

Newsletter 34



Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year to all ILBs and readers.



The thirty fourth meeting of the ILBs' was held on 10 December 2019 at The Royal Oak, Stambridge for the Christmas meal with 21 ladies and Kris & Graham Mee.

Indoor Meeting 4/12/2019: - Thanks to Rita Merrick.

Peter Holden MBE enlightened us of the hidden world of some of our most common birds. Their behaviour, courtship, nest-building, calls & song, lifespan and reasons for why they work in this way. The hanging nests with the long tube so predators cannot reach the eggs and the floating nests for waterfowl. Peter explained about their moult at the end of breeding and their seasonal colour change, due to the wearing away of the tips of feathers, to reveal the colour beneath. Peter has worked for the RSPB for more than 40 years and written many books, including our 'Handbook of British Birds'.

There were 52 attendees at the meeting this month including 12 ILBs, 1 visitor and 3 new members.

Local Sightings: - Taken from the website.

Canvey Point – Little Stint in flock of Turnstone, Velvet Scoter, female Eider. Hockley garden – Coal Tit, Goldcrest
Fobbing Marsh/Coryton – Barn Owl, Green Sandpiper. Foulness – Short Eared Owl, Great White Egret.

Walks Report

Edwards Hall CP Sunday 8 December - 8 attended and 20 species were seen.



Katherine has decided about her future and will be moving to Halesworth in Suffolk. Hopefully we will be able to visit her in the summer of 2020 for a walk.

Forthcoming Events: -

The next Coach Trip will be to Minsmere on 10 May 2020. Book with Cath in January

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

The next indoor meeting will be Wednesday 8 January 2020 at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. Yellowstone Park - Duncan MacDonald from Speyside.

The next Field Trip will be Wednesday 18 December at Barton Hall Creek. Meet at 10:00am opposite the Trout Fishery
And Sunday 12th January 2020 RSPB Wallasea Island. Meet at midday in car park.

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meetings will be Thursday 12 December 2019 7.45pm. Work at Belfairs Woods with Tristan Colaço, EWT Ranger at Belfairs Woods

And Thursday 23 January 2020 7.45pm. A talk on the history and nature of the Thurrock Thameside Nature Park by Jimmy Allen, TTNP's site manager

And Thursday 27 February 2020 7.45pm. Moths & Butterflies of South Essex by Graham Bailey of the South Essex Moth Group

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

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **21 January 2020** 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](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.*

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