

# Forthcoming events 2011

## Crossness Nature Reserve

Date	Event	Meeting details
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>PRESENTATION: MAN AND BIRDS – TRAVELS THROUGH TIME</b> by Ralph and Brenda Todd. This indoor slide presentation will take us back in time, drawing on Ralph and Brenda's first-hand experience of visits to Egypt and China. They will go back some 3000 years BC to explore man's association with birds depicted in tomb paintings, then move through the 17th and 19th centuries looking at the resulting changes in land use. They will then look at our relationship and appreciation of birds over the last 100 years or so, using a variety of sites in the UK and overseas. Refreshments provided. <b>DUE TO NUMBER RESTRICTIONS, THIS IS A BOOKABLE EVENT. Please book your place with Karen Sutton on 07747 643958 or karen.sutton@thameswater.co.uk</b>	19:00 – 21:00 (including a half hour refreshment break) at the Crossness Sludge Powered Generator meeting room (Incinerator). Head for Thames Water's Crossness Sewage Treatment Works at the very end of Belvedere Road, Abbey Wood (SE2 9AQ). Please sign in at the security gate and follow signs for Crossness SPG (you're heading for the big silver wavy building and the room is on the ground floor, right of entrance).
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>BEGINNERS BIRDWATCHING</b> with members of Bexley RSPB. A look at the birdlife of Crossness with binoculars and scopes, starting with birds on the River Thames, followed by species found on the reserve. Please be aware that refreshments will <b>NOT</b> be provided for this event. Please bring a drink and packed lunch if desired.	9:30 – 12:30. Meet the RSPB group at 9.30am at Thamesview Golfcourse if you are driving, or meet me on foot at 10am at the Thames Path viewing platform (north end of the nature reserve).
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>BUTTERFLY AND DRAGONFLY WALK</b> led by Andrew Waller. We will walk the paths in search of butterflies and deviate off of paths to have a look around water courses looking for dragonflies and damselflies. Refreshments provided, but you may wish to bring a drink for the walk as it could be hot.	11-14:00 Meet at the entrance to the protected area. The Norman Road gate will be open and vehicular access permitted in the protected area. Please bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise some will be available for loan
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>BARN OWLS AT DUSK</b> We will spend an evening, hopefully watching the emergence of barn owls and subsequent hunting over the reserve (last time I tried this, the owls decided to have a very long lay-in and it was too dark to see anything by the time they did emerge, so be prepared for possible disappointment). Please also be aware that we will keep a safe, respectable distance from the nest site and view activity through binoculars. Light refreshments will be provided on site whilst keeping a watch for owls.	20:30 at the entrance to the protected area. The Norman Road gate will be open and vehicular access permitted in the protected area. Please bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise some available for loan, and if any of you are lucky enough to have night-vision equipment, please feel free to bring it along.
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>WILD ABOUT WATER VOLES</b> led by Nature Reserve Manager. Join us as we take a look at the field signs of this protected mammal species alongside ditches, and learn about recent habitat creation for water voles. As much as I would love to promise you a glimpse of a vole, a sighting of this elusive creature is highly unlikely I'm afraid. I <i>can</i> promise you plenty of water vole poo though!! Refreshments provided – beware the dark coloured tictacs!!	10am at the entrance to the protected area. The Norman Road gate will be open and vehicular access permitted into the protected area. Unfortunately, this event is unsuitable for young children due to proximity to water and tall vegetation growth.

## Crossness Southern Marshes

Date	Event	Meeting details
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>BAT WALK (and maybe a bit of stargazing)</b> led by Nature Reserve Manager. We will walk across the marshes with bat detectors at the ready, looking and listening for bat species. On the return journey, we will spend a bit of time at Southmere Lake watching the nocturnal hunting activity of Daubenton's and other bat species. Refreshments will <b>NOT</b> be provided for this event but please feel free to bring drinks/snacks.	21:15 at Southmere Lake/Lakeside Complex car park off Belvedere Road. Please bring your own bat detectors if you have them available and please bring a torch.
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>PRACTICAL CONSERVATION DAY – RAGWORT PULLING</b> Please join us for the annual task of ragwort pulling in the grazed paddocks of the southern marshes. Gloves and bags provided. Refreshments provided	10am at Southmere Lake/Lakeside Complex car park off Belvedere Road.