

## 2025 Programme

### **24<sup>th</sup> January: Hanningfield**

EWT Hanningfield Reservoir Nature Discovery Centre

Hawkswood Road, Downham, Billericay CM11 1WT

Panoramic Views — From bird watching to experiencing bats, bluebells blooms to autumn colours, come explore. The Nature Discovery Centre is set in mature woodland on the edge of the reservoir.

### **28<sup>th</sup> February: RSPB Wallasea Island**

Wallasea Island, Rochford, Essex, SS4 2HD

Explore the magical mixture of habitats at RSPB Wallasea Island: from marshland and lagoons to the sea beyond, you won't get bored. Watch as terns dive and hundreds of waders and wildfowl flock.

### **28<sup>th</sup> March: EWT Abbots Hall (Guided tour)**

Maldon Road, Great Wigborough, Colchester, CO5 7RZ

A 700-acre nature reserve and the head office of Essex Wildlife Trust, situated on the Blackwater Estuary. The site demonstrates a successful coastal realignment project and is in the process of being 're-wilded' after a long history of being a working farm.

### **25<sup>th</sup> April: EWT Fingringhoe**

Fingringhoe Wick Nature Discovery Park, South Green Road Fingringhoe

Colchester, Essex, CO5 7DN

Fingringhoe Wick was Essex Wildlife Trust's first nature reserve (1961), some years later it was where the Trust opened their first visitor centre. Sixty years on visitors are still coming to see this magical place. Set in a spectacular position overlooking the Colne Estuary the reserve offers a sense of real peace and quiet and a chance to escape from it all.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May: Danbury**

Danbury Country Park Woodhill Road, Danbury CM3 4AW

A beautiful mix of woodland, meadows, lakes and formal gardens in a manageable 45 acres.

### **27<sup>th</sup> June: EWT Walton on Naze**

Old Hall Lane, Walton on the Naze CO14 8LE

The Naze is a unique coastal landscape of outstanding geological and biological importance. As the most easterly peninsula in Essex it is an important site for migrating birds and boasts a number of different habitats, both terrestrial and marine.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> August: Lee Valley, Fishers Green**

Stubbins Hall Lane, Waltham Abbey EN9 2EF

If you enjoy the outdoors there are miles of good walking and excellent cycle tracks to use throughout the Fishers Green Park. The Bittern hide is well worth a visit and if you're curious enough you'll find some amazing hides throughout the park.

### **26<sup>th</sup> September: Watt Tyler**

Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea, Basildon, SS16 4UH

125 acres of country walks, wildlife spotting, adventure play for kids... and some of the best business and event venues in Essex. Just off the A13 near Basildon, Essex and just 40 minutes by train from the heart of London.

### **24<sup>th</sup> October: Fobbing Marsh or Abberton ???**

## **28<sup>th</sup> November: RSPB Rainham Marsh**

New Tank Hill Rd, Purfleet, Thurrock, RM19 1SZ

A peaceful paradise for wetland birds on the outskirts of the capital, where you can spot waders, wildfowl, warblers and owls.

**New members are very welcome to join us, please** feel free to contact me on the numbers above, or by the U3A website email address. We meet at 10am on the fourth Friday of the month at the chosen venue and set off about ten minutes later. The walking is not arduous, we usually spend more time standing or sitting in hides enjoying the spectacle of nature. There is no fee to join the group and **all abilities are more than welcome** whether an experienced birder or total novice. If members would like to be added to our growing WhatsApp Group, please let me know and give me your mobile number. As always, if any members have ideas or suggestions for visits, please let me know. I will send all members an email nearer the time, confirming the location and that we can go ahead.