

Newsletter December 2020



2020 has been a vastly different and difficult year for everyone, some of us have been housebound, some able to get out to birdwatch and some working from home. I tried to ring everyone and have spoken to most of you at least once and some of you have rung me occasionally, for which I am very grateful.

The last ILB Meeting and the last Indoor Meeting were in March, The ILB outing to Fingringhoe was cancelled and the Coach Trip to Minsmere has been postponed until next year. The Field Trips were also cancelled although several members have walked the routes following Covid 19 instructions.

Graham emailed the following, in November, to all Group members for whom we hold an email address.

I hope that I find you well and that you are coping as well as you can with the current situation. This is just a short mail to tell you that your local group is still alive and well and we are really hoping that, by next year, we may be able to hold meetings and walks again, we will monitor the situation and guidelines closely.

In the meantime, our website sightings page is still going with the latest reports which can be read at this address:

<http://www.southendrspb.co.uk/sightings.htm>

Also, we have our very lively Facebook group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/seerspb>

We would love you to follow us on these and would gladly like to hear about your own wildlife sightings if you are managing to get out now and again. You can send them to grahamrspb@gmail.com

We have discussed holding online meetings but apart from a few free speakers the majority are still asking for a fee and with no indoor meeting entrance money we

unfortunately, do not have a way to pay the speakers. Also, having attended quite a few Zoom/Skype meetings I have found that they can be fraught with difficulties. I hope you understand.

Stay safe everyone and hopefully we will all be able to meet up again in the future.

Graham Mee

Local Sightings: - Highlights and firsts of year.

8/4/2020 Rayleigh flyover – Osprey, 9/4/2020 Foulness - Cuckoo

12/4/2020 Fobbing/Coryton - Willow Warbler

14/4/2020 Doggetts Farm, Rochford - Ring Ouzel, 15-22/4/2020 Foulness - Hoopoe

19/4/2020 Paglesham – Spoonbill, 19/4/2020 Southend - Turtle Dove

24/4/2020 Westcliff – Swift, 26/4/2020 Wakering Common – Nightingale

24/5/2020 Ulting – White Stork

31/7/2020 Canvey Point – Porpoise 2adults & calf)

25/9/2020 Rayleigh – Lesser Spotted Woodpecker,

27/9/2020 Canvey Point – 3 Puffin

30/9/2020 Canvey Point – female Eider

2/10/2020 Canvey Point – Manx Shearwater

11/10/2020 Ashingdon – Redwing

11/10/2020 Foulness – Fieldfare

13/10/2020 Canewdon - Brambling

23/10/2020 Wallasea – Whooper Swan

30/10/2020 Southend – Lesser Redpoll

1/12/2020 Hanningfield – White-fronted Geese

There have been Great White Egret, Cattle Egret, Red Kite & Raven around all year.

There are also Coal Tits seen regularly in a Hockley garden.



Latest from Wallasea

The conveyor belt has, at last, been removed, part for scrap and part, hopefully sold, for reuse in Kent.

The new hide is in place and after extra camouflage work has been done, will be available to bird watchers later next year.

The new offices are in place and the staff will be vacating the farm buildings and moving in before Christmas. There will be no vehicular access to the new offices as they are beyond the locked gate in the car park.

There is a staff toilet in the new office and the meeting room has been moved too so it may be possible for us to meet there later when it is safe to car share



All photos taken by Graham Mee in the garden

I hope you all stay well and have a very happy Christmas and healthy New Year and now that the vaccine is available, we can all look forward to a better 2021 and getting back to meeting again later next year.

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.