

Newsletter 19

The nineteenth meeting of the ILBs' was held on 18 September 2018 at Belfairs Woodland Centre and 10 ladies plus Kris Mee attended.

Kris told the ladies about the excellent Aren't Volunteers Brilliant Event that she, Graham and Steve went to at Sandy, Beds on 5 September, the same day as the first Indoor Meeting of this season. 5 RSPB speakers had been allocated strictly monitored half hour slots and they all managed to use the time very effectively.

Dr Mark Eaton spoke eloquently about The State of the UK Birds and the scientific research that the RSPB conduct. He also told us about the BTO website Bird Track where anyone can record bird sightings.

Dr Jennifer Smart gave an interesting talk about the successful Project Godwit. She also mentioned that in addition to the loss of land owners' subsidies from the EU after Brexit the RSPB £millions scientific funding will cease but work will continue in partnership with associates yet to be found.

Jamie Wyver was enthusiastic about Operation Turtle Dove. The RSPB is working in partnership with WWT Pensthorpe on a captive breeding scheme in collaboration with local farmers. We can help by buying products displaying the Fair to Nature logo. Check out www.nffn.org.uk – Nature Friendly Farming Network website. Also Turtle Dove sightings can be reported on the OperationTurtleDove.org website.

Peter Holden then gave a fascinating talk about the history of Sandy itself which I thought the local group would find interesting or perhaps the ILBs would like a trip to Sandy to hear him.

Martin Harper was last and spoke about The Future of Conservation and quoted: -

HE Plus SHE Equals WE
Half Earth Protected/Restored + Sustainably Managed Half Earth = Whole Earth

The UK has 14 overseas territories. 28% Land and 14% Sea of which 9% Land and 14% Sea is solely for wildlife. 25% of the world's population of penguins live on UK territory. 1 in 8 species in the world are threatened and 74% of these live in forest of which 7 million hectares is lost per year. Our own consumption of commodities is driving the decline in rain forest.

On Facebook #GreenerUK is working to make sure that Brexit works for nature.

The Dutch are planning wildlife islands to be created to replace lost land and habitat.

We need to be ambitious and the RSPB have identified areas on our coast that can be used. Could this be funded by a tax on plastic? England must collaborate with Scotland, Wales and Ireland to achieve anything. The world needs to collaborate to protect the West Africa flyway.

How does the RSPB reach out to the public and get them to lobby politicians and parliament? A brilliant presentation to end the morning.

After an excellent lunch there were guided walks on the reserve and a shorter walk in the garden to identify the Champion trees of which there are several. We then left to get back in time for the Indoor Meeting.

The RSPB has more members than all three major political parties put together so should have a huge voice for nature. People are part of nature and not separate. The press recently reported that emissions could be the cause of the rise in dementia and therefore contributing to the burden on the NHS. If the environment is improved to protect all life will that not improve health and by default lessen the strain on the NHS?

Christmas Meal: - The ladies at the coffee morning voted to go to the Royal Oak again and this has been booked for Tuesday 18 December 2018 at 1:00pm. Details to follow.

Wallasea Island Topping Off Ceremony 21/9/2018: - Graham and I attended this event to commemorate Habitat Creation works which are in their final stages of completion. We mingled with the great and good from local MP, Councillors, Crossrail and RSPB all filmed by ITV Anglia for the news at 6:00pm.



MP for Rayleigh and Wickford Mark Francois addressing the crowd sheltering from the wind.

Indoor Meeting 5/9/2018 thanks to Rita Merrick: - Emma Stobart kindly stepped in at the last minute and gave us all a very interesting up-date on 'Operation Turtle Dove' The great work, research and co-operation with farmers, especially in our area. The miles these beautiful birds travel and the problems they encounter.

Mavis' son lives in British Virgin Islands on Tortola which means 'The home of the Turtle Doves'. The birds are in his garden and around Little Bay all year round, where temperatures range between 28C-34C, and do not appear to migrate. Last weekend he saw 5 doves with their young. He will monitor them more closely now he is aware that they are in decline and report back to Mavis.

Local Sightings: - 8 spoonbills were seen flying over Gunners Park and were then reported in France.
Until 16/9/2018 Hanningfield - Spoonbill and Great White Egret.

5/9/2018 Canvey Point – Pomarine, Arctic and Great Skua, Gannet, Common, Sandwich and Black Tern.

10/9/2018 EWT Thameside - Whinchat

Field Trips: - Bowers Marsh 12/9/2018 18 people attended including one ILB on a cool cloudy morning and 59 species in total were seen

Outings 7/9/2018 thanks to Diana Smith: - On a bright but breezy day sixteen ILBs went in a minibus to Southwold. We stopped at Walberswick for half an hour and saw a Shag amongst some Herring Gulls and a Swallow flying over. We then drove to the Hen Reedbeds where Katherine met us and took some of the group on a walk, whilst some went to the nearest viewing point where we saw Peregrine, Marsh Harrier, Hobby, Kestrel, Jay, Little Egret, Green Woodpecker and Linnets. After these exciting sightings we moved on to Southwold and parked by the pier



We then had free time until the cream tea at 3.30 followed all too soon by the return trip home. Another good day out thanks to Katherine for hosting us and Kris for arranging it

Forthcoming Events: -

Sunday 14 October minibus trip to Dungeness needs more people to go ahead.

The next indoor meeting will be Wednesday 3 October at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. African Penguins by Joanne Loman from EWT Belfairs.

The next field trip will be Sunday 30 September at Bradwell Bird Observatory, meet at 11:00am

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.

Please Note: - Until now I have been contacting ladies to check if they would like a lift but there are now so many ladies in the group who potentially need a lift that this has become very time consuming. I have reluctantly decided that I will no longer be telephoning to check but will rely on ladies to ring me.

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **16 October 2018** at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. Steve Ayles has agreed to lead the second half of his walk in the woods so meet at 10:00am for the 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** confirming your name and address and stating that you wish to unsubscribe from the RSPB South East Essex Local Group's communications.