

Newsletter 12

The twelfth meeting of the ILB's was held on 20 February 2018 at Belfairs Woodland Centre and 12 ladies plus Kris Mee attended.

Indoor Meeting:- Richard Brooks is passionate about the owls in his area and showed some excellent owl photographs and images of the conservation work he is involved in.

Local Sightings:- A male hen harrier was reported on Wallasea Island on 11 February and ring-tailed hen harrier on Foulness and Wallasea on the 15 & 16 February respectively. There were snipe and displaying black-tailed godwit on Two Tree Island on 17 February. Also there are numerous buzzard in the area.

Outings:- The weather for the walk at Blue House Farm was very cold but 10 people plus 3 ILB attended. 55 species were seen including a red-necked grebe.

The ladies at the coffee morning approved the menu supplied by the Royal Oak and it was decided to go on Thursday 19 April at 1pm. Please could you let me know if you wish to come with your menu choices and a deposit of £10.

The local group committee will be meeting on Thursday afternoon primarily to discuss the implications to the group of the new Data Protection rules that RSPB Head Office have put in place to comply with the DP Act which becomes enforceable in May 2018. Ladies were warned that there may be a paperwork exercise to perform to comply with these requirements.

Alison from Belfairs Woodland Centre had been to a meeting arranged by a new group started to raise awareness locally of the needs of the swifts that visit our area every summer. This new group intend to have a fund-raising event to raise money for swift nest boxes and also would like to liaise with a contact in the local group. Two ILB ladies volunteered to be the contacts.

One lady attended Hadleigh Gardening Club where the talk was about bees. During the talk an officer from the Bee Conservation Trust was introduced and she informed the club that the shrill carder bumble bee is the rarest bumble bee species in Britain but is still to be found on Canvey and along the Thames. She needs volunteers in Essex and Kent to help with surveys and there will be workshops to learn bee identification. Contact rosie.earwaker@buglife.org.uk or 07880 316 027

The final count for the ILB Big Garden Bird Watch was 28 species and the local group count was 25, so the ladies won, the overall total count for the whole local group was 33 species seen and Graham has now sent the list to Drew Lyness.

The next indoor meeting is Wednesday 7 March at the Belfairs Woodland Centre and the speaker is Chris Ward- 101 Things you never knew about Garden Birds

The next walk is at South Fambridge on Sunday 4 March meet at 10:00am and Warley Place Monday 19 March meet at 10am. Travelling on the A127 towards London turn off onto the B186, Upminster and Great Warley turnoff, just before the M25 turn off. Turn right at the junction and follow the B186 until you see the Thatchers Arms PH on your left. The reserve is next door. Car park through the gate which may be closed but not locked. Toilets and refreshments in Thatchers Arms. Ladies wishing to see daffodils, coal tits, gold crest and fire crest please contact Kris who will arrange lifts with car drivers.

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meeting is Thursday 22 February, Mick Greenslade, Ranger, Hornchurch Country Park. Ingrebourne Valley Visitor Centre will be speaking. Also Thursday 22 March 'The Greater World of Little Things' by local author Ross Gardner.

Any lady requiring transport to attend Indoor meetings or to go on any field trip or to get to an EWT Meeting please contact Kris Mee.

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **20 March 2018** 10:00am for a walk or else 10:30am at the Belfairs Woodland Centre, Eastwood Rd North, Leigh on Sea, which can be reached from Eastwood Road North on the 29 bus.

Alight at the Co-op and continue along Eastwood Rd North, past the traffic lights and the Green House Restaurant and turn right down the track on the bend before the children's playground and the three flags. It is safer to cross the road at the traffic lights and not on the bend. The Belfairs Woodland Centre is at the end of the track where there are also car parking spaces.

Contact: - Kris Mee 01702 525152 krismee28@googlemail.com

*The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity
England and Wales no.207076, Scotland no.SC037654*