

## Newsletter 18

The eighteenth meeting of the ILBs' was held on 21 August 2018 at 2 Tree Island. 8 ladies plus Kris Mee took a lovely walk, plenty of black clouds to begin with and a few spots of rain but then it turned out to be a lovely, sunny and very warm day. 18 species were spotted. The trip finished in the Driving Range café for snacks and drinks in the sunshine.

Thank you to all the ladies who supply 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps for postage for their newsletters, this is really appreciated.

### Local Sightings: -

11,14,16 August at Bowers Marsh – Stone Curlew, 7,14,18 August at Bowers Marsh – Great White Egret, 14,16,21 August at Bowers Marsh – Black-necked Grebe.

### Field Trips: - Barnsdale Gardens and Rutland Water on Sunday 29 July.

There were three cars to take us to Barnsdale where it rained but we didn't mind, the gardens were lovely as always. From the café we saw Coal Tit, Willow Tit and Nuthatch on the feeder. We met the main group at Lyndon Visitor Centre and watched a Yellowhammer then walked to the hide to see Osprey parents and chick, a Glossy Ibis, and Great White Egret. On returning to the visitor centre we were told that the Yellowhammer had fallen prey to a Sparrowhawk. So, we all drowned our sorrows on coffee at a nearby pub – a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

### Special Events: - Bowers Marsh Picnic on Friday.24 August.

Left at the roundabout, then left again,  
Keep going straight down a narrow lane.  
Park by the barn and follow the track  
Past hedgerows where Goldfinch found  
Seeds for their snack.

We reached the Lagoon, such a beautiful sight  
With myriad water birds bathed in the light.  
We spotted a Sparrowhawk mobbed by a crow  
And a Marsh Harrier swooping first high then  
down low.

We enjoyed the bright skies and the windy  
weather  
And thirty-five species we saw all together  
Then back to Lynne's van and when hot drinks  
were done  
We sat with our picnics enjoying the sun.

A really great visit. By Diana Smith



Picnic at the lych-gate St Margaret's Church, Bowers Marsh

### Forthcoming Events: -

Friday 7 September minibus trip to Southwold.  
Sunday 14 October minibus trip to Dungeness being arranged.

The next indoor meeting will be Wednesday 5 September at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. Operation Turtle Dove by Emma Stobart.

The next field trip will be Wednesday 12 September at Bowers Marsh, meet at 10:00am

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meeting will be Thursday 25 October 2018 at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. Tyne to the Thames by David Fairlamb

Any lady requiring transport to attend Indoor meetings or to go on any field trip please contact Kris Mee.

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **18 September 2018** at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. Meet at 10:00am for a walk or 10:30am for coffee and a chat

This newsletter will be available on the local group website at: [-http://www.southendrspb.co.uk](http://www.southendrspb.co.uk) . Click on ILBs on the Menu Bar.

*If you no longer wish to hear from the RSPB South East Essex Local Group, please contact **Kris Mee 01702 525152 [krismee28@googlemail.com](mailto:krismee28@googlemail.com)** confirming your name and address and stating that you wish to unsubscribe from the RSPB South East Essex Local Group's communications.*