

# 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.



Teal and Snipe at RSPB Leighton Moss

## Latest News

December took us to Leighton Moss and, for once, the weather was kind to us. The sun shone through thin cloud; the wind stayed away; and the birds put on a splendid show. The highlights were a singing Cetti's Warbler and first sightings for many of the group of several species including Marsh Tit, Teal, Greenshank, Snipe and Marsh Harrier. But the star of the show was the Water Rail which gave several group members their first ever views of this very elusive species. And what views they were: the bird came so close we could have touched it! A wonderful experience to cap a very good day's birding. The only downside of our visit to this marvellous RSPB reserve was the tree full of roosting Little Egrets - which turned out, on closer inspection, to be a big flock of white doves. But you can't have everything!

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

As you can see from the Programme the Group's next meeting (weather permitting) is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January at Gouthwaite, Roundhill and Leighton Reservoirs on the border between Nidderdale and Wensleydale. This involves a long-ish journey but it should be worth it: in winter these reservoirs are home to one of the highest duck populations in Britain. We're meeting in the car park at the Rugby Club in Settle at 9.30 am so we can organise car-sharing because of the limited parking available at the reservoirs.

This latest incarnation of Settle U3A's Birdwatching Group is still only four months old but 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.



Gouthwaite Reservoir, Nidderdale

## PROGRAMME: 2018-19

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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>'Event'</b>
Mon 14 Jan 2019	9.30 am - all day	Outdoor Meeting: Gouthwaite, Leighton & Roundhill Reservoirs
Tue 5 Feb 2019	10.00 am to 11.30 am	Indoor Meeting - Castleberg Room, Victoria Hall Ducks, Grebes and Divers
Tue 5 Mar 2019	10.00 am to lunchtime	Outdoor Meeting: Long Preston Deeps
Tue 2 Apr 2019	10.00 am to lunchtime	Outdoor meeting: Hellifield Flash
Tue 7 May 2019	10.00 am to 11.30 am	Indoor Meeting: Castleberg Room, Victoria Hall Woodland Birds
Mon 10 Jun 2019	9.30 am to lunchtime	Outdoor meeting: Bolton Abbey Woods
Tue 2 Jul 2019	10.00 am to lunchtime	Outdoor Meeting: Malham Cove

### **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 in-box before setting off.