

The RSPB Macclesfield Local Group



The Heron



Newsletter - March 2022

We welcome back Peter Holden MBE as our speaker tonight

Peter started working for the RSPB in 1969 and was responsible for driving the RSPB's youth membership. In 1975, Peter became the national organiser of the RSPB's Young Ornithologists Club, now known as the Wildlife Explorers which has grown to be one of the largest wildlife clubs for children in the world.

He was instrumental in developing and promoting the first 'citizen science' project in the UK, *The Big Garden Birdwatch* in 1979. Initially for children, Peter's vision enabled him to see the potential in extending *The Big Garden Birdwatch* to people of all ages. This is now established as the world's largest citizen science project - it connects people with the wildlife outside their windows.

Peter has written nine books, including the highly-acclaimed *RSPB Handbook of British Birds* and the recently published *RSPB Handbook of Garden Wildlife*. Tonight's presentation will concentrate on bird communication and nesting. He will also consider what we are discovering about breeding ecology especially the different family arrangements that have evolved to help birds rear their young.

DIARY DATES

MARCH 2022

Tuesday 8 Doors open 7:15 pm to start at 7:45 pm	Indoor meeting: Birds in Spring by Peter Holden Peter has been passionately interested in birds and wildlife from an early age and was an RSPB staff member for more than 40 years. Prepare to be shocked by his presentation content tonight. Please wear a face covering if it makes you more comfortable Local Group Members £1, Visitors £5 and Under 18 Free.
Sunday 13 Departs 7:30 am	WGBG Coach Trip: RSPB Old Moor and Idle Valley Depart at 7:30 am from Wilmslow Guild, Bourne Street, Wilmslow, SK9 5HD Contact: Steve McGann 01625 533652
Thursday 31 10 am until 12 noon	Special Event: RSPB Coffee Morning at Gawsorth Community Hall A selection of homemade cakes and preserves will be available to purchase together with a raffle while you enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with friends. Contact Lydia Taylor 01260 275248 if you can help.

APRIL 2022	
<p>Tuesday 12</p> <p>Doors open 7:15 pm to start at 7:45 pm</p>	<p>Indoor meeting: Paradise Lost or Paradise Retained? by Brian Anderson</p> <p>Brian looks at the negative effects of mankind's activities on the planet; including the increase in carbon dioxide levels, pollution and global warming; ecosystem destruction and depletion of the earth's limited resources. According to some scientists, we now live in a new geological era - called the Anthropocene.</p> <p>Local Group Members £1, Visitors £5 and Under 18 Free.</p>
<p>Wednesday 20</p> <p>Start at 8 am</p>	<p>Walk with Nature: Styal Woods</p> <p>Join us for a walk around the woodlands at Styal Country Park. We will be listening and looking for the area's resident song birds as well as spring migrants including chiffchaff, willow warbler, blackcap and garden warbler. Meet at Twinnies Bridge car park, entrance on Styal Road, Wilmslow, SK9 4HW LR Grid Reference SJ840822, WGS84: N 53.33639, W 2.24174 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Leader: Ray Evans 01625 432635 with National Trust Volunteer Derek Hatton.</p>
<p>Sunday 24</p> <p>Departs 7:30 am</p>	<p>WGBG Coach Trip: RSPB Leighton Moss reserve</p> <p>Depart at 7:30 am from Wilmslow Guild, Bourne Street, Wilmslow, SK9 5HD Contact: Steve McGann 01625 533652</p>
<p>Wednesday 27</p> <p>Start at 9 am</p>	<p>Walk with Nature: A linear walk from Mottram Hall along the River Bollin towards Prestbury</p> <p>Come and join us for a walk along the River Bollin where we hope to see grey wagtail, sand martins and common whitethroat and other warblers. Meet at Mottram Hall Golf Club car park, entrance off the A538, Post Code SK10 4QT, drive past the front of the hotel and park in the top right hand corner of the main car park, We will walk along a public right of way next to the golf course, please be aware of the possibility of wayward golf balls and be still and quiet when nearby golfers are playing their shots. Coffee and snacks are available after the walk in the Golf Club Bar. LR Grid Reference SJ886796, WGS84: N53.31278, W2.17222 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Leader: Ian Taylor 01260 275248</p>
MAY 2022	
<p>Thursday 5</p> <p>Start at 10am</p>	<p>Walk with Nature: Around Astbury Mere Country Park</p> <p>Join us for a spring walk around Astbury Mere Country Park looking for chiffchaff, willow warbler, blackcap and other summer migrant species. At this time of year the Mere has sand martins and swallows swooping over the water. Meet at the Visitor Centre, Sandy Lane off the A34 (Newcastle Road) Congleton CW12 4FR. LR Grid Reference SJ846627, WGS84 N 53.16132, W 2.23153 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, Car park fee payable Leader: Lydia Taylor 01260 275248</p>
<p>Sunday 8</p> <p>Departs 7:30 am</p>	<p>WGBG Coach Trip: Brandon Marsh</p> <p>Depart at 7:30 am from Wilmslow Guild, Bourne Street, Wilmslow, SK9 5HD Contact: Steve McGann 01625 533652</p>

MAY 2022	
<p>Tuesday 10</p> <p>Start at 7:45 pm</p>	<p>AGM followed by members digital images and videos</p> <p>Each year members produce some fine images showing wildlife from both home and abroad. Please email your images and videos to david@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk or phone 01625 432105 if you would like them to be included.</p>
<p>Wednesday 11</p> <p>Start at 7 am</p>	<p>Walk with Nature: Birds of the Goyt Valley</p> <p>A walk in the Goyt Valley looking for our less frequently seen spring migrants, pied flycatcher, common redstart and tree pipit. Meet at Errwood Hall car park, Goyt Valley 7:00 am to 9:00 am LR Grid Reference SK012748, WGS84 N 53.27053, W 1.98317 Leader: Ian Taylor 01260 275248</p>
JUNE 2022	
<p>Friday 24</p> <p>Start at 10 am</p>	<p>Walk with Nature: Birds and Orchids at Jacksons' Brickworks nature reserve</p> <p>A leisurely morning stroll around the paths of Jacksons' Brickworks listening to birdsong and identifying the orchids in this unique habitat reclaimed from its industrial past. Meet at Jacksons' Brickworks Car Park, Pool House Road, Higher Poynton, SK12 1TY LR Grid Reference: SJ947844, WGS84 N 53.35622, W 2.08045. 10:00 am to 12:00 noon Leader: Tina Hanak 07870 804413</p>
JULY 2022	
<p>Wednesday 13</p> <p>Evening Walk Start at 6:30 pm</p>	<p>Evening Walk with Nature: Birdlife around Redesmere</p> <p>A linear walk from Redesmere car park alongside the Mere opposite the sailing club. We will look for wildfowl as well as swallows, sand and house martins feeding on insects over the water together with other summer visitors. Meet in Redesmere car park LR Grid Reference SJ849713, WGS84 N 53.23889, W 2.22817 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Leaders: Ian Taylor 01260 275248 and David Tolliday 01625 432105</p>

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- We still have opportunities for a Newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer on the Committee. Please speak to any current Committee member if you are interested.
- The Outings Sub-Committee have organised six *Walk with Nature* events in the local area, one each on a Thursday and Friday with four on a Wednesday, with one in the evening. Please see the details in the Diary listing above and check the website for any last minute changes.
- Please see the Cheshire Wildlife Trust website for more information regarding the South Macclesfield Development area and the potential impact on Danes Moss.
www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/save-danes-moss
- **Don't forget Gawsworth Coffee morning on Thursday 31 March, 10 am until 12 noon at Gawsworth Community Hall.**

Ian Taylor
Editor

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of The RSPB Macclesfield Local Group will be held using the Zoom Platform on

Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 7:45 pm

Nominations are invited for Committee Membership

Daryll and Derek Bailey our Publicity Officers are stepping down from their roles on the Committee. Ian Taylor is relinquishing his role of Newsletter Editor but is willing to continue on the Committee undertaking the roles of Walk Leader, Garden Bird Survey Analyst and Front of House as required.

We will need to fill the Publicity and Newsletter Editor positions immediately to ensure the Local Group runs smoothly next season. If you are interested in these roles we urge you to step forward and join the Committee now to ensure a smooth transition and handover.

Please consider joining the Committee to help the Group.

The closing date for nominations for Committee is Tuesday 3 May 2022.

For details of submission rules and procedures please contact any member of the Committee.

Nominations should be submitted by signed letter or e-mail to the Secretary, Sarah Park (secretary@macclesfieldrspb.org.uk) from those proposing and seconding the nominee.

Please speak to any Committee Member if your are interested in volunteering; training and support is available. We hold just four Committee Meetings per year.