

JANUARY

Sunday 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**. Afterwards to Capel Fleet raptor watchpoint **ME12 4BA** *Leaders: Paul & Maria*

Thursday 9 January 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
"BIRDWATCHING IN YUNNAN (CHINA)" by Jeff Blincow. Our programme starts with Jeff's winter trip to Yunnan, featuring birds, fungi, dragonflies & dinosaurs!

Saturday 25 January 10am - 4pm
ELMLEY NNR (WC)

Meet at reserve car park **ME12 3RW**. An entry fee of £5 per car applies. Wintering wildfowl, waders, raptors, and hares on the drive in. *Leaders: Irene & Terry*

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 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 2020 BGBW!

Tuesday 28 January 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**
"101 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT GARDEN BIRDS" by Chris Ward.
How well do we really know our garden birds? Join us to find out more.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 9 February 10am - 4pm
DUNGENESS LIGHTHOUSE AND RSPB RESERVE (WC)

Park in the Old Lighthouse car park Gulls, grebes & gannets on the sea, **TN29 9NA**. Later to the RSPB reserve for wintering waterbirds, **TN29 9PN** *Leaders: Sue & Cliff*

Thursday 13 February 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
"THE GAMBIA" by Howard Vaughan. Howard has worked at RSPB Rainham Marshes for 15 years & is the Visitor Experience Officer. He is an excellent all-round naturalist.

Saturday 22 February 10am - 4pm
SEVENOAKS KWT RESERVE (WC)

Meet in the car park **TN13 3DH**. Geese and grebes on the lakes. Redpolls and siskins in the alder trees. Refreshments available. *Leaders: Claire & Jim*

Tuesday 25 February 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**
"SEABIRDS 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.

MARCH

Sunday 8 March 10am - 4pm
RAINHAM MARSHES RSPB (WC)

Meet in the reserve car park **RM19 1SZ**. Marsh Harrier and Short-eared Owl, stonechats and bearded tits. *Leaders: Norman & Sandra*

Thursday 12 March 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
"ORANGUTANS IN BORNEO AND SUMATRA" by Alison Bristo. Alison shares stories & experiences gained in voluntary work with Orangutans for the Sumatran Orangutan Society, also describing the personal 'journey' that led her to Borneo.

Saturday 21 March 10am—4pm
BLEAN WOODS KWT (NO WC) & RECVLVER (WC)

Meet at the reserve car park, north side of Hicks Forstal Rd. Woodpeckers and woodland birds, **CT3 4JS**. Later to Reculver for wintering Brent geese & snow buntings, **CT6 6SS** *Leaders: Hazel & Steve*

Tuesday 24 March 2pm - 4pm **Masonic Halls**
"WILDLIFE IN WINTER IN NORTHERN JAPAN" by Paul Hale. From Japanese Cranes & Stellars Sea Eagles to Japanese Macaques bathing in hot springs, we also look at Japanese culture.

APRIL

Sunday 5 April 10am - 4pm
OARE MARSHES KWT RESERVE

Meet at the car park **ME13 0QA**. Waders on the scrape and small birds in the reed beds. *Leaders: Irene & Terry*

Thursday 9 April 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
"BRITAIN'S COASTAL BIRDS & THEIR SECRET LIVES" by Simon Ginnaw. A scenic journey around the coast discovering the lives of our fascinating sea birds, from Puffins to Purple Sandpipers, Guillemots to Gulls, Razorbills to Redshanks.

Sunday 19 April 5am—9am **DAWN CHORUS**
CLIFFE POOLS RSPB RESERVE (WC)

Meet in Cliffe village car park near the church **ME3 7QJ**. Nightingales, blackcaps, whitethroat, song thrush, cuckoo and turtle dove. *Leader: Paul Yetman*

Tuesday 21 April 10am - 1pm
COBHAM MAUSOLEUM (no WC)

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

MAY

Sunday 3 May 10am - 4pm
STODMARSH NNR (WC)

Meet in the reserve car park **CT3 4BE**. Warblers in the reed beds, hobbies & marsh harriers overhead. *Leaders: Paul & Maria*

Thursday 14 May 7:30pm - 9:45pm **Northfleet School for Girls**
AGM followed by **"MEDITERRANEAN BIRDS"** by John Buckingham. John has spent 40 years travelling the Mediterranean coast & islands of southern Europe. Tonight he describes the stunning birds, flowers & butterflies he has seen.

Saturday 16 May 10am - 4pm
NORTHWARD HILL RSPB (WC)

Meet at Bromhey Farm car park **ME3 8DS**. Join us to see & hear Spring birds; nightingales, whitethroats, blackcaps. *Leaders: John & Pauline*

Tuesday 26 May 10.15am - 1pm
KNOLE PARK NT

Meet in the National Trust car park, **TN13 1HX** - NB. Slightly later start time. Entry charges apply for non NT members. This open parkland has green woodpeckers, thrushes, pipits, yellowhammer and redstart. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally*

Sunday 31 May 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 & at meetings.

Organiser: Hazel Cullum

JUNE

NIGHTJAR EVENING

We hope to visit an area of Kent in June/July where Nightjars can be seen. Details of venue and date on website or email group leader nearer the time.

Sunday 14 June 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 *Leaders: Paul & Maria*

Tuesday 23 June 10am - 1pm
NORTHWARD HILL RSPB (WC)

Meet at Bromhey Farm car park **ME3 8DS**. Whitethroats, blackcaps & a visit to the heronry to look for herons & egrets. *Leaders: Malcolm & Sally*

Saturday 27 June 10am - 4pm
SEVENOAKS KWT RESERVE (WC)

Meet in the car park **TN13 3DH**. Flowers, butterflies, dragonflies, and ducks & geese with their young. *Leaders: Jeff & Wendy*

JULY

Sunday 12 July 10am - 4pm
SAMPHIRE HOE (WC)

Meet in the car park **CT17 9FL**. Black redstart & house martin on the cliffs with fulmars, ravens & peregrines. *Leaders: Neville & Louise*

Saturday 25 July 10am - 4pm
WARNHAM Nature Reserve, Horsham

Meet in car park **RH12 2RA**. A new venue with trails, hides & visitor centre. £2 entry. Warnham Millpond has many different habitats attracting water & woodland birds & supporting a variety of plants, fungi and insects. *Leaders: Hazel & Steve*

Tuesday 28 July 10am - 1pm

ALLHALLOWS-ON-SEA

Meet by the 'British Pilot' pub **ME3 9QW**. A walk to Yantlett Creek & along the Thames river wall. The muddy shore attracts gulls, oystercatchers & waders.

Leaders: *Malcolm & Sally*

AUGUST

Sunday 9 August 10am - 4pm

OARE MARSHES KWT RESERVE

Meet in car park **ME13 0QA**. Reed buntings, bearded tits & warblers in the reed beds. Early returning waders on the scrape. Leader: *Sue*

Friday 21 August 6.30pm - approx. 9pm

MOTE PARK

Meet in the car park off Mote Ave. **ME15 7SU**. An evening walk to see bats hunting moths in the warm evening air—bring a bat detector if you have one & insect repellent. There will be a small fee. Leaders: *Paul & Simon*

Tuesday 25 August 10am - 1pm

SEVENOAKS KWT RESERVE (WC)

Meet in the car park, **TN13 3DH** for a Summer visit to see flowers, butterflies & dragonflies and ducks & geese with their young. Leaders: *Sally & Malcolm*

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5 September 10am - 4pm

RAINHAM MARSHES RSPB (WC)

Meet in the reserve car park **RM19 1SZ**. Dragonflies, butterflies, frogs, ducks, geese & migrant birds. Leader: *Sue*

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

"RSPB RESERVES & THEIR BIRDS" by Gary Prescott. Gary, the Biking Birder 2016, has twice visited every RSPB & WWT reserve in the UK. He will talk about the birds & other wildlife to be enjoyed in these special places.

Sunday 20 September 10am—4pm

DUNGENESS LIGHTHOUSE AND RSPB RESERVE (WC)

Meet in Old Lighthouse car park, **TN29 9NA**. Wheatears, redstarts and goldcrests. Later at RSPB reserve **TN29 9PN** for waterbirds of all kinds. Leaders: *Sue & Cliff*

Tuesday 22 September 2pm - 4pm Masonic Halls

"PINEAPPLE PERIL FOR PALEARCTIC MIGRANTS & AFRICAN WOODLAND SPECIES" by Ann Scott. Hear how money raised in a memorial appeal for Anne's husband Bob, is used to save Kenyan coastal habitat for eastern bird migrants.

OCTOBER

Saturday 3 October 10am - 4pm

ELMLEY NNR (WC)

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

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

"PENGUIN PARADISE—THE WILDLIFE OF ANTARCTICA" by Bill Coster.

Professional photographer Bill recalls a month-long journey to South Georgia & the Antarctic peninsula.

Saturday 17 October 8:30am departure **COACH TRIP**

PULBOROUGH BROOKS RSPB RESERVE

The Arun Valley is a refuge for wildfowl in winter. Fieldfares & redwings in the hedges, siskins & redpolls in the woodland. Visitor centre & café. Details on web-site & at meetings. Organiser: *Hazel Cullum*

Tuesday 27 October 2pm - 4pm

Masonic Halls

"EXTINCT BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND" by Victoria Golding. Victoria who grew up in New Zealand, shares her passion for the conservation of it's birds, including the critically endangered Kakapo.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1 November 10am - 4pm

GRAIN (NO WC) & NORTHWARD HILL RSPB (WC)

Meet in Grain car park **ME3 0BS**. The muddy shore attracts gulls, oystercatchers & waders. Later to Bromhey Farm, Northward Hill **ME3 8DS** to see & hear the corvids come to roost. Leaders: *Peter & Karen*

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

"KENT-THE WILDLIFE GARDEN OF ENGLAND" by Dr André Farrar. Andre grew up near the North Downs. He considers the challenges & opportunities of ensuring that the 'Garden of England' remains rich in wildlife.

Saturday 14 November 10am—1pm

VOLUNTEER DAY

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

Tuesday 24 November 2pm - 4pm

Masonic Halls

"UNWRAPPING RAPTORS-AN ID GUIDE" by David Darrell-Lambert. David's interactive guide cuts out all the chaff (not finch) to help you work out what winged menace is in the sky or perched in front of you.

Sunday 29 November 10am - 4pm

STODMARSH NNR (WC)

Meet in car park **CT3 4BE**. Redpoll and Siskins in the woodland. Marsh harriers over the reed beds. Leaders: *Irene & Terry*

DECEMBER

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

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

Saturday 12 December 10am-4pm

CLIFFE POOLS RSPB

Meet in the car park off Salt Lane **ME3 7SX**. Cliffe attracts all kinds of waders, wildfowl & small birds in winter, and raptors such as marsh harrier & peregrine. Leaders: *Norman & Sandra*



giving
nature
a home

Gravesend RSPB Local Group 2020 Programme

INDOOR MEETINGS

Admission: **£4.00** Group members, **£5.00** 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