

Newsletter 29

The twenty ninth meeting of the ILBs' was held on 16 July 2019 at The Driving Range, Two Tree Island and 14 ladies & Kris attended.

Kris & Graham attended the local groups meeting held at Minsmere, to be given an update on what is happening at the RSPB and to take part in workshops to explore ideas on how to recruit more Local Group members. The new CEO, Becky Spate, has been appointed, the new director is Emma Marsh and the Operation Manager is Geoff Knott. It has been decided to change how the country is divided up by rearranging the regions. Most of Essex will remain in Eastern England but our corner will be in South East England so the SEE LG will become the northernmost LG of SE England Region instead of the southernmost LG of E England Region. Kris asked for justification for the closure of the Visitor Centre at Wat Tyler while the building is to be retained as RSPB offices but no one at the meeting had the answer. Our closest Regional Visitor Centre will now be at Dungeness unless Rainham Marshes is moved from London Region to SE England as part of the Thames corridor.

The hide at Wat Tyler is still accessible and the keys are available from the RSPB offices located in the old Visitor Centre. The Reception Hide at Wallasea still requires funding, power and water are available on the site but sewerage needs to be installed and will be costly.

The Brent Goose watch in October will be organised and run by the Local Group this year and will be held over 3 days so volunteers will be needed to help. There was some discussion about how to recruit LG members from reserve volunteers.

Maureen Hooker was still in hospital but is home now. Sue Snowdon is returning to live in Durham on 1st August 2019. We wish her well. Alison, the Assistant Manager at Belfairs Woodland Centre is leaving on 20th July 2019. After the meeting Kris delivered her card and pressie and wished her all the best. Alison is hoping to head a new project with EWT- more on this later.

Local Sightings: - Foulness – 2 turtle doves

Forthcoming Events: -

An ILB outing to Southwold is now being arranged for Fri. 20 September 2019. Only 9 people so far want to go. Details to follow.



Shelduck and 11 babies on R. Roach photo by Graham Mee

The next indoor meeting will be Wednesday 4 September 2019 at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. The Naze – Beach, Birds, Blackberries and More by Liz Huxley.

The next Field Trip will be Wednesday 1 September 2019 10:00am at Two Tree Island and Sunday 29 September 2019 10:00am at RSPB Rainham Marsh

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meeting will be Thursday 24 October 7:45pm. The Essex Coast by Mark Iley of EWT.

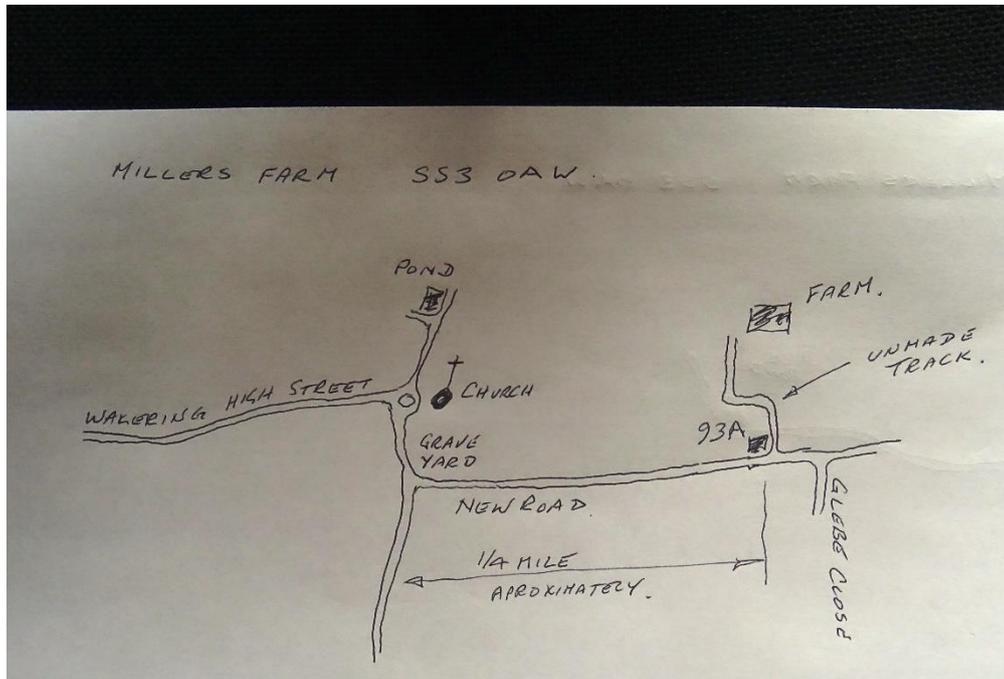
The Christmas meal will be Tuesday 10 December 2019 13:00pm at The Royal Oak.

Any lady requiring transport to attend any event please contact Kris Mee.

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **20 August 2019** at Millers Farm, New Road, Great Wakering. Meet at 10.30am and bring a picnic, a chair and a mug. Parking and toilet on site with an optional walk on Wakering Common. Hopefully, if harvesting is over, John Threadgold, farmer and naturalist, will be able to tell us about the farm, the common and wildlife, if not his wife, Jill will be available to answer questions. Tea & coffee will be provided.

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.



Millers Farm, New Road, Great Waking SS3 0AW

From Wakering High Street turn left into New Road, the road to the right of the church which leads to Wakering Stairs.
From Cupids Corner turn right into New Road, the road just before the church which leads to Wakering Stairs.

After approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile turn left up an unmade road.
The unmade road is between houses, the one on the left is detached with two dormer windows and the one on the right is the first of a row of terraced cottages.

If you get to Glebe Close which is on the right, you have gone too far.

Drive carefully down the track towards the farmhouse and park as directed by Jenny.
Take care this is a working farm with heavy machinery and possibly a working combine harvester.

We will be allowed access from the farmhouse garden onto the Common for a walk.