

Newsletter 15

The fifteenth meeting of the ILB's was held on 15 May 2018 at Belfairs Woodland Centre and 9 ladies plus Kris Mee attended.

Indoor Meeting by Rita Merrick:- A very interesting talk by Peter Gasson of his journey through Brazil's Pantanal, the largest wetland in the world. He is very knowledgeable on many aspects of birds, insects, plants, animals, and could identify which tree from a cross-section of the wood. Photographs ranged from butterflies, jaguars, giant otters to varying species of kingfishers, owls, herons, macaws, toucans, raptors and many more.

Local Sightings by Anne Sanford:- Black winged stilt were seen at Bowers Marsh
2 Red Kites being mobbed by Rooks in Ingatestone
Hobby in Leigh on Sea
Cuckoo at Fobbing Marsh, Wat Tyler Park, Leigh Golf club and Two Tree Island
Goldcrest at Sweyne Avenue Westcliff

Outings by Anne Sanford:- 10 people including four ILB attended the walk at Chafford Gorge on 29 April. The weather was cold and the visitors centre was closed. 34 species were seen including greylag geese with goslings. The weather for the walk on Wakering Common on 9 May was sunny. 12 people including 1 ILB attended and three yellow wagtails were amongst the 40 species seen. Eight people including one ILB went to Fingringhoe on Sunday 13 May. The weather was pleasant and highlights of the 63 species seen were nightingale, bullfinch, willow warbler and 75 plus sand martins.

Forthcoming Events:-

Sunday 20 May is the coach trip to Minsmere.

Saturday 2 June the ILB mini bus trip to Fingringhoe is taking place but still has free seats which must be filled.

Sunday 30 July is the Local Group trip to Rutland and half the ladies at the meeting would like to go, visiting nearby Barnsdale, the late Geoff Hamilton's garden, first. More details to follow.

Friday 10 August was the date decided for an ILB visit to Southwold.

It was decided that the next ILB meeting in June would be a guided walk in the woods also that the July meeting would be at Wat Tyler and the August meeting on Two Tree Island



The swift boxes have been put up on the Belfairs Woodland Centre and are transmitting swift calls morning and evening to encourage the birds to use them. If the birds use the boxes this year we will be helping to raise money towards the £600 for a live feed camera.

While Anne Sanford was taking this photograph two swifts obligingly flew around over our heads and the centre

National Cream Tea Day in aid of Marie Curie Nurses:

Monday 3 June 2 -4pm at Millers Farm, New Road, Great Wakering, SS3 0AW

Friday 29 June all day at Belfairs Woodland Centre

The next indoor meeting will be Wednesday 5 September at the Belfairs Woodland Centre.

The next walk is at Rutland Water on Sunday 30 July meet at Rutland Water NR Egleton at 11.00am.

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meeting will not be until October 2018.

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

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **19 June 2018** and it was decided that we would have a guided walk in the woods to start at 10:30am followed by coffee 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. The Belfairs Woodland Centre is at the end of the track where there are also car parking spaces.

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