



Summer Music & Family Fun

On July 28 singer songwriter **Kate Doubleday** will be performing at Rainham Marshes as part of her national RSPB **Hideaway Tour**. Kate will be joined by multi-talented instrumentalist Trevor Lines (bass,/ ukelele) and Dan Wilkins (guitar/kora) in the Purfleet Hide as the sun sets over the horizon. Why not come and join us for a memorable evening? There are still some tickets available at only £7.50 so please hurry and book now!

With the summer holidays looming we have put together a great package of family focused events to keep everyone (including the adults!) occupied!



Kate will be with us soon!

The **Teddy Bears Picnics** for under sixes start at the end of July and run throughout August. Just bring along that Teddy and a picnic and let us do the rest!

The **Annual Bug Hunt** is probably one of the most popular events of the year where we let you get up close and personal with some of the mini-beasts that live on and under our glorious marshland. A real opportunity to see things that you never knew were there!



Ruddy Darter

Fred Roll

On top of all this there will be another chance to join us on our **Dragonfly** and **Insect Afternoon** walks. Special events will be run alongside the weekly **Wednesday** and **Friday Walks** and the fortnightly **Sunday Strolls**. Also available to hire are **binoculars**, **bug boxes** and during the week, weather and water permitting, there will be the opportunity to **pond dip**. Just ask at reception for more details.

Hope to see many of you in the coming weeks. Just keep your fingers crossed for good weather!

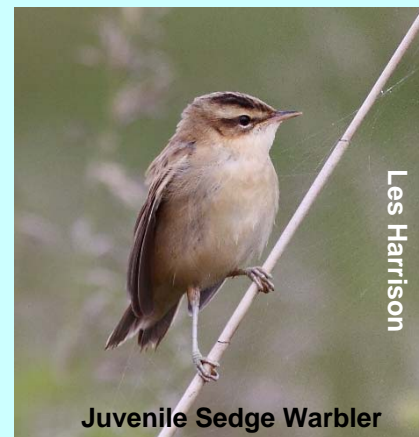
Lots to do in July & August! For more information and to book please see contact details overleaf

- ◆ **Dragonfly Walk** Sat 30 July
- ◆ **Insect Afternoon** Sat 13 Aug
- ◆ **Be A Better Photographer Walks: DSLR:** Sat 23 July, Sat 20 Aug **Bridge/ Compact:** Fri 22 July, Fri 12 Aug
- ◆ **Annual Bug Hunt** Sun 21 Aug
- ◆ **Hide - Away Tour - Kate Doubleday** Thurs 28 July
- ◆ **Teddy Bears Picnic July:** Fri 29, Aug: Wed 3, Sun 14, Sat 20, Fri 26, Wed 31.
- ◆ **Dusk Walk / Late Opening** Thurs 23 June, 21

If you wish to join our e-news group to receive future Marsh Matters please email and let us know.

All the images used in Marsh Matters are taken at RSPB Rainham Marshes by staff, volunteers and visitors.

What's been about: June: The pair of **bearded tits** were obviously busy and within a week, two youngsters were seen following their parents around! **Marsh harriers** were occasionally seen and another **red kite** was seen. **Hobbies** and **peregrines** were visible daily while the **ravens** were again seen. The first returning **curlews** and **green sandpipers** moved through and our **lapwings** started to group together. Three **avocets** were seen and **Little ringed plovers** look like they may have bred. **Mediterranean gulls** and **yellow-legged gulls** started to arrive from southern Europe and two **little terns** and an adult **kittiwake** were unusual.



Les Harrison

Juvenile Sedge Warbler

Two broods of **shelduck** were found but although the **garganey** were still present, no young were seen.



Basil Thornton

Juvenile Greenfinch

Twenty-three **crossbills** headed south and were part of a national influx. At least three **grasshopper warblers** started reeling again and lots of baby birds were around with young **warblers** of most sorts making up the bulk of fledglings with **starlings**, **finches** and **sparrows** being not far behind!



Dave McGough

Large Skipper

As we neared the end of June the number of **butterflies** started to increase and the first **meadow browns** and **gatekeepers** were to be seen along with nice fresh **red admirals** and all three **skippers**. A huge **privet hawkmoth** was found and **ringlets** were out in good numbers in the woodland.



Craig Burnett

Ringlet

Don't forget to check out www.rspb.org.uk/rainham and our Community Blog or www.elbf.co.uk for the latest reserve blog post, wildlife sightings and reserve news. Sign up at www.facebook.com and search for 'RSPB Rainham Marshes'.



David Morrison

Privet Hawkmoth

What to look out for next: The profusion of insect life will continue through July and August and into September and we can expect to see lots more **dragonflies** on the wing while **waders** returning from their Arctic breeding grounds will drop in for a rest around the pools and scrapes. **Egret** and **heron** numbers increase and it is usually the best time to look for **grass snakes**.

Smaller birds such as **swallows**, **martins**, **warblers**, **wheatears** and **whinchats** will be moving through on their way south so keep your eyes open! **Goldfinches**, **linnets** and **starlings** will start to flock together and it is a good time of year to find big raptors such as **harriers** and **buzzard** and possibly even an **osprey**!

What's On? Regular Events:

Weekly: **Wednesday: Birdwatch** (9.30am start) **Friday: Beginners Birdwatch** (10am start)

Fortnightly: The Sunday Stroll at 1pm from the 6 February onwards. Check website for all dates.

Monthly: Kids Birdwatching Club (10.00am-12.30pm): **August Saturday 13 September Saturday 10**

For more information about the events and the RSPB Phone : 01708 899 840

Email : rainham.marshes@rspb.org.uk Web : www.rspb.org.uk/rainham