

# Settle U3A Birdwatching Group

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.

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



## Latest News

For its first meeting the Group visited the Malham Tarn estate on 11<sup>th</sup> September. Prior to us setting off the weather forecast was appalling but in the event we were blessed with splendid sunshine. A stiff wind restricted the number of birds we could see on the boardwalk across the fen but we enjoyed good views of several woodland species, including a charm of Goldfinches and a flock of delightful little Goldcrests - a first for some members of the Group.

## Contact Details

For more information about the Group and its activities contact Group Leader Les Chandler on [lchandler52@gmail.com](mailto:lchandler52@gmail.com).

# LOOKING AHEAD

The Group's Programme for the coming year can be found on the next page.

As you can see from the Programme the Group's next meeting is on 23<sup>rd</sup> October when we'll be visiting Stocks Reservoir and the Gisburn Forest. This can be a good time of year at Stocks, with the chance of seeing lingering summer migrants, before they start to head south, and incoming northern species arriving here for the winter. Gisburn Forest is home to flocks of tits and finches at this time of year and with luck we'll catch sight of one of our more unfamiliar finches, the pretty little Redpoll.

The current Birdwatching Group began only recently so we're still finding our feet. If you have suggestions about how the Group should operate, or ideas for things we ought to do, 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.



## PROGRAMME: 2018-19

The usual 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>'Event'</b>
Tue 23 Oct 2018	9.30 am - lunchtime	Outdoor Meeting: Stocks Reservoir and Gisburn Forest
Tue 13 Nov 2018	10.00 am - 11.30 am	Indoor Meeting - Castleberg Room, Victoria Hall: James Bray (RSPB): 'Birds of Prey in Bowland'
Tue 11 Dec 2018	10.00 am - all day	Outdoor Meeting: Morecambe Bay/Leighton Moss
Mon 14 Jan 2019	9.30 am - all day	Outdoor Meeting: Gouthwaite, Leighton and Roundhill Reservoirs
Tue 5 Feb 2019	10.00 am - 11.30 am	Indoor Meeting - Castleberg Room, Victoria Hall Ducks, Grebes and Divers
Tue 5 Mar 2019	10.00 am - lunchtime	Outdoor Meeting: Long Preston Deeps
Tue 2 Apr 2019	10.00 am - lunchtime	Outdoor meeting: Hellifield Flash
Tue 7 May 2019	10.00 am - 11.30 am	Indoor Meeting: Woodland Birds Castleberg Room, Victoria Hall
Mon 10 Jun 2019	9.30 am - lunchtime	Outdoor meeting: Bolton Abbey Woods
Tue 2 Jul 2019	10.00 am - lunchtime	Outdoor Meeting: Malham Cove

### NOTE:

For all Outdoor Meetings we'll meet at the Rugby Club car park in Settle at the time shown and arrange car-sharing as necessary. All meetings will be 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 in-box before setting off.