

## Newsletter 31

The thirty first meeting of the ILBs' was held on 17 September 2019 at Belfairs Woodland Centre and 12 ladies and Kris Mee attended.

Kris informed the ladies that following the amusement inspired by her fear of spiders she felt vindicated by the fact that both an acquaintance and Graham's son, James, have been bitten by a False Widow spider and both required treatment in hospital. Unfortunately, James' foot is still badly swollen and painful and requires further hospital treatment. The ladies researched the spider to discover that it is about the size of a fifty pence piece and is native to Madeira and the Canary Islands from where it allegedly spread to Europe, and arrived in England before 1879, perhaps through cargo sent to Torquay.

### Indoor Meeting 4/9/2019: - Thanks to Rita Merrick.

A very informative talk by Liz Huxley about The Naze at Walton, an important SSSI. The cliffs are slowly eroding and receding, but many tonnes of boulders have been deposited to, hopefully, slow this process down and preserve them. We had an introduction to the new EWT centre/ cafe near the original very tall tower and Liz displayed a range of her excellent pictures of the geology, fossils, various habitats, animals, birds & insect life (plus information boards) and had cards for sale. A good place to visit and wander along the various paths.

### Local Sightings: - Thanks to Anne Sanford.

Bowers Marsh – Raven, Spotted Crake, 2 Spoonbill. Wakering Stairs – Whinchat, Willow Warbler, Redstart. Foulness – Spotted Flycatcher. Wallasea – 20+ Greenshanks. Wat Tyler – 6 Cattle Egret, possibly the ones that were born near Blue House Farm.

Kris – Hullbridge – A flock of Yellowhammer in footpath hedgerow behind Riverside Nursery.

Diana – West Canvey Marsh – Lapwings. Rita – Weald Park – Flock of Ring-necked Parakeets and a herd of deer.

The Brent Geese are back – 25 were reported on 19 September and there now in excess of 2000.

### Walks Report

Two Tree Island Wednesday 18 September One ILB attended and 30 species were seen.

RSPB Rainham Sunday 29 September – One ILB attended and 40 species were seen including a huge flock of House Sparrows on the feeders and Marsh Frogs in the ditches.



### Forthcoming Events: -

The next ILB outing to be arranged will be to Fingringhoe on Sunday 17 May 2020. Maureen Beesley will be arranging this trip and will provide details later.

The next indoor meeting will be Wednesday 2 October 2019 at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. The Birds of Guyana by Chris Collins.

The next Field Trip Sunday 6 October Walton on the Naze meet 10:00am at the Naze Tower and Monday 21 October Wat Tyler / Vange Marsh meet 10:00am in Wat Tyler CP Pitsea behind the Visitor Centre.

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 **15 October 2019** at Belfairs Woodland Centre. Meet at 10.00am for a walk or 10:30 for a coffee and chat.

This newsletter will be available on the local group website at: <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.