

GREENSPACES NATURE NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2019.

SMALL, PERSONAL, TAILORED GROUP TOURS to watch NATURE.

www.stevelovellgreenspaces.co.uk

Welcome to this update, you may be receiving this as you signed up to be kept in touch with developments at Greenspaces or you may have been on one of our daytrips, holidays, attended one of our talks or experienced one of our workshops.

WORKSHOPS

Well where do we start a couple of 'Improve your Birdwatching Workshops' to local reserves saw clients get to grips with **Hobbies**, various **Warblers**, a **Kingfisher** and a **Bittern**. These were seen at RSPB Langford Lowfields just a few miles away from our base here in Lincoln. It was also a chance for clients to understand more about the habitat and just how it was created and the ongoing management of the site. More of these events are planned for 2020 covering Gardening for Wildlife, Native Wildflowers and Native tree and Shrub identification. We are also planning to repeat the High Tide Wader roost and have wader ID workshop dates which will be announced in early 2020 once we have the tide tables.



RSPB Frampton Marsh – August 2019 - Can you spot the Knot in the above picture ?

DAYTRIPS

This was a new departure for us this year, it had come from feedback from our clients via a survey we conducted. Most people said they were happy to drive within 30 minutes to a reserve but these day trips were a little further afield to reserves with a wide range of facilities as well as great birdwatching and nature opportunities. With transport, local pick ups around Lincoln, guiding, and a packed lunch all part of the package for an all in price of £50 per person.

Some of the locations visited were RSPB Bempton (twice), Rutland Water, RSPB Old Moor and RSPB Ouse Fen to name a few. A really great selection of birds, fauna and other wildlife were seen, with good feedback about the packed lunch if you will pardon the pun. As this newsletter goes out we have just posted the venues to be visited for the 2020 season. If you are not local to

Lincoln then you can join us at a venue at a reduced rate if it is in your locality and you wish to make your own way there you will still get lunch provided. We had some clients from Yorkshire join us at one of our Bempton Cliffs days.

Just keep an eye on the website;-

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RSPB Bempton Cliffs - Gannet sporting strange facial hair!

LINCOLNSHIRE

Whilst we are based in Lincolnshire we will continue to promote this underwatched county, with the Wash Britain's most important estuary for birds right on our doorstep. Also some of the sites in the north east of the county are waiting to be explored. Add to this a wealth of farmland, gravel pits and their associated habitats it really is waiting to be discovered. We also have a list of some great accommodation should you wish to come and stay a while and use our in county guiding services or just do your own thing. We have just recently completed a day trip for a visitor from Bangalore in India to show him the best of the Lincolnshire coast, going to Gibraltar Point and RSPB Frampton Marsh. Although the weather could have been cheerier it still produced over 60 species with many of them being photographed by a very keen client.

HOLIDAYS and TOURS

Most of our planned tours for 2018 / 19 have been undertaken, with just one not getting sufficient numbers to run it. With personal visits to the sites and to check out the accommodation prior to any tour being planned. It has been truly inspirational to get the feedback from clients and from the various hotels we use. It is all about building up good working relationships and it is gratifying to see clients returning to us.

Last October we went to one of our favourite places The Grant Arms Hotel in Speyside for our Autumn in Speyside tour. What a week – no rain, wonderful autumnal colours, a mix of birds and mammals, great food and even a wee dram. Over 90 species of birds were seen with this being changeover time as autumn became winter. **Otters, Red Squirrels, Pine Martens, Red and Roe Deer, Eagles, Winter Thrushes** etc were the order of the week.

In recent times we have completed a trip to North Norfolk basing ourselves at Fakenham, visiting the Hawk and Owl Trust at Sculthorpe Moor, RSPB Titchwell, NWT Cley and other places in between some 97 species were seen including many waders, along with three species of wild deer including **Chinese Water Deer**. Around our accommodation there are some great walks with riverside, woodland and farmland extending our list of species. On a botanical note it was pleasing to see both **Bell Heather** and **Ling** flowering at their very best.

In late August another of our favourite locations was explored – Somerset and the Levels. It really is a remarkable place and continues to develop so good to see it returning to its former self after the major floods of a few years ago. There were still a few **Hobbies** about but to see over 40 **Cattle Egrets** together at one site is testament to an everchanging locality. There were many species on passage -**Yellow Wagtails, wheatears, an Osprey, Black Terns** and a variety of waders both on the levels and at Bridgwater Bay NNR and **Grass Snakes, Water Voles** and **Brown Hares** also added to the sightings. As a late afternoon treat the group took a return trip on the West Somerset Steam Railway then on our return the waders and **Shelducks** of Bridgwater bay were observed at their high tide roost.



Stear Marshes NNR, Somerset and a Grey Heron fishing for eels.

GOING FORWARD

We have recently completed a repeat of our ‘Autumn in Speyside’ tour with many memories being taken away by our clients. Some of the highlights were a Golden Eagle flying through an intense rainbow in Strathdearn, four Badgers and two Pine Martens on our evening hide visit, large numbers of Seaducks (Long Tailed and Scaup) off the Moray coast, 3000+ Pink Footed Geese dropping into the bay at Udale, Red Deer rutting in the Glens and to top it off up to seven Bottle Nosed Dolphins feeding in front of us in Rosemarkie Bay. Scotland and its wildlife never fails to deliver.

Our next trip ‘ Winter Birds of Norfolk’ is following in December. Then in early 2020 we turn our attention to Devon, followed by Somerset, Speyside, Islay, Speyside and Lancashire. Norfolk is going to be repeated but it is a case of fitting it into the year plan. We have a group of ladies coming from overseas next August for 17 days to birdwatch in Norfolk, Rutland (to include the Birdfair) and Scotland, they have entrusted us with all their ground arrangements so we will be rather busy at that time.

For 2021 we are already in the planning stage for tours and breaks to Norfolk, The Lake District/ North Lancashire, the Solway Firth, Northumberland, Sussex / Dorset. We will also be revisiting some of our favourites, just keep an eye on the website

TALKS

As the 'Indoor season' fast approaches it is time to get out there visiting various clubs to give presentations as varied as Gardening to encourage Wildlife, Borneo right through to Lincolnshire across groups and locations as far apart as the Scottish Highlands right down to Brighton in Sussex. RSPB groups, U3A, Probus, Wildlife Trust, National Trust and various specialist interest groups are just a few we have spoken to over the last 26 years. Please consult the website for a comprehensive list of our talks and fees.



A couple of shots from the Outer Hebrides in May 2019 ,
left - A White Tailed Eagle, right - Great Northern Diver.

GIFT VOUCHERS

Are available in multiples of £20 to be redeemed against any of our trips/ tours.

Why not treat someone !

We donated a voucher for two people to the Birdfair for a days guided birdwatching in Lincolnshire with packed lunch, we look forward to welcoming Mr and Mrs Elsmore sometime in the future.

For any Further information see;-

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