

Newsletter October 2021

The ILB meeting held on 19 October 2021 at the Belfairs Woodland Centre was attended by 10 ladies, including two new ones and Kris Mee.

Zoom Meetings

29/9/2021 Ruary Makenzie Dodds. Dragonflies. the presentation on the speakers Apple Mac refused to talk to Zoom so there were no photographs. However, the talk was extremely interesting given by an excellent speaker. He was wearing a jumper with an enormous dragonfly on the front, so he pointed to various dragonfly parts on his jumper to explain things and held up his dragonfly book to the camera to show us. There were 46 attendees with 9 from Chelmsford and 19 from SEE, 17 Unknown.

Local Sightings Thanks Anne Sanford

The best place has been Canvey Point where Gannets have been seen regularly Highlight 145 on Friday 15/10. Guillemot, Razorbill, Red-breasted Merganser, Shag, Common Scoter, Pomarine Skua, Red-throated Diver, and Arctic Skua. The Cattle Egret was still at Fobbing Marsh/Coryton and a Short-eared Owl at Wallasea on Saturday and Red Kite at Bowers Marsh.

Frances – Benfleet Creek – Great White Egret

Jenny – Little Egret

Pauline – garden – saw geese flying in a V for the first time

Walks Report

Wednesday 26/9/2021 Bradwell Bird Observatory 10:00am Species count 30 7 participants, including 1 ILB Graham & Kris could not attend as insufficient petrol. More people probably would have attended

Sunday 10/10/2021 Dungeness 10:00am Species count 43 including Velvet Scoter and Great White Egret 7 participants including 1 ILB, Kris was unwell so did not go

Events Report

Wednesday 29/9/2021 LG Picnic sunny but windy Well attended considering it was impossible to get fuel. 22 participants including 4 ILB

Saturday 16/10/2021 RSPB AGM at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/agm>

Started with Report from Chair of Council Kevin Cox – The Gough Island project, in Tristan da Cunha Archipelago, was finished during lockdown, home to Tristan Albatross. A new Visitors Centre was finished at South Stack, Anglesey and the Visitors Centre at Loch Garten had a facelift. Hope Farm has proved that it is possible to profitably farm with wild life. 600% increase in farmland birds. RSPB have increased acreage on Isle of Islay, Inner Hebrides.

Treasurers Report from Robert Cabbage.

Membership has held firm during difficult time, but income fell by £4million

Report from Chief Exec Beccy Speight. 2021 marks 100 years since the passing of Landscape Act and the cease of fashion for feathers in hats. Climate crisis cannot be ignored so aim is to show that Nature and Climate crisis are one. Replant woodland, Rewet wetlands (eg Wallasea) and Restore peatland. We won't win if Nature doesn't have support. Our work has never been more important.

There was a Q&A Session next but I can't do shorthand and couldn't make notes fast enough so there may be errors. Check the website at the link above

Q. Should we spend more on acquiring land?

A. We must make sure that we can maintain the site after purchase so better to extend existing areas

Q. What are we doing to return Hen Harriers to grouse Moors?

A. Pushing for change in legislation and licensing to shoot on grouse moors. There has been an increase in breeding Hen Harriers in England 31 successful nests producing 34 young

Q. What is happening about Sizewell C. at Minsmere?

A. The proposals would be catastrophic to everything in the area. 100,000 Signed the petition. Now waiting for the examiner's report which will be in another 6 months. RSPB couldn't have done any more they threw everything they had at it.

Q. Why is so much being spent on racial etc diversity?

A. There are 2000 staff and 200,000 volunteers and we need to make everyone feel included, so we need to be more diverse. More members, more volunteers, more income. RSPB accessed the Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) to protect jobs. Investment costs went up because investment returns increased. There is a proposal for GCSE in Nature and Biodiversity and support for this at primary and secondary schools. Nature should be imbedded in all subjects e.g. Economics and Health & Wellbeing

Q. Will the RSPB do anything to make cat owners more responsible?

A. Although locally this may be an issue overall cats are not causing population decline. Better to educate owners than legislate. Cats are a problem on islands.

Q. What mitigation is being made on Reserves for climate change?

A. Fire will be an increasing risk so needs to be dealt with in the wider area. Peatland rewet them don't burn them.

Annual Accounts were accepted, Council appointments proposed and accepted. Auditor appointed.

Roy Dennis was awarded the RSPB Medal
He was involved in Red Kite, Sea Eagle, Osprey and Beaver reintroductions.
He said that 50% of Earth's surface and sea should be designated for nature and wildlife.
Young people are taking the lead and they should just get on with it.
RSPB should really go for it the wind is behind you.

Next RSPB AGM Saturday 15 October 2022

AGMs will always have a digital element as large numbers took part including one from India.

A.O.B.

Kris – The LG have been able to purchase two oak benches with plaques for Wallasea.
Waitrose have given the LG a donation which can be spent on local projects.

Rita – Volunteers are allowed to work more days at Wat Tyler wildlife garden now

Forthcoming Events: -

The next Zoom will be

Thursday 25/11/2021 at 7:45pm. Wallasea by RSPB Site Manager Rachel Fancy. Only Click on the link provided on the day and time stated. It will not work before then.

Please consider donating a minimum of £3 per person to allow us to book Zoom speakers who charge a fee without incurring a financial loss.

Please donate by Bank Transfer to

RSPB SEE LG, Sort Code **309079** Account Number **33710768**.

Important! Please put 'ZOOM & Initials' in the reference box.

Thank you for your support it is much appreciated.



The next Field Trips are

10:00am Sunday 7 November at EWT Thameside and

10:00am Monday 22 November at EWT Hanningfield Reservoir.

There are no Essex Wildlife Trust meetings arranged.

The **next ILB meeting** will be **16 November 2021** at Belfairs Woodland Centre.

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** 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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