

JANUARY

Saturday 5 January 10am - 4pm
SHELLNESS & CAPEL FLEET

Meet at the sea wall at Leysdown to walk to Shellness to see the wader roost **ME12 4RJ** (TR042699). Afterwards to Capel Fleet raptor watchpoint **ME12 4BA** (TR013689) for marsh harriers & short-eared owls. *Leaders: Irene & Terry*

Thursday 10 January 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
"BIRDS, BISON, BEARS & MORE" by Duncan MacDonald. Duncan returns to tell us more about the past & present wildlife of Speyside & Scotland generally.

Sunday 20 January 10am - 4pm
CLIFFE POOLS RSPB

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

Tuesday 22 January 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**
"CONSERVATION PROJECTS AT WILDWOOD" by Suzanne Kynaston. An overview of projects including the captive breeding of dormice & water voles.

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 Jan 1 hour

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

Record the wildlife you see in your garden for 1hour. Submit your results on the RSPB website and be part of the 2019 BGBW!

FEBRUARY

Saturday 2 February 10am - 4pm
RAINHAM MARSHES RSPB (WC)

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

Thursday 14 February 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
"SHETLAND" by Howard Vaughan. Howard's adventures in Shetland! The special wildlife encountered by Howard in this northerly outpost of Britain.

Sunday 17 February 10am - 4pm
DUNGNESS LIGHTHOUSE AND RSPB RESERVE (WC)

Park in the Old Lighthouse car park **TN29 9NA** (TR088169). Gulls, gannets & grebes & later at the RSPB reserve **TN29 9PS** (TR067184) ducks, egrets and possibly a bittern on the new RSPB islands. *Leaders: Sue & Cliff*

Tuesday 26 February 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**
"LOOKING FOR THE GOSHAWK" by Conor Jameson. This once common bird of prey has all but disappeared from our forests. Why? And where is the elusive Goshawk now?

MARCH

Saturday 2 February 10am - 4pm
ELMLEY NNR (WC)

Meet at the reserve car park **ME12 3RW** (TQ938679). An entry fee of £5 per car applies. Great location for wintering wildfowl, waders and raptors. Look out for hares on the drive in. *Leaders: Norman & Sandra*

Thursday 14 March 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
"SEA BIRDS OF THE BRITISH ISLES" by Brian Gallop. With miles of coast around Britain, sea birds are found everywhere, attracted to our cliffs and islands to breed & feed.

Sunday 17 March 10am—4pm
BLEAN WOODS RSPB

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

Tuesday 26 March 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.

Saturday 30 March 10am - 4pm
OARE MARSHES KWT RESERVE

Meet at the car park **ME13 0QD** (TR013647). Godwits, plovers and dunlin on the pools soon to fly north to breed. Egrets on the shore & grebes on the Swale. *Leaders: Peter & Karen*

APRIL

Thursday 11 April 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
"PLOVER LOVERS WORLD OF DELIGHTS" by Rick & Elis Simpson. Our Wader Quest duo will return to tell us more about the lives of Plovers, those wading birds seen in all kinds of watery habitats.

Sunday 14 April 10am - 4pm
SEVENOAKS KWT RESERVE (WC)

Meet in the car park **TN13 3DL** (TQ519566). Ducks, geese & grebes & perhaps early migrants. Refreshments available. *Leaders: Steve & Hazel*

Tuesday 23 April 10am - 1pm
RIVERSIDE COUNTRY PARK (WC)

Meet in reserve car park **ME7 2XH** (TQ808682) Naturalist Trevor Hatton will be helping us locate the special wildlife at this venue. Can he repeat his success of last year & find the adders? Visitor centre + café. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally*

Saturday 27 April 5am—9am **DAWN CHORUS**
CLIFFE POOLS RSPB RESERVE (WC)

Meet in Cliffe village car park near the church **ME3 7QR** (TQ735766). Enjoy the song birds in the bushes at Cliffe. Nightingale, blackcap, whitethroat, song thrush, cuckoo and turtle dove. *Leader: Paul Yetman*

MAY

Thursday 9 May 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
AGM followed by **"STAND UP FOR TREES"** by Ann Watts. Ann, who works for the Woodland Trust, will describe how it conserves & protects Britain's trees.

Sunday 12 May 8am departure **COACH TRIP**
WICKEN FEN NATIONAL TRUST (WC)

A wetland reserve where marsh harriers & hobbies fly over the reed beds and dragonflies & wild flowers can be seen. Visitor centre, café, hides. Boat trips can be booked in advance. See *website & newsletter* for details. *Organiser: Hazel*

Sunday 26 May 10am - 4pm
STODMARSH NNR (WC)

Meet in the reserve car park **CT3 4BE** (TR221608). Songbirds at their best, blackcaps, reed warblers, whitethroats, thrushes & tits with hobbies & marsh harriers active over the reed beds. *Leaders: Paul & Maria*

Tuesday 28 May 10am - 1pm
CLIFFE POOLS RSPB

Meet in the car park off Salt Lane **ME3 7SU** (TQ724763). The breeding colony of terns, gulls & avocets will be in full swing & nightingales in the scrub may still be singing. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally*

JUNE

Sunday 9 June 10am—4pm
THURSLEY COMMON NNR

Meet in The Moat car park **GU8 6LW** (SU899416). A special habitat with hobby, redstart, woodlark & Dartford warbler as well as numerous dragonfly species. *Leaders: Paul & Maria*

Saturday 22 June 10am - 4pm
OARE MARSHES KWT RESERVE

Oare Marshes **ME13 0QD** (TR013647) Reed beds alive with small birds, reed buntings, bearded tits & warblers. Ducks with young. *Leaders: Hazel & Steve*

Tuesday 25 June 10am - 1pm
LULLINGSTONE COUNTRY PARK (WC)

Meet at the visitor centre **DA4 0JF** (TQ526638). Grey wagtails feeding young on the River Darenth with damselflies & butterflies on the wing. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally*

JULY

Sunday 7 July 10am - 4pm
SAMPHIRE HOE (WC)

Meet in the car park **CT17 9FL** (TR300396). Black redstart & house martin on the cliffs with fulmars, ravens & peregrines. *Leaders: Paul & Maria*

Saturday 20 July 10am - 4pm
STODMARSH NNR (WC)

Meet in car park **CT3 4BE** (TR221608). Dragonflies & butterflies over the reed beds, marsh harriers with young. *Leaders: Peter & Karen*

Tuesday 23 July 10am - 1pm

GRAIN COASTAL PARK

Meet in car park **ME3 OBS** (TQ886767). Where the Medway meets the Thames, an impressive muddy shore attracts gulls, oystercatchers & waders. Small birds and migrant warblers in the scrub. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally*

AUGUST

Sunday 4 August 10am - 4pm

RYE HARBOUR NNR (WC)

Meet in the car park **TN31 7TU** (TQ941189). Common, Little & Sandwich terns breed here and will be feeding young. Gulls, including Mediterranean gulls, right in front of the hides. *Leader: Sue*

Saturday 17 August 10am - 4pm

SEVENOAKS KWT RESERVE (WC)

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

Tuesday 27 August 10am - 1pm

NORTHWARD HILL RSPB (WC)

Meet at Bromhey Farm car park **ME3 8DS** (TQ768764) Join us to see & hear Spring birds; nightingales, whitethroats, blackcaps. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally*

Friday 30 August 6:30pm start **EVENING VISIT**

CLIFFE POOLS RSPB RESERVE

Meet **outside** reserve car park off **Salt Lane, ME3 7SU** (TQ724763). Sandpipers and whimbrel on passage, with avocets, gulls & terns. Insect repellent useful. *Leaders: Neville & Louise*

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 12 September 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**

"SRI LANKA" by Jonathan Forgham. A brand new talk on the wonderful and special wildlife of Sri Lanka.

Sunday 15 September 10am - 4pm

RAINHAM MARSHES RSPB (WC)

Meet in the reserve car park **RM19 1SX** (TQ551790). Dragonflies, butterflies, ducks, geese & migrant birds such as hobbies & sandpipers. *Leaders: Steve & Hazel*

Tuesday 24 September 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**

"OWLS, OWLS, OWLS" by Chris Ward. Everything you've always wanted to know about owls, those intriguing, nocturnal creatures that are so hard to see.

Saturday 28 September 10am - 4pm

BOCKHILL

Meet in memorial car park **CT15 6DT** (TR373451) for peregrine, ravens & fulmars on the cliffs. Small birds on migration in the bushes. Nearest toilet at St Margarets at Cliffe. *Leaders: Irene & Terry*

OCTOBER

Thursday 10 October 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**

"KENTS WILD YEAR" by Simon Ginnaw. One of our most popular speakers will take us on a tour through the seasons of the natural world.

Saturday 12 October 8:30am departure **COACH TRIP**

RSPB MINSMERE (WC)

Autumn migration is in full swing with sandpipers, stints & ruffs on the Scrape and the red deer rut underway on the heath. Visitor centre & café. See *website & newsletter for details*. *Organiser: Hazel*

Tuesday 22 October 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**

"COSTA RICA BIRDS & WILDLIFE" by John Buckingham. The special scenery, birds and flowers of this wildlife paradise with an expert naturalist-traveller.

Sunday 27 October 10am-4pm

SANDWICH BAY OBSERVATORY (WC)

Meet at car park, **CT13 9PF** (TR013647) Small entry charge at the toll gate, just before the centre, for those visiting observatory. Migrants such as goldcrests, blackcaps and warblers in the bushes. *Leaders: Norman & Sandra*

NOVEMBER

Saturday 9 November 10am—4pm

DUNGENESS LIGHTHOUSE AND RSPB RESERVE (WC)

Park in **Old Lighthouse** car park, **TN29 9NA** (TR088169) Gulls, gannets & grebes on the sea. Later at RSPB reserve **TN29 9PS** (TR067184) for shovellers, wigeon, goldeneyes & pintails, + egrets, herons and harriers. *Leaders: Sue & Cliff*

Thursday 14 November 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**

"ALIENS AMONGST US" by Neil Phillips. Neil is back to tell us about the alien species invading the UK both by stealth and invitation.

Saturday 16 November 10am—1pm

VOLUNTEER DAY

Details to be announced later on our website & at meetings. *Leaders: Paul & Sue*

Sunday 24 November 10am - 4pm

OARE MARSHES KWT RESERVE

Meet at the car park **ME13 0QD** (TR013647) Godwits, plovers and dunlin on the pools waiting for the tide to turn. *Leaders: Irene & Terry*

Tuesday 26 November 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**

"RIVER STOUR FROM SOURCE TO SEA" by Michael Walter. Michael describes the journey of a Kentish river and the wealth of wildlife it sustains.

DECEMBER

Saturday 7 December 10am - 4pm

ELMLEY NNR (WC)

Meet at the reserve car park **ME12 3RW** (TQ938679) An entry fee of £5 per car applies. Excellent location for wintering wildfowl, waders and raptors. *Leader: Sue*

Thursday 12 December 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**

A SOCIAL EVENING - A meeting to review the year and enjoy some festive refreshments and a challenging quiz.



giving
nature
a home

Gravesend RSPB Local Group 2019 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 weekends twice a month and a monthly Tuesday morning meeting during the spring and summer. When visiting RSPB reserves remember to bring your RSPB membership card. 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. In the case of inclement weather please see our website or contact Paul Yetman. Our website has all event details and you can sign up for email reminders.

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

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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