

BIRDWATCHING *Group*

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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

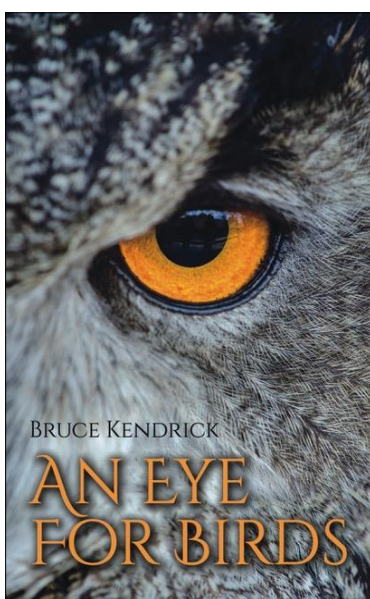
TONIGHT'S MEETING (2nd October)

In a late change to the advertised programme tonight's speaker is Bruce Kendrick who will give a talk entitled "An Eye for Birds"

The talk is based on Bruce's book of the same title (see below for cover). The book is about his formative years as a birdwatcher on the Wirral; from a TB sanatorium at the age of 10 to a budding ornithologist at the age of 16.

Bruce was born on the Wirral in 1946 and was lucky enough to get a good education. Now retired, he lives in Bollington. He is now a nature writer and nature photographer having achieved ARPS status. As far as I am aware this is Bruce's first visit to the Group.

Please welcome Bruce for what I am sure will be a very entertaining evening.



COACH TRIPS

Our first coach trip of the season is on Sunday 19th October to Spurn nature reserve on the Yorkshire coast, departing from the Guild at 7:30am.

Spurn is often the destination for our first coach trip since Spurn has proved to be a very successful destination over the years. The trip is timed to coincide with the autumn migration and the reserve can be exceptionally good at this time of year – just about anything can turn up here while migration is in full swing. A good variety of seabirds, waders and wildfowl can be found on the coast and pools, while migrating passerines can be found on the extensive scrub and bush area. There is an excellent Visitor Centre on site with toilets and a café available.

The next coach trip after that is on Sunday 23rd November to RSPB Leighton Moss reserve departing from the Guild at 8am.

Book your seat for both trips at the desk.

NORFOLK BIRDS WEEKEND

There are still a limited number of places available for our birding weekend away to North Norfolk on **Friday 20 to Sunday 22 February 2026**. Full details were given in last month's newsletter.

Please remember to bring any remaining booking forms and payment for the weekend away 2026 to our meeting on Thursday 2nd October or by post (address is on the booking form). Booking forms will be available at the meeting.

Bookings close on 7th October.

CHRISTMAS WALK & LUNCH

This year's festive walk will take place at Neuman's Flash on Saturday 6th December at 9:30am followed by Christmas lunch at the Antrobus Arms at 12:15. Note the rescheduled time since the pub does not open until 12:00. This will give everyone a chance to use the loos and order drinks.

A deposit of £10 is required to secure your booking, payable at tonight's meeting. Cash only please. Further details to follow.

The menu is now available and copies will be available at the October meeting. Please pick up your menu from Barbara and hand it back with your name and choices on it at the November meeting at the latest. Bills can be settled at the pub on the day.

DAVE & JULIE

COACH TRIP TO YNIS-HIR – 11TH MAY 2025

The last coach trip of the season was to Ynys-hir RSPB reserve. on route the coach stopped at Bala and I saw my first swift of the season.



Eurasian Oystercatcher



Oystercatcher "nest" & eggs

After navigating some narrow roads and tight bends the coach arrived at the site and we were greeted by the wardens and amongst the information that they provided us with was that this year there were a pair of marsh harriers which were the first that had been there in a long time.



Sedge Warbler

We started off by walking towards the estuary, with the mountains of Snowdonia to the north and the Cambrian mountains to the south the views from the reserve are spectacular. Looking towards the estuary several little egrets could be seen, a grey heron and large numbers of cormorants. A blackcap could be heard in the surrounding trees and swallows were flying overhead.

The first stop was at the Marian Mawr Hide from here were views

of redshank, oystercatchers, shelduck, lapwings, moorhen, curlew and teal. A blue tit was flying in and out of its nesting box busily taking food in. From here we continued with a walk along the estuary reed and sedge warblers noisy rambling song could be heard in the surrounding reed beds. From Domen Las hide an Oystercatcher was sat beside a wall skilfully camouflaging its three eggs.

At Saltings hide we were rewarded with sightings of both the sedge and reed warbler. Swallows were flying in and out of the hide and we eventually discovered that there was a swallow nesting in the hide that was unperturbed by our



Red Kite

presence. It was initially sat in its nest and eventually it perched on a beam providing a good photo opportunity.

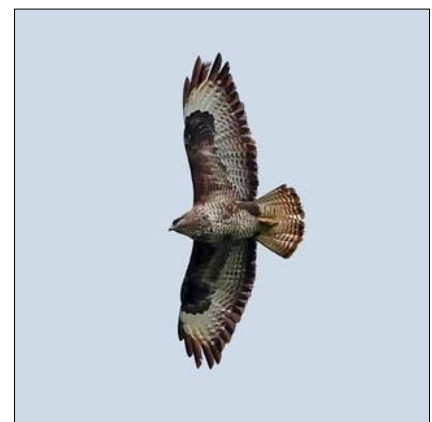
Our next destination was to head to the woodlands in search of the pied flycatcher. On route we took time to sit on a bench and watched a red kite soaring above us looking resplendent in the sunshine. A goldcrest could be seen flitting about in the tree.

As we walked through the woodlands we had been told to look out for nesting box 163 and were duly rewarded with a view of a male pied flycatcher we also managed a view of a female sat on a branch. A willow warbler could be seen with its descending warble.



Barn Swallows

Our final hide was Ynys Feurig where there were views of a great white egret. There were large numbers of Canada geese who appeared to have formed a crèche with all their goslings gathered together. A Lapwing was on the edge of the water and a chick ventured out foraging and swam across a small body of water supervised by the adult. A common buzzard soared over the Visitor Centre as the members were gathering for departure.



Common Buzzard

In total the group saw 58 different birds with some lucky members seeing the osprey and cuckoo which unfortunately were not on my list for that day but it was still a very enjoyable last coach trip of the season.



Group at Ynis-hir

Photos by Robert D

ANNETTE R

BURTON MERE CAR TRIP FIELD REPORT - 8th JUNE 2025

Eleven WGBG members arrived promptly at 9.30am to be greeted in the car park by a friendly Robin. This RSPB site on the Dee estuary straddles the border between England and Wales with a mosaic of freshwater wetlands, farmland and woodland.



Mediterranean Gull

On the feeders by the information centre Great Tit, Blue Tit, Goldfinch and a Great Spotted Woodpecker were enjoying breakfast. Looking through the wonderful large clean windows of the Information centre, with binoculars at the ready, Canada and Greylag Geese were noted on the water. The elegant Avocets with little chicks were busy feeding, Coots, Moorhen, a couple of Lapwing probing for food, with a large wader flock of Knot coming into breeding plumage, and amongst them Black-tailed Godwits. In the distance Marsh Harrier was mobbed by a couple of Crows. On a scrape amongst Black Headed Gulls a solitary

Mediterranean Gull was dozing, the red bill visible, difficult to pick out but Robert shared his 'scope with us for a good view. Mallards paddled around with Gadwall. A delight to see Sand Martins coming and going into their nesting wall, with Swifts swooping overhead.

Leaving the information centre, we followed the footpath to try find Green Woodpecker in the field, but not today for us, Wood Pigeon were feeding and a Blackbird foraging. Continuing along the path, heading for Border hide Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Cetti's Warblers were heard along with Reed Warbler. Alongside the footpath lots of lovely flora, including the beautiful Marsh orchid.

From the first screen looking down the channel a large white wader stood erect and still, too big for a Little Egret but with a large black bill. It was a Great White Egret ready for courtship. We learned only non-breeding Great Egrets have a yellow bill. Further along the path Phil spotted a Cetti's Warbler clear for all to see on a leaf free branch, a pleasing rare sighting. Song Thrush was heard singing his full-throated song, Grey Heron flew over and Goldfinch fluttered in the treetops.



Great Egret

Marsh Covert Hide

Shelduck asleep on the scrape, Grey Heron, three Lapwing, more Avocet and Godwit here, Little Egret flew over.



Pied Avocets

Back on the walkway to the Bridge screen. A solitary Pintail with his slim long neck dabbled on the water. Gadwall, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Oystercatcher, more Gulls and Avocet all happily feeding or resting. Chiffchaff was heard then seen high on the top a tree.

Wandering along the path a green veined butterfly passed us and a cheeky Robin hopped along in front of us.

Border hide

Time for lunch and we were joined by Janet and Michael.

More Knot, Godwit, Lapwing, Gulls, Oystercatcher, Avocet, Gadwall, Little Egret were here with Teal and Common Redshank added to our list, Canada Geese flew over.

On the return walk back towards the Centre we heard and saw Blackcap and Dunnock and heard a Pheasant. The café was open so we decided to refresh ourselves having had a lovely day, with a good field count.



Black-tailed Godwit

Hopeful members Robert, Jules and Marian went off in search of the Spoonbill and were rewarded by a distant scope sighting of this big water bird.

Red Knot



Photos by Robert D

JENNY I

INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

We encourage all of our members to join the group email list. This confers several advantages. You will receive the monthly newsletter by email a few days before the monthly meeting, allowing you time to read through it before the meeting. And if you are unable to attend a meeting you still get your copy of the newsletter!

We also use the email list to communicate urgent news to the members. For example if an indoor meeting has to be cancelled at short notice (which occasionally happens during the winter months) we can sent out an email to warn the members, so saving an unnecessary journey.

Email addresses are kept private since all emails are sent out as BCC format.

To join the email list please see me, Robert D, at the meeting or send an email to the address at the end of this newsletter.

We would also like to invite you to join our WhatsApp group. This is a forum for sharing information about all things birding, news, sightings and more. See Dave S at the meeting for more information.

CAR PARKING FOR COACH TRIPS

Now that we are once again enjoying our coach trips, it seems an appropriate time to remind all our members about parking at the Guild for the Sunday coach trips.

Do not park in the car park in front of the Guild. Park only in the rear car park or along the side. Avoid obstructing the yellow cross-hatched areas, which must be left clear for turning. You can also park on Bourne Street taking care to avoid obstructing the residents' driveways.

Do not park in the Quakers' car park.

Do not park on Windsor Avenue at any time.

FOR SALE

I have an Opticron spotting scope (model IM65A) plus tripod and manufacturer weather cover. (It is for sale due to bereavement).

It has an angled zoom HDF eyepiece with 16x to 48x magnification. Objective lens is 65mm diameter.

Offers circa £250

Please call Rob B on 07788692434.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

The next indoor meeting will be on Thursday 6th November at 7:30pm when our speaker will be Paul Hill with a talk entitled "Tarifa – Gateway to Africa".

Hope to see you all then.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Still required – your articles for the newsletter. Tell us all about that birding holiday of a lifetime or that unusual visitor to your garden bird table. Send any interesting photos you have taken on our coach trips.

Deadline is the Thursday before the meeting.