

NEWSLETTER



East Devon Weekend

Friday 11th October 2019

Looking at the weather forecast for the south coast of Devon for the weekend made rather depressing viewing. It showed rain spreading from right out in the Atlantic onto the south of England. But undeterred and packing clothes for every eventuality the intrepid birdwatching group, as well as those who had plans to do other things, set off towards Exeter and a rendezvous in the Swan's Nest Pub near Exminster.

After lunch many of us braved the drizzle to undertake a walk onto the nearby RSPB managed nature reserve known as Exminster Marshes. The rain gods were reasonably kind and we had a walk around the reserve and saw several pheasants, a kestrel and corvids. Getting to the furthest point of the walk a viewing point provided us with a vista over



the estuary of the River Exe where several species of waterfowl and wading birds were observed. A moist walk took us back to the Swan's Nest car park then we set off for the hotel in the oddly named Countess Wear area of Exeter.

The group was joined by a number of non-birding members for a fun



packed social evening which mainly consisted of fine dining (within the constraints of a Beefeater gastro pub) and

lively chatter accompanied by the occasional libation or two. It was decided after another (perhaps ill advised) look at Saturday's wet weather forecast that an early start might be a good idea. So a notional time of 09.30 was tentatively agreed.

Saturday 12th October 2019

A trip to the Bowling Green Marshes near Topsham proved to be rather less moist than anticipated. After a battle to find parking spots along the narrow lane, several of us set off to the RSPB hide that overlooks a marsh area towards the River Clyst near its confluence with the River Exe. The hide has a volunteer-staffed visitor centre which was warm and inviting with huge glass windows. From the hide



we were able to view, amongst other birds, widgeon, teal, shoveler, redshank and grey heron.



The afternoon was spent by the group going off in different directions which included Topsham, Dart's Farm shopping centre, A la Ronde (a quirky 16 sided house) as well as Bystock Fishponds and the Exeter Canal.

Among our 'Weekenders' were those, without binoculars, visiting Exeter Cathedral, Powderham Castle, Budleigh Salterton and Knightshayes.

We assembled again at the Beefeater Pub in the evening to enjoy another gourmet meal where further periprandial oralising and imbibement duly took place.

Sunday 13th October 2019

Sunday dawned mercifully dryer. Some diehard birders had decided, on the suggestion of a local birdwatcher, to head back to Bowling Green Marsh at 07.30, just after high tide, in order to see curlew, redshank, dunlin and avocets. There was also the small matter of the Wales world cup rugby match on television.

With the weekend over everyone wended their way back to Cardiff with some taking more scenic routes.



We all had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend, despite the inclement weather. Thanks to all involved, particularly Norman and Pat.

Andy Mardell

Longleat Wednesday 16th October 2019

On the 16th October, 19 of us boarded the coach to visit Longleat in Wiltshire. After two hours we reached Longleat and most of us went for coffee before the ride in our coach through the safari park. We stopped at the African village where we got up close and personal with the gorgeous Giraffes and the Lemurs.



During a further hour we saw sleepy Lions, Tigers, Cheetahs, Elephants, Wolves and Hyenas. At the end of the safari most of us went to the Cafeteria for lunch.

Visiting the house was lovely and there was the chance to go around the grounds on a Train, plus a trip around the lake where we saw Gorillas, Monkeys and Sea Lions - with the chance to throw them some fish.



It was then time to rejoin the coach for the trip home - after a very enjoyable day. **Sharon Roth**

Forthcoming Events



Cadbury World

Monday, January 27th, 2020. £25. Whit. 08:45, 3-Arches 09:00

Cadbury World is situated in the historic Bournville village - site of the original 'Factory in a Garden'. In 1879, Richard and George Cadbury decided to move their expanding business from Birmingham's City Centre, four and a half miles away into the countryside. No visit to Cadbury World would be complete without stopping off in the World's Biggest Cadbury Shop.

There are Cadbury treats galore, essential chocolate supplies, souvenirs, and plenty of special offers that you won't find anywhere else. The Cadbury Cafe serve everything from sandwiches and cakes to a wide range of hearty main meals, they also have something to suit all tastes including morning coffee or have a picnic with their sandwich meal deal.



SKITTLES

Church Inn, Llanishen Village
Wednesday 19th February 2020
Starts at 2pm - *Come early for lunch.*
Make your own way there.





ROYAL ALBERT HALL. 2020

CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR

Sunday March 22nd Matinee performance 3pm £70
 Combination of the very best in classical music and state-of-the-art technology with electrifying multi-coloured laser displays and ending with the 1812 overture accompanied by cannon and fireworks.

Christmas Lunch 

Marriott Hotel. £20.50
 Thursday 19th December, 2019
 12.30 for 1.00pm

The Raffle is for a Christmas Hamper and 5 other prizes. Bring good appetites for the festive Carvery, remove the moth balls from the seasonal jumper and charge the battery for the camera.

LATEST NEWS

Results of the NHSRF Photography Competition "By the Water"

Highly Commended:
 Maureen Salmon; *Guardian Anchor* and *Can You See my Toy*. Honourable Mentions:
 Jill Evans: *Shall I?*, Peter Elkington: *Low Tide* and *Sunset Paseo*.

Your Committee & Others

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Speaker Sec. Hilary Fairney

Refreshments Sharon Roth

Newsletter David Manning

Meeting Registration
 Christine Lewis

Raffle Organiser
 Norman Bishop

Special Interest Groups

Walking Bob Holbrook

Ornithology Various Leaders

Theatre Vacant

What is your Special Interest? Let's expand our horizons!

 *Forthcoming Speakers* 

December 4th Colin Jarvis: *The Christmas Nativity Story*

January 8th Ann Richardson: *Miss-adventures in Pakistan*

February 5th Rhian Lavis: *Dogs Trust*

March 4th Gregory Couch: *Banking Scams* (TBC)

We say goodbye

To **Marjorie Salter**, who died on Friday 12th July, in Llandough hospital, and **Martin Millar**, who died peacefully, on Friday 17th October. The Chairman leads the membership in offering condolences to their family and friends.


