

## JANUARY

**Saturday 6 January** 10am - 4pm  
**SHELLNESS & CAPEL FLEET**

Meet at the seawall at Leysdown to walk to Shellness & see the wader roost, (TR042699) **ME12 4RJ**. Afterwards to Capel Fleet raptor watchpoint (TR013689) **ME12 4BA** for marsh harriers & short-eared owls. *Leaders: Sue, Sally & Malcolm*

**Thursday 11 January** 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**  
**"BIRDING ALASKA"** by Barry Wright. Enjoy spectacular scenery and hear about the special birds and mammals living in this wild land.

**Sunday 21 January** 10am - 4pm  
**DUNGENESS LIGHTHOUSE AND RSPB RESERVE (WC)**

Park in the [Old Lighthouse car park](#) (TR088169) **TN29 9NB**. Gulls, gannets & grebes & later at the RSPB reserve (TR067184) **TN29 9NF** ducks, egrets (and possibly bitterns) on the new RSPB islands. *Leaders: Sue & Cliff Provins*

**Tuesday 23 January** 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**  
**"WILDLIFE OF SPEYSIDE"** by Duncan MacDonald. Join us for this Scottish tour through Speyside's unique habitats and exciting wildlife.

**Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 Jan 1 hour**  
**BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH**

Record the wildlife you see in your garden for 1hr. Submit your results on the RSPB website and be part of the 2018 BGBW!

## FEBRUARY

**Sunday 4 February** 10am - 4pm  
**ELMLEY NNR (WC)**

Meet at the reserve car park, (TQ938679) **ME12 3RW**. A small parking fee. An excellent location for wintering wildfowl, waders and raptors. *Leaders: John & Pauline Beard*

**Thursday 8 February** 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**  
**"BIRDS BEYOND THE BOUGHS"** by Simon Ginnaw. Simon's new presentation on the secret behaviour and ecology of our best-loved woodland and garden birds, accompanied by birdsong!

**Saturday 17 February** 10am - 4pm  
**CLIFFE POOLS RSPB**

Meet in the car park off Salt Lane, (TQ724763) **ME3 7SU**. Cliffe attracts all kinds of waders, wildfowl & small birds in winter, including birds of prey such as marsh harrier & peregrine. *Leaders: Hazel & Steve Cullum*

**Tuesday 27 February** 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**  
**"BATS IN THE BELFRY-BADGERS IN THE BYPASS"** by Martin Newcombe. What does a professional naturalist do all day. Is he paid to watch birds? or is there more to it than that? A look at a 'new' profession.

## MARCH

**Sunday 4 March** 10am - 4pm  
**SEVENOAKS KWT RESERVE (WC)**

Meet in the car park, (TQ519566) **TN13 3DL** Ducks, geese & grebes with siskins & redpolls in the alders. Refreshments available. *Leaders: Jeff & Wendy Kirk*

**Thursday 8 March** 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**  
**"REGUA—BRAZIL"** by Alan Martin. Restoration and deforestation in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil, and how it will eventually become a holiday destination.

**Saturday 24 March** 10am - 4pm  
**STODMARSH NNR (WC)**

Meet in the reserve car park, (TR221608) **CT3 4BE**. Tits, woodpeckers, thrushes & early migrants in the woodland & marsh harriers active over the lake & reed beds. *Leaders: Paul & Maria Yetman*

**Tuesday 27 March** 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**  
**"PADLERS, WADERS AND SWIMMERS"** by Don Wilkes. Birds to be seen in or around water local to Thanet.

## APRIL

**Thursday 12 April** 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**  
**"RSPB'S NATURAL SECRETS"** by Peter Holden. Over 13,000 species of wildlife inhabit nature reserves, so no visit should ever be dull!

**Sunday 15 April** 10am—4pm  
**BLEAN WOODS RSPB**

Meet at the reserve car park (TR126592) **CT2 9DD**. Woodland birds including tits, treecreepers, warblers, nuthatch & woodpeckers. *Leaders: Norman & Sandra Hogben*

**Tuesday 24 April** 10am - 1pm  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK (WC)**

Meet in reserve car park, (TQ808682) **ME7 2XH**. Wildfowl and waders plus the possibility of early migrants such as cuckoos & chiffchaffs. Visitor centre + café. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally Jennings*

**Sunday 29 April** 5am—9am **DAWN CHORUS**  
**CLIFFE POOLS RSPB RESERVE (WC)**

Meet in [Cliffe village car park](#) near the church (TQ735766) **ME3 7QR**. The bushes & scrub at Cliffe are ideal for song birds. Nightingale, blackcap, whitethroat, song thrush, cuckoo and turtle dove. *Leader: Paul Yetman*

## MAY

**Thursday 10 May** 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**  
**AGM** followed by **"NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE THAMES ESTUARY"** by Rolf Williams. Ongoing work on the ground plus an aerial view of the latest developments.

**Sunday 13 May** 10am—4pm  
**ASHDOWN FOREST**

Meet car park opposite Old Lodge reserve on the B2026 (TQ470305) **TN22 3JD**. Common redstart, woodlark, tree pipit, hobby & spotted flycatcher! More details at [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk) *Leaders: Irene & Terry Robson*

**Tuesday 22 May** 10am - 1pm  
**COBHAM MAUSOLEUM**

Meet in the car park at the end of Lodge Lane, Cobham (TQ680683) **DA12 3BS**. A walk through Cobham Woods to hear Spring bird song & see woodland flowers. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally Jennings*

**Sunday 27 May** 10am - 4pm  
**CONYER CREEK AND OARE MARSHES KWT RESERVE**

Park near the public house (TQ961647) **ME9 9HR** Water birds on the Swale & passerines in the scrub & bushes. After to Oare Marshes (TR013647) **ME13 0QD** to see a wader spectacle on the scrape. *Leader: Sue Healey*

## JUNE

**Saturday 2 June** 8am departure **COACH TRIP**  
**RSPB MINSMERE (WC)**

A lovely reserve with woodland, heathland, coast & pools full of wildlife. Visitor centre, café & hides. Details on website. *Organiser: Hazel Cullum*

**Sunday 24 June** 10am - 4pm  
**RYE HARBOUR NNR (WC)**

Meet at the reserve car park, (TQ941189) **TN31 7TU**. Common, Little & Sand-wich terns nesting or feeding young. Gulls, including Mediterranean gulls, with young, right in front of the hides. *Leaders: Hazel & Steve Cullum*

**Tuesday 26 June** 10am - 1pm  
**NORTHWARD HILL RSPB (WC)**

Meet at Bromhey Farm car park (TQ768764) **ME3 8DS**. A walk round the reserve to see & hear Spring birds; nightingales, whitethroats, blackcaps. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally Jennings*.

## JULY

**Saturday 14 July** 10am - 1pm  
**VOLUNTEER DAY**

Light task. Details to be announced on the website and at meetings.

*Leaders: Paul & Sue*

**Tuesday 24 July** 10am - 1pm  
**SEVENOAKS KWT RESERVE (WC)**

Meet in the visitor centre car park, (TQ519566) **TN13 3DL** for a Summer visit to see flowers, butterflies & dragonflies and ducks & geese with their young. *Leaders: Sally & Malcolm Jennings*

**Saturday 28 July** 10am—4pm  
**DUNGENESS RSPB RESERVE (WC)**

Park at the [RSPB reserve](#) at (TR067184) **TN29 9NF** A **Bee Walk** with bee identification expert, Nikki — as well as visits to the hides to see the new islands in action. We may visit the beach or ARC pits later. *Leaders: Irene & Terry Robson*

## AUGUST

**Sunday 12 August** 10am - 4pm  
**OARE MARSHES KWT RESERVE**

Meet at the car park, (TR013647) **ME13 0QD**. Godwits, plovers and dunlin returning in summer plumage. Bearded tits & yellow wagtails. *Leaders: John & Pauline Beard*

Friday 24 August 6:30pm start EVENING VISIT

**NORTHWARD HILL RSPB RESERVE**

Meet at Bromhey Farm car park (TQ768764) **ME3 8DS**. A dusk walk near marshes & woodland. Bats, owls and sunset. Insect repellent recommended.

Leaders: *Neville & Louise Lunness-Barnes*.

Tuesday 28 August 10am - 1pm

**CLIFFE POOLS RSPB**

Meet in the car park off Salt Lane, (TQ724763) **ME3 7SU**. A **bee identification** walk with our usual birdwatching today, led by one of the Bee Conservation team.

Leaders: *Malcolm & Sally Jennings*

**SEPTEMBER**

Saturday 8 September 10am - 4pm

**GROVE FERRY (WC)**

Meet in the reserve car park (TR236631) **CT3 4BP**. Active marsh harriers with swallows & swifts on migration. Sandpipers & other waders on the pools.

Leaders: *Peter & Karen Hall*

Thursday 13 September 7:30pm - 9:45pm Northfleet School for Girls

**"FOOTLOOSE IN NAMIBIA"** by John Lawrence. Independent travel in Africa, including the Skeleton Coast and Etosha National Park.

Sunday 23 September 10am - 4pm

**RAINHAM MARSHES RSPB (WC)**

Meet in the reserve car park, (TQ551790) **RM19 1SX**. Waders & wildfowl with a view of the barn owl. In the reed beds; bearded tits, reed buntings & stonechats.

Leader: *Sue Healey*

Tuesday 25 September 2pm - 4pm Masonic Halls

**"WILDLIFE ON YOUR DOORSTEP"** by Victoria Golding. A close look at the wildlife of our local natural places.

**OCTOBER**

Saturday 6 October 10am—4pm

**DUNGNESS LIGHTHOUSE AND RSPB RESERVE (WC)**

Park in the Old Lighthouse car park, (TR088169) **TN29 9NB**. Gulls, gannets & grebes on the sea. Later to the RSPB reserve (TR067184) **TN29 9NF**. All kinds of ducks - shovelers, wigeon, goldeneyes & pintails, with egrets, herons and harriers.

Leaders: *Sue & Cliff Provins*

Thursday 11 October 7:30pm - 9:45pm Northfleet School for Girls

**"BROADWATER WARREN"** by Alan Loweth. How to make a nature reserve, transforming a sterile and gloomy conifer plantation into a haven for wildlife.

Sunday 21 October 10am - 4pm

**THE CHASE, DAGENHAM (WC)**

Meet in the Millenium Centre car park (TQ509860) **RM7 0SS**. A repeat visit to this Essex venue with it's various habitats. Lakes with wildfowl, woodland with tits, finches and woodpeckers. Leaders: *Norman & Sandra Hogben*

Tuesday 23 October 2pm - 4pm Masonic Halls

**"A WALK ALONG THE TEES"** by Andrew Lapworth. Scenery, birds and flowers along the River Tees, including Upper Teesdale with it's rare plants and special birds such as breeding waders, ring ouzels and black grouse at their leks.

**NOVEMBER**

Saturday 3 November 10am—1pm

**VOLUNTEER DAY**

Details to be announced later in the year on our website & at meetings.

Leaders: *Paul & Sue*

Thursday 8 November 7:30pm - 9:45pm Northfleet School for Girls

**"CATALONIA"** by Neil Phillips. Come & enjoy Neil's presentation on the birds & wildlife of a spectacular region of Spain

Sunday 18 November 8:30am departure COACH TRIP

**LONDON WETLAND CENTRE WWT**

A great day outdoors in the centre of London! Wild nature alongside collections of birds WWT are helping to conserve. Visitor centre & café. See website & newsletter for details. *Organiser: Hazel Cullum*

Tuesday 27 November 2pm - 4pm Masonic Halls

**"SPITZBERGEN"** by Tony Morris. Hear about one of the coldest places on earth with it's arctic birds, polar bears and breath-taking scenery, whilst enjoying a hot drink in the warm.

**DECEMBER**

Saturday 1 December 10am - 4pm

**CLIFFE POOLS RSPB**

Meet in the car park off Salt Lane, (TQ724763) **ME3 7SU** to see wintering waders & wildfowl, including avocet, godwits, goldeneye ducks & grebes.

Leaders: *Peter & Karen Hall*

Thursday 13 December 7:30pm - 9:45pm Northfleet School for Girls

**A SOCIAL EVENING** - A meeting to review the year and enjoy some festive refreshments.

Sunday 16 December 10am - 1pm

**RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK (WC)**

Meet in reserve car park, (TQ808682) **ME7 2XH**. A half-day visit to see the birds and enjoy the wide open landscape of the Medway Estuary in winter. Visitor centre with café. Leaders: *Claire & Jim Haslem*



# Gravesend RSPB Local Group 2018 Programme

## INDOOR MEETINGS

Admission: **£3.50** Group members, **£4.50** non-members, includes refreshments during the interval. Free parking is available at both venues.

Thursday evening meetings start at 7:30pm and are held at **Northfleet School for Girls**, Hall Road, Gravesend, DA11 8AL (TQ627726) on the second Thursday of the month.

Tuesday afternoon meetings start at 2pm and are held in the **Masonic Halls**, Wrotham Rd, Gravesend, DA11 0PA (TQ647738), usually on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We run **OUTDOOR MEETINGS** at the weekend approximately twice a month and a monthly Tuesday morning meeting during the spring and summer. We visit bird-watching & wildlife "hot spots" in and around Kent and try to ensure everyone has an opportunity to view and enjoy nature in an informal atmosphere. Bring a packed lunch with you and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Please be aware of your own capabilities. For further information about a location or in the case of inclement weather please see our website or contact Paul Yetman. When visiting RSPB reserves remember to bring your RSPB membership card.

There is no charge for the outdoor meetings, unless otherwise indicated. (WC) indicates that toilets are available at or near to the site.

**Group Contact:** Paul Yetman  
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**Annual Local Group Fee:** £5.00 per person

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL EVENTS - RSPB MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS**

*The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654*