

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.



Barn Owl at Roundhill Reservoir

Latest News

Our January meeting took us to Nidderdale, an excellent day with good weather and good birds. Gouthwaite Reservoir produced a splendid array of ducks, geese and gulls as well as Lapwings and Golden Plovers: shining brightly in the winter sunshine. Stealing the show though was a large group of Snipe grazing at the head of the reservoir. After a picnic lunch shared with abundant Red Grouse on Pott Moor we headed off to the twin reservoirs of Leighton and Roundhill. Yorkshire Water had granted special access to Roundhill for us and aren't we glad they did? We were treated to very close views of a hunting Barn Owl and an incredible flock of SEVEN Buzzards. Amazing. Then on the way home we stopped off at Grimwith Reservoir to experience the spectacular gull roost. Nice!

Contact Details

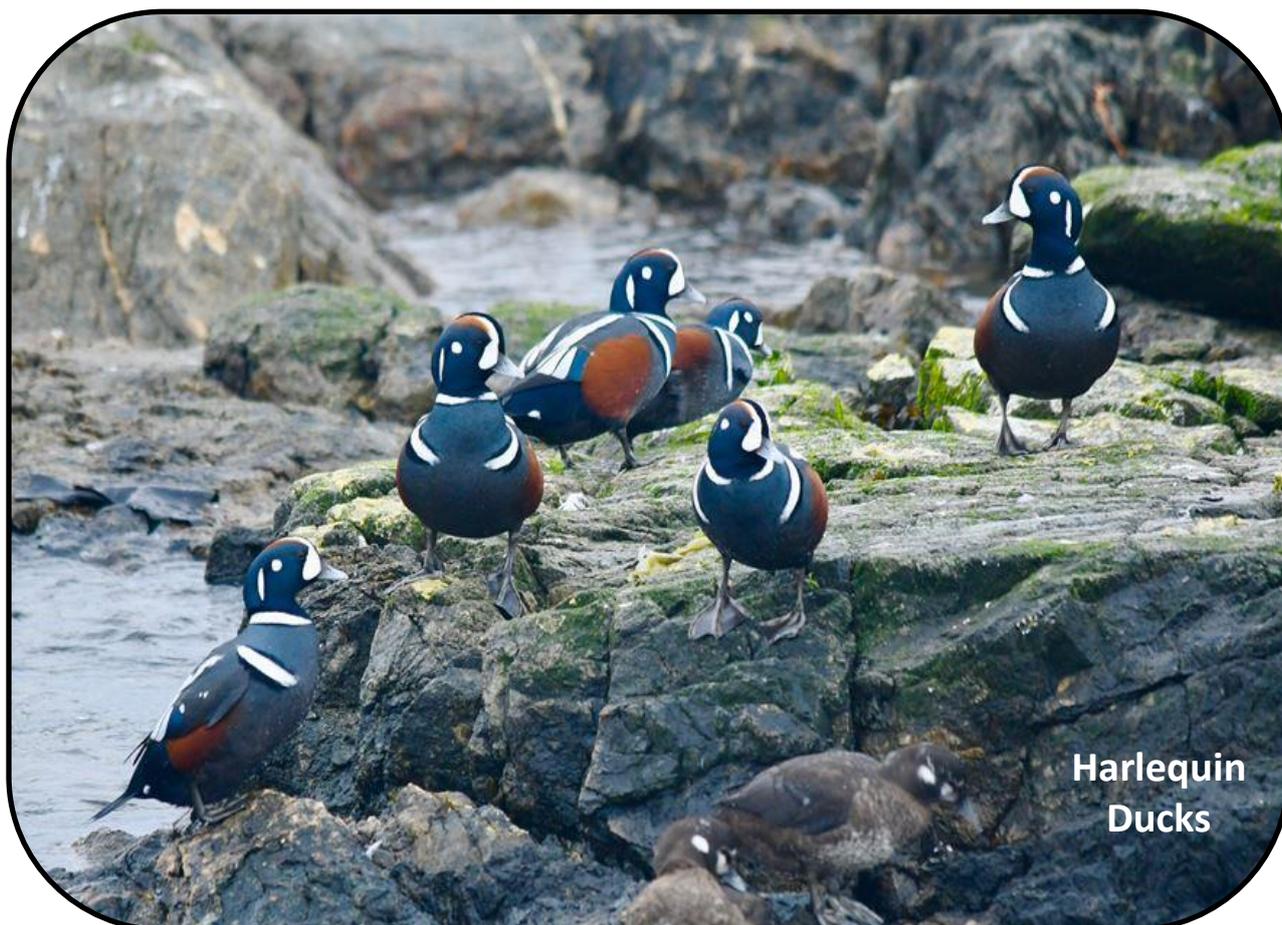
For more information about the Group and its activities contact Group Leader Les Chandler on Ichandler52@gmail.com.

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 is on Tuesday 5th January at 10.00 am in the Castleberg Room at Victoria Hall. The subject for this, our second indoor meeting, is 'Ducks, Grebes and Divers'. As well as explaining how to identify these birds we'll unlock the mystery of their eclipse plumage, explore the strange migration of the Shelduck, introduce you to the world's rarest duck, discover the bully of the duck world, meet the 'jump jet' duck, and reveal the secrets of Dead Duck Day.

This latest incarnation of Settle U3A's Birdwatching Group is still only five 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.



Harlequin
Ducks

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.

Date	Time	'Event'
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 inbox before setting off.