

# The RSPB Macclesfield Local Group



## The Heron



## Newsletter - February 2022

**We welcome Sacha Cleminson, Zooming from approximately 7,930 miles away on an Island in the South Atlantic to talk about *Magic in the Wind: Nature and Conservation in the Falkland Islands.***

Sacha lives in Stanley on the Falkland Islands with his wife and two young children. He has been working for the RSPB for the last twenty years in various roles; in Brussels on European policies to help protect birds across the EU and UK, at Westminster for the RSPB Parliamentary Team and his current post is with the RSPB's programme in the British Overseas Territories working on various topics for example, safeguarding penguins, marine conservation and carbon off-setting.

The presentation will be an introduction to the Islands, some of its history, wildlife and the conservation work the RSPB is involved with. While Sacha is not an ornithologist, he is knowledgeable about the principle birds species of the Islands and their natural history. His work is focussed on achieving good government policies and funding for conservation. Undertaking this work he has been lucky enough to visit some of the remote very large seabird colonies and dive some of the extraordinary Giant Kelp forests.

### DIARY DATES

#### FEBRUARY 2022

Tuesday 8	<b>Zoom meeting: Magic in the Wind: Nature and Conservation in the Falkland Islands by Sacha Cleminson</b>
Log in from 7:30 pm to start at 7:45 pm	Zooming in from The Falkland Islands, Sacha will give an introduction to the islands, some of the history which explains how it is today, its wildlife and the conservation work in which RSPB are involved. <b>Booking essential</b> - email <a href="mailto:membership@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk">membership@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk</a> for registration and joining instructions. Local Group Members Free, Visitors £2 and Under 18 Free.

#### MARCH 2022

Tuesday 8	<b>Indoor meeting: Birds in Spring by Peter Holden</b>
Doors open 7:15 pm to start at 7:45 pm	Peter has been passionately interested in birds and wildlife from an early age and was an RSPB staff member for more than 40 years. His presentation will mainly concentrate on bird communication and nesting but will also consider what we are discovering about breeding ecology, especially the different family arrangements that have evolved to help birds rear their young. Prepare to be shocked. <b>Face coverings are recommended, unless you are exempt or drinking while in the M.C.C.</b> Local Group Members £1, Visitors £5 and Under 18 Free.

<b>MARCH 2022</b>	
Sunday 13 Departs 7:30 am	<b>WGBG Coach Trip: RSPB Old Moor and Idle Valley</b> Depart at 7:30 am from Wilmslow Guild, Bourne Street, Wilmslow, SK9 5HD Contact: Steve McGann 01625 533652
Thursday 31 10am until 12 noon	<b>Special Event: RSPB Coffee Morning at Gawsworth Community Hall</b> A selection of homemade cakes and preserves will be available to purchase while you have a cup of tea or coffee. Contact Lydia Taylor 01260 275248 if you can help.
<b>APRIL 2022</b>	
Tuesday 12 Doors open 7:15 pm to start at 7:45 pm	<b>Indoor meeting: Paradise Lost or Paradise Retained? by Brian Anderson</b>  <b>Face coverings are recommended, unless you are exempt or drinking while in the M.C.C.</b>  Local Group Members £1, Visitors £5 and Under 18 Free.
Sunday 24 Departs 7:30 am	<b>WGBG Coach Trip: RSPB Leighton Moss reserve</b> Depart at 7:30 am from Wilmslow Guild, Bourne Street, Wilmslow, SK9 5HD Contact: Steve McGann 01625 533652

## NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

### **Danes Moss Nature Reserve Survey Dates by John and Val Cutter.**

The Dane's Moss breeding birds' survey was started by the late Alan Brereton in conjunction with Cheshire Wildlife Trust who own the site. Starting in March with a visit to establish a baseline before the migrants arrive in force, we visit once a month in the breeding season and note the birds in each area of the reserve during the summer. Last year we listed 50 species. This is important to help in the conservation and protection of the site. Some more eyes and ears would be very welcome to help us notice everything, please join us. The dates are as follows:

1. Monday 14 March
2. Monday 4 April
3. Wednesday 4 May (Avoiding Bank Holiday Monday)
4. Monday 6 June
5. Monday 4 July
6. Monday 18 July

Starting at 6.50 am from Lyme Green Business Park by the *Home Bargains* store (which replaced *Homebase*) for a 07.00 am start from the picnic area at the entrance to the Cheshire Wildlife Trust Danes Moss Reserve, alongside the Macclesfield Canal.

**Park on the road next to the car park to avoid the car park time limit!**

Please let me, John Cutter know in advance if you are planning to come, either by phone **01625 573533/07543 557954** or preferably by email: [drjrcutter@gmail.com](mailto:drjrcutter@gmail.com)

**We will not survey in heavy rain, very poor visibility or strong wind so it is vital that we have a telephone number in case we have to cancel at short notice.**

### **Directions from Lyme Green Car Park to Danes Moss:**

Facing the *Home Bargains* store (previously Homebase) from the car park there is a footpath to the canal just off the service road to the right of the store. Follow this footpath for approximately 150 yards to the canal, turn right and walk along the canal path for approximately 400 yards. The entrance area and footpath to the reserve is on the right directly opposite a swing bridge on the canal where you will also see a small picnic area with wooden benches. This will be the starting point for the surveys. (Please note that to reach the main part of the reserve you will need to continue along the entrance footpath, away from the canal, and over a large metal footbridge which crosses the main railway line from Manchester to Stoke on Trent and London).

## Upcoming Vacancies on the Local Group Committee

After the latest Committee meeting the resignation of Ian Taylor as Publishing Officer (Newsletter Editor) was confirmed. In addition, Daryll and Derek Bailey our Publicity Officers also want to step down from their role. Both will be effective after the May 2022 AGM.

We welcome any member(s), new or long serving to apply for either of these two roles. Both roles hold a Committee position but if you are not a committee type individual then an alternative way of undertaking either role can be found. If you identify with the role descriptions below, you could be the person(s) we are looking for, so please contact either the present role holder(s) or any committee member to learn more.

### **Publishing Role Description:**

- Seek or write articles to publish in the Local Group's Heron Newsletter/Magazine
- Collate and edit contributions from members for the Heron Newsletter ahead of monthly meetings (September to April) and for the annual Heron Magazine in August.
- Distribute (email or paper as appropriate) the Heron Newsletter before the monthly meetings September to April and for the annual Heron Magazine in August.
- Update the Welcome leaflet and distribute (email or paper as appropriate) as required.
- Print flyers as required or design if agreed to publicise events the Local Group are promoting.
- Archive future copy and be the custodian of our electronic historical Heron Newsletters and Magazines.
- Responsibility to suggest changes to the Heron Newsletter and Magazine to the Local Group Committee and to execute changes as agreed.

### **Skills required**

- Computer literate.
- Good communication skills, with an ability to adapt writing style.
- Ability to use tact and diplomacy and accuracy with attention to detail, when sharing stories and news

### **What the Local Group provide**

- A printer if required
- Full reimbursement of any receipted expenses
- Electronic copies of previous Newsletters and Magazines

### **Publicity Role Description:**

- Establish and maintain links with local websites that advertise events
- Advertise indoor and zoom meetings and outdoor events on local Websites/Library displays to attract new visitors and members.
- Provide copy for publication on the Local Group's website, Facebook and other social media pages to the relevant person.
- Produce posters advertising meetings and events and find locations (e.g. Libraries, Country Parks) for display.
- Provide RSPB publications with news of the Local Group's events for the wider audience to showcase the Local Group's achievements.
- Write copy for local newspapers to advertise the Local Group's good work.
- Encourage Group members to contribute articles from meetings and events and forward as appropriate e.g. to Newsletter, website etc.
- Freedom to introduce new ways of advertising the Local Group activities.

### **Skills required**

- Computer literate.
- Creative flair to design posters etc.
- Good communication skills and ability to write good copy.
- Ability to cultivate contacts with Website owners to publicise the Group's activities.

### **What the Group provide**

- Full reimbursement of any receipted expenses.

Ian Taylor  
On behalf of the Committee

## ***Walks with Nature***

An Outings sub-committee has been formed and will be meeting by Zoom on Monday 7th February 2022 to discuss what bird and wildlife watching events can be organised this coming Spring. We plan to keep these walks local to Macclesfield and held in April and May during the week. The aim will be to visit sites which have a reputation for hosting our summer migrant species. We anticipate the walks lasting 3 to 4 hours and the number of walks we organise will be dependant on availability/finding Walk Leaders from the Group.

If you have ideas of places to visit or are interested in leading a walk or two then please get in contact with Ray Evans ([enquiries@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk)) or Ian Taylor ([newsletter@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk)).

Alternatively, if you are interested in joining any of these walks they will be advertised on our Website/Facebook page as well as Lydia's monthly eMail.

We look forward to meeting up again in the Spring, Government COVID rules permitting.

Ian Taylor