

Settle U3A Birdwatching Group

About Us

The aim of the Settle U3A Birdwatching Group is to give members the opportunity to enjoy the experience of looking for birds, both locally and further afield.

Enjoyment is the Group's primary objective but it's hoped that, at the same time members will develop both their understanding of how birds live and their skills in identifying individual species.

The Group meets monthly. Most meetings are outdoors, with visits to prime birding sites. But indoor meetings are held three or four times a year, covering a variety of issues.

If you are interested in birds or just enjoy watching them this is the Group for you.



One of the flooded paths at Leighton Moss

Latest News

The Group's October meeting should have taken us to the RSPB's reserve at Leighton Moss. An early morning start would have seen us on an expert-led guided walk through parts of the reserve not normally open to the public. And having experienced the sights and sounds of the dawn chorus we should have enjoyed a bird-ringing demonstration. In the event persistent heavy rain put the reserve under water which meant our special trip had to be cancelled. Just when we should have been experiencing the delights of seeing Reed Buntings and Bearded Tits in the hand, we were left gazing out of the window at the rain. Such is life. We're now hoping to arrange a special bird-ringing visit to Leighton Moss in September next year when, hopefully, it won't rain. Thank goodness we're indoors next month!

Contact details: for more information about the U3A Birdwatching Group and its activities contact Group Leader Les Chandler on lchandler52@gmail.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Programme for the rest of the year can be found on the next page.

For its next meeting, on Monday 4 November 2019, the Group will be moving indoors to hear a presentation from the RSPB's James Bray on the 'Birds of the Gambia'. The meeting starts at 2 pm in the main hall at Victoria Hall. James is the RSPB's Bowland Project Officer and Group members will recall the excellent talk he gave us last year on Hen Harrier conservation in the Forest of Bowland. His illustrated talk this time will highlight many of the special birds of The Gambia, including the stunningly beautiful Egyptian Plover pictured below. What an amazing bird!

This latest incarnation of Settle U3A's Birdwatching Group is now in its second year and we're finding our feet. If you have a view on how the Group should operate, or ideas for Group activities, please don't hold back. The Group Leader, Les Chandler, won't be offended! If there's a particular species you're keen to see or a place you'd like to go just let Les know and he'll try and build it into a future programme.

Egyptian Plover - one of the special birds of The Gambia



PROGRAMME: 2019-20

A 50p subscription is payable for all of the Group's activities. There may be additional costs associated with Group travel and entry to nature reserves depending on the event.

Date	Time	'Event'
Mon 4 Nov 2019	2.00 pm to 3.30 pm	Indoor Meeting - Victoria Hall: 'The Birds of The Gambia' - James Bray
Mon 2 Dec 2019	10.00 am all day	Outdoor Meeting: Beacon Fell - Crossbill Safari
Tue 7 Jan 2020	9.30 am all day	Outdoor Meeting: WWT Martin Mere
Mon 3 Feb 2020	2.00 pm to 3.30 pm	Indoor Meeting - Victoria Hall: 'Waders'
Mon 2 Mar 2020	10.00 am to lunchtime	Outdoor Meeting: Grass Wood, Grassington
Mon 6 Apr 2020	10.00 am all day	Outdoor meeting: Brockhole, Windermere
Mon 11 May 2020	8.15 am to lunchtime	Outdoor Meeting: Forest of Bowland - Ring Ouzel Safari
Mon 1 Jun 2020	9.30 am to lunchtime	Outdoor meeting: St Ives, Bingley
Mon 6 Jul 2020	8.30 am to 6.00 pm	Outdoor Meeting: Coach trip to RSPB Fairburn Ings

NOTE:

For Outdoor Meetings we meet at the Rugby Club car park in Settle at the time shown and arrange car-sharing as necessary. All meetings are risk assessed in advance but Group Members attend meetings at their own risk.

In line with Settle U3A policy drivers should be reimbursed at the rate of £1 per passenger for half hour journeys, £2 for one hour journeys and £3 for 1½ hour journeys.

Where possible outdoor meetings will go ahead whatever the weather but if conditions are so severe that birdwatching would be pointless or travel is ill-advised meetings may have to be cancelled. An e-mail advising cancellation will be sent out up to one hour prior to the scheduled meeting time so check your inbox before setting off.