



## NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members

It has been a while since we had a newsletter so the committee thought that we would bring you all up to date on various bits and pieces of club news.

### **From our Chairman**

Everything seems to be running quite smoothly at present, the first indoor meetings of the Winter season have been excellent and well attended and we've also had good numbers for the recent field meetings. We've had our events planning meeting and next year's programme is looking good. The Asturias trip was a great success and there was much interest in arranging a repeat trip in the Spring.

**Steve's Telescope** - As many of you will be aware Kathy decided to sell Steve's scope and give the money to St Elizabeth Palliative Care Team, Beccles. The scope was bought by a member of the club who wishes to remain anonymous and has donated it to the Waveney Bird Club. This indeed is an extremely generous gift to the Club. We have decided that it will be used on the various outdoor meetings. and will keep the memory and a little part of Steve within the club.

### **From Our Membership Secretary**

My records reflect that we currently have 173 members of which 41 are new members.

### **From our Events Organiser**

Our events continue to be well attended and all details can be found on the Waveney Bird club web site. [waveneybirdclub.com/programme-of-events](http://waveneybirdclub.com/programme-of-events). We now have two more indoor meetings until the end of the year and they are: -

26 November                      Exploring the Brazilian Pantanal and More – Ian Barthorpe

3 December                        Christmas meeting with members' talks

We have one more outdoor meeting this year which is: -

### **Stour Estuary. Saturday 7th December 2024 Leader: Ed Keeble**

The targets are the large flocks of waders and, despite mild winters, wintering Goldeneye and Red-breasted Mergansers. We will make a special effort for Slavonian Grebe, but this is not guaranteed! Birds are very mobile on the Stour and so we will follow the tide up-river, making multiple stops depending on the weather and where the birds are. Meet at Wrabness, at Stone

Lane just east of Wrabness Church *TM175318* (**NOT** at Wrabness EWT car park) shortly prior to 10am for a walk down Stone Lane. There is ample parking at the top of Stone Lane.

Just a reminder that once again we will be having our hugely popular Flying Start starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Details of all the 2025 events will be on the web site in due course.

### **Trips and Outings**

The club is always interested in going to explore new places with either day trips, a few days away or longer trips maybe abroad. If any members have an idea of what they would like to do or have been somewhere that they think the Club may like to go, please get in touch with a member of the committee (details on the Website) and we can see what can be arranged.

### **Eastbridge (Eel's Foot) Swift Tower**

You will be pleased to know that the Club's main contractor for the build of the swift tower, Gilleard Bros., made a detailed inspection of the tower in September. Some minor works were carried out but otherwise the tower was in satisfactory condition. In accordance with our legal agreement with Adnams and the Eel's Foot tenant the Bird Club has no ongoing obligations in relation to the inspection and maintenance of the project save for making reasonable endeavours to assist in fundraising for such maintenance. So, for a few years we will need to ensure funds are available for regular maintenance. We will be planning how to achieve this in the coming months and will let you know the outcome and how you might be able to contribute.'

### **Ringling News**

Here is a bit of background about the Ringling group. We are now a band of twenty ringers from new trainees to those long experienced. This, on the back of the wide range of projects we run, puts us in a very strong place going forward. We have 9 trainees all from various backgrounds, and all at different stages of their training, from complete beginners to those who hopefully will gain their C permits soon, 4 C permit holders and 4 A permit holders plus 5 trainers who oversee the whole operation.

On top of all these people we also have some very dedicated helpers who set up the tables, scribe when we are giving demonstration and help with the running backwards and forwards during our ringling sessions, as well as bringing us cakes most weeks to keep us going!

The Waveney Bird Club Ringling Group have now completed all the ringling sessions at Minsmere for 2024. Although migration has been slow this year we finished the last session on 31<sup>st</sup> October with a good selection of birds.

We do ring in other areas across the Waveney Vally and in total this year we have ringed over 5,000 birds, which include 218 Barn Owls.

Waveney Bird Club is partnering with Barn Owl Support Suffolk, a branch of the Suffolk Bird Group, to continue the legacy of Steve Piotrowski and the Suffolk Community Barn Owl Project. BOSS is assisting in sourcing and installing Barn Owl boxes, as well as offering support to ringers by recruiting monitors to help check boxes. If you are interested in volunteering for monitoring efforts, please contact Sally on 07708 141276 or via email at [barnowls@suffolkbirdgroup.org](mailto:barnowls@suffolkbirdgroup.org).

### **Social Media**

Harry Read has taken over the role of coordinating our Facebook and Twitter accounts and would appreciate any news including photographs sent to him for posting [harryread@hotmail.com](mailto:harryread@hotmail.com)

### **Steves Tribute from Kathy**

Many of you may have listened to Last Word on BBC Radio 4 when Kathy talked about Steve and his life and legacy.

For those who did not hear it, Type in **BBC Sounds Last Word** and look for episodes and then the one dated 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Thermal and Optic Event in conjunction with Viking Optics**

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at Old Hall Café and Walks, Reydon Nr Southwold between 2pm and 7pm Viking Optics in conjunction with Zeiss are holding an event to Field Test the latest Zeiss binoculars, scopes and thermal DTI ranges.

There will also be guided walks with Toby Carter from Zeiss.

The event is free and everyone is welcome.

That's all for now.

Happy Birding!

Best Wishes

Rebecca Bedwell

Secretary