety of habitats. Bill will show us some of the may colourful and exotic birds that can be enjoyed.

Sunday 17th December: Thurrock Thameside Nature Park Walk*

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 Nature Reserve and follow road to Car Park. All welcome.

2018

Tuesday 02nd January: RSPB Wallasea Island Walk

Meet at Midday. Follow the road past the entrance to the Marina straight through the farm for half a mile. High tide 1409 hrs. All welcome.

Wednesday 3rd January: SE Essex RSPB Indoor Meeting - Graham Ekins "Bolivian Delights"

Bolivia has diverse habitats and 1381 bird species have been recorded. This talk looks at the Amazonian forest, high level areas, savannah and wetlands.

Sunday 14th January: Southend Pier Walk

Meet at 09.45am at the lower entrance. All welcome.

Sunday 4th February: Bluehouse Farm Walk

Meet at 10am. Take the B1012 road towards Burnham. Make a right turn at the junction with B1010 to North Fambridge. Cross railway and follow road to Blue House Farm. High tide 1621 hrs. (Southend). All welcome.

Monday 19th February: Hockley Woods Walk

Meet at 9am. There is a small charge for parking.

Wednesday 7th February: SE Essex RSPB Indoor Meeting - Richard Brooks "A Passion for Owls"

This talk covers all UK owl species, with the exception of the Snowy owl. It particularly focuses on Barn owls, including Richard's conservation work with them over 20 years.

Sunday 4th March: South Fambridge Walk

Meet at 10am. Travelling from Rochford take the Ashingdon Road and after 1 mile turn right onto the South Fambridge turning and continue until the end of the road. Note that there is limited parking. All welcome.

Wednesday 7th March: SE Essex RSPB Indoor Meeting - Chris Ward "101 Things You Never Knew About Garden Birds"

What is the life expectancy of a robin? Which species can fly 700 miles just to build a nest? Which species pluck feathers from live pigeons and why

Monday 19th March: EWT Warley Place Walk

Meet at 10am. Travelling on the A127 towards London turn off onto the B186 just before the M25 turn off. Turn right at the junction and follow the B186 until you see the Thatchers Arms PH on your left. The reserve is next door. NB the gate may be closed but not locked. All welcome.

Wednesday 4th April: SE Essex RSPB Indoor Meeting - Conor Jameson "Looking for the Goshawk"

The natural history of this enigmatic bird of prey, how it lives, where it lives.

Monday 16th April: EWT Abberton Reservoir Walk *

Meet at Layer Breton Causeway at 10.00 hrs. Non EWT members may be asked for a donation at the Visitor Centre. All welcome.

Sunday 29th April: EWT Chafford Gorges Walk *

Meet in the car park at 10am. Travelling from Southend on the A13 take the Grays (A1012) exit. At the roundabout take the 2nd exit and follow the A1012. At the next roundabout take the 3rd exit onto Elizabeth Road (A1012). At the following roundabout take the 3rd exit onto Devonshire Road. Turn right onto Drake Road. Drive past the Sand Martin PH, through two mini roundabouts and the reserve is on your right. Postcode RM16 6RG. All welcome.

Wednesday 2nd May: SE Essex RSPB Indoor Meeting - Peter Gasson "Pantanal".

Peter will take us on a visual journey to this natural region of Brazil encompassing the world's largest wetland area.

Wednesday 9th May: Wakering Common Walk

Meet at 0900 hrs. Turn left to the Common by the church at the end of Gt Wakering High Street. All welcome.

Sunday 13th May: EWT Fingringhoe Wick Walk

Meet in the visitor centre at 10am. Postcode CO5 7DN. All welcome.

Sunday 20th May: Coach Trip to RSPB Minsmere

Cost £15. Coach leaves Southchurch Blvd, Walnut Tree pub at 07.20 and picks up at further points. Entrance fee for non-RSPB members. To book, call Cath Williams on (01702) 293357.

Sunday 30th July: – Rutland Water Meet

We hope to be on time to see freshly fledged young Osprey (as well as adults). Meet at Rutland Water NR, Egleton at 11am.

** 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/



The SE Essex
RSPB Local Group

Programme of Events
2017/18

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 for details.

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