

**MERSEYSIDE NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Amplified Programme 2012**

*For Committee meeting dates and for our terms and conditions, see the pocket programme.*

**Sun 22 Jan.** Fairhaven Lakes and Marton Mere for wildfowl, waders, possibly a Long-eared Owl.

🚌 8.30 William Brown Street and 8.45 Rocket (start of M62). Book with David Bryant ☎ 0151 523 5240. Cost £20, payable on the coach. \* 2m / 3Km, free to roam at Fairhaven Lakes, guided at Marton Mere, leader John Clegg. ○  
‡ ‡ at Fairhaven Lakes ††† at Marton Mere.

**Sat 4 Feb.** Point of Air, for waders. Meet 10.30 at the Talacre Car Park next to the Lighthouse Inn. Car share. Offers and requests to leader. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \* 2m / 3Km, guided, leader Alexander Mansfield. ‡ ‡ ○

**Sat 25 Feb.** AGM. 2.00 p.m. followed by illustrated talk. Bootle Cricket Club. Members only, please.

**Sat 3 Mar.** Mere Sands Wood for woodland birds, wildfowl, possibly a Kingfisher. Meet 10.30 at Ormskirk Bus Station or 11.30 at Mere Sands Woods car park. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there.  
\* 2-3m / 4Km, guided, leader David Bryant. ‡ ‡ ○

**Sun 18 Mar.** Shropshire Meres for wildfowl.

🚌 9.30 Rocket (Fireside World), 9.45 William Brown Street, 10.00 Woodside and 10.15 Bromborough. Book with David Bryant ☎ 0151 523 5240. Cost £20, payable on the coach. \* Distance optional, guided or free, leader John Clegg. ‡ ‡ ○

**Sat 24 Mar.** Orrell Water Park for woodland birds, wildfowl, possibly Waxwings, possibly Water Voles. Meet 10.20 at St Helens Bus Station or 11am at Orrell Water Park car park. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there.  
\*\* 2-3m / 4Km, guided, leader John Clegg  
‡ ‡ (not always open) ●

**Sat 7 Apr.** "From Gravel to Grebes" by Sophie Leadsom of Brockholes. 2.00 pm Bootle Cricket Club. Indoor meeting, illustrated talk, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there, visitors welcome.

**Sat 14 Apr.** Woolston Eyes for Black-necked Grebes and possibly Grasshopper Warblers. Meet 11am at the gate to the bridge. [\*Lime Street for the 9.27 train to Warrington Central, then no. 3 bus to Martinscroft, Weir Lane.] Car share. Offers and requests to leader. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \* 1m / 2Km, guided, leader Alexander Mansfield. Charge £2 for non-permit holders. Steps up to hides. ‡ ‡ ○

**Sat 28 Apr.** Haweswater for Golden Eagle. Meet Haweswater Hotel car park at 10am. Car share. Offers and requests to leader. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \*\*\* 5m / 8Km, guided, leader Terry Williams. ††† ○

**Sat 12 May.** Parbold and Fairy Glen for woodland and farmland birds. Ring the leader, John Clegg, from the end of April for public transport details. ☎ 0151 523 7353. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \*\*\* 5m / 8Km, guided. Stiles and steep steps on the walk. May be muddy. Joint with Liverpool RSPB. ††† ●

**Thurs 24 May Evening.** Raven Meols / Cabin Hill for passage migrants and the Northern Dune Tiger Beetle. Meet 6.30pm Formby Station. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there.  
\* 3m / 5Km, guided, leader Dave Hardy. ††† ●

**Sun 27 May.** Brockholes and Worthington Lakes for wildfowl, possibly Whimbrel and occasional rarities.  
🚌 9.00 William Brown Street and 9.15 Rocket (start of M62). Book with David Bryant ☎ 0151 523 5240. Cost £20, payable on the coach. \* Distance optional, free to roam, leader David Bryant. ‡ ‡ ○

**Sun 10 Jun.** Hutton Roof for Limestone pavement and its associated wildflowers.  
🚌 9.00 William Brown Street and 9.15 Rocket (start of M62). Book with David Bryant ☎ 0151 523 5240.

Cost £20, payable on the coach. \*\* 2-3m / 4Km, guided, leader Dave Hardy. ††† ●

**Sat 23 Jun.** Cors Erddreiniog and Cemlyn Bay. Four species of nesting terns, Marsh Fritillary.

🚌 8.30 Rocket (Fireside World), 8.45 William Brown Street, 9.00 Woodside and 9.15 Bromborough. Book with David Bryant ☎ 0151 523 5240. Cost £20, payable on the coach. \*\* 2m / 3Km, guided, leader David Bryant. ††† ○

**Sat 7 Jul.** Potteric Carr Doncaster for Cetti's Warbler, waders, wildflowers, butterflies and dragonflies.

🚌 8.30 William Brown Street and 8.45 Rocket (start of M62). Book with David Bryant ☎ 0151 523 5240. Cost £20, payable on the coach. £3 admission (£2.50 for pensioners) unless a member of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Distance optional, guided or free, leader David Bryant. ‡ ‡ ○

**Sat 14 Jul.** Wigan Flashes for water birds.

Meet at Lime Street Station for 10am\* train or 11am at Wigan Pier. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \*\* 5m / 8Km, guided, leader David Bryant. ††† ○

**Thurs 19 Jul Evening.** Rivacre Valley for woodland birds. Meet for the 18.20\* train at Lime Street lower level or 7pm at Overpool Station. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there.  
\*\* 3-4m / 6Km, guided, leader John Clegg  
††† ●

**Sat 21 Jul.** Long Mynd for upland raptors and chats.

🚌 8.30 Rocket (Fireside World), 8.45 William Brown Street, 9.00 Woodside and 9.15 Bromborough. Book with David Bryant ☎ 0151 523 5240. Cost £20 payable on the coach. \*\*\* 3-4m / 6Km, guided, leader David Bryant. ‡ ‡ ○

**Sat 11 Aug.** Haskayne for Corn Buntings, and canal and farmland birds. Meet Sir Thomas Street for the 300 bus at 9.51\* or 11.00 at Halsall Parish Church. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. Joint with Liverpool RSPB.  
\* 2m / 3Km, guided, leader Howard Mills. ††† ●

**Thurs 23rd Aug. Evening.** Sefton Park for bats. Meet Lime Street bus stop for 82 bus at 19.29\* or boat house café at 8pm. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there.

\* 1m / 2Km, guided, leader Barbara Lee  
☞☞ ● Bring a bat detector if you have one.

**Sat 25 Aug.** Burton Mere Wetlands RSPB (formerly Inner Marsh Farm) for wildfowl and waders. Meet 11.30 at Visitors' Centre car park. [Sir Thomas Street for the 472 bus at \*9.44 to Heswall Bus Station then bus 24 at 10.33 to Burton.] Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. Bring RSPB membership card: £4 admission otherwise. \* 2-3m / 4Km, guided or free, leader Dave Hardy. ☞☞ ○

**Sat 1 Sep.** Blacktoft Sands RSPB for Bearded Tits, Ruff, Marsh Harrier.

☞ 8.30 William Brown Street, 8.45 Rocket (start of M62). Book with David Bryant ☎ 0151 523 5240. Cost £20, payable on the coach. Bring RSPB membership card: otherwise £3 / £2 admission. \* Distance optional, free to roam, leader John Clegg. ☞☞ ○

**Sat 8 Sep.** Fungal Foray at Freshfield Dune Heath. Meet Freshfield Station at 11am. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \* 2-3m / 4Km, guided, leader Sabena Blackbird ☞☞ (and none at Freshfield station). ●

**Sat 22 Sep.** Pennington Flash for waders, passage migrants and Bullfinches. Meet Lime Street Station for the 9.46\* train to Newton-le-Willows or at the car park at 11.00. Pay and display car park. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \* 2-3m / 4Km, guided or free, leader Alexander Mansfield. ☞☞ ○

**Sat 6 Oct.** "Birds of Prey: Rescue and Rehabilitation" by Steve Davidson, with live birds. 2.00 pm Bootle Cricket Club. Indoor meeting, illustrated talk, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there, visitors welcome.

**Sat 13 Oct.** Gilroy Pool and Langfields for waders and wildfowl. Meet at 10am at Liverpool Central Station or 10.40 at Hoylake Station. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \* \* 4m / 6Km, guided, leader John Clegg. ☞☞ ● Joint with Liverpool RSPB. Can be very muddy.

**Sat 20 Oct.** Carr Mill Dam for various birds, including probable Kingfishers. Meet St Helens Bus Station for the 352 bus at 10.25\* or 10.40 at the Waterside pub. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \* \* 3m / 5Km, two stiles on the route, guided, leader John Clegg. ☞☞ ●

**Sat 3 Nov.** Marshside for waders, raptors and owls. Meet Lord Street Southport for the 44 bus at 10.18\* or Marshside car park at 11.00. Outdoor meeting, free of charge, no need to book, make your own way there. \* 1m / 2Km, guided, leader David Bryant. ☞☞ ○

**Sun 25 Nov.** Leighton Moss RSPB for Bearded Tits, Water Rail, possibly a Bittern.

☞ 10.00 William Brown Street and 10.15 Rocket (start of M62). Book with David Bryant ☎ 0151 523 5240. Cost £20, payable on the coach. Bring RSPB membership card: otherwise £4 admission (£3.50 pensioners). \* Distance optional, free to roam, leader David Bryant ☞☞ ○

**Sat 15 Dec.** Melling. Christmas meal. Meet 12 noon at the Bootle Arms, 11.30 at Maghull Station or take bus 133 from Kirkby or Waterloo. Outdoor meeting, make your own way there, pay for your own meal. Names to David Bryant by 8th December please. ☞☞ ●

#### Leaders' phone numbers

David Bryant	☎ 0151 523 5240
Barbara Lee	☎ 0151 932 9638
Alexander Mansfield	☎ 0151 222 4591
John Clegg	☎ 0151 523 7353
Dave Hardy	☎ 07811 323354
Sabena Blackbird	☎ 07761958152
Terry Williams	☎ 0151 722 2300
Howard Mills	☎ 0151 226 3285.

#### NOTES and KEY to SYMBOLS

\* Note that the **PUBLIC TRANSPORT** details in this programme were correct at the end of 2011 but might have changed by the time of the trip. Members intending to travel by public transport should re-check the times and availabilities of all buses and trains before setting out.

☞ = **Coach trip** Coach pick-up points:

**Rocket:** If it is the **last** pick-up point on the list we are motorway-bound, so it is the bus stop just before the start of the M62. If it is the **first** pick-up point on the list we meet on Queen's Drive outside Fireside World, heading into Liverpool.

**William Brown Street,** opposite the Central Library.

**Woodside,** coach pickup bay outside Shore Road Pumping Station (the Giant Grasshopper).

**Bromborough:** Outside the Royal Oak.

**Walking grades:** These grades are not comparable to walking club lists, they are considerably easier.

- \* = Easy: flat terrain with very good paths suitable for walking shoes.
- \* \* = Moderate: some 'up and down' walking likely; both terrain and footpaths more variable in quality; boots preferable.
- \* \* \* = Strenuous, could include sections of rough terrain, stiff climbs; uneven (or no) footpaths.

#### Toilets

☞☞ = Toilets available at the destination.

☞☞☞ = Toilets not available at destination, but are usually at meeting place. Coaches always stop at a service station on the way, and often on the way home.

#### Telescope

○ = Bring a telescope if you have one.

● = Telescope not useful.

◎ = Telescope optional.

Full programme listings are on our website

**www.mnpage.info**

and reports of previous trips on our blog at  
**www.NaturalistsNotebook.mnpage.info**