



## Captured in needle and thread

After three years of hard work, the Havering Quilters donated a magnificent quilted tapestry to the reserve. It beautifully depicts the marsh and some of the denizens in glorious stitched technicolour.

You can clearly see various ducks including shoveler, pintail and wigeon; waders such as avocet and redshank, mute swan, grey heron and our own intrepid Vinnie the Vole in a coracle!



If you look closely, there is even a stripy wasp spider lurking on one corner!

We are proud to have this wondrous work of art hanging in the visitor centre.



Some of this local community team came to visit us on the reserve for a cup of tea and the chance to see their masterpiece on display.



From left to right, top to bottom: Christine Constable, Beryl Ford, Mavis Hammond, Irene Bearpark, Joyce Andrewarthur & Joan Burton

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

- ◆ **Hide - Away Tour - Kate Doubleday** Thurs 28 July
- ◆ **Teddy Bears Picnic** Fri 29 July, Wed 3 Aug, Sun 14 Aug, Sat 20 Aug, Fri 26 Aug, Wed 31 Aug.
- ◆ **Dusk Walk / Late Opening** Thurs 23 June, 21 July, 5 Aug
- ◆ **Dragonfly Walk** Sat 30 July
- ◆ **Insect Afternoon** Sat 13 Aug
- ◆ **Be A Better Photographer Walks: SLR:** Sat 23 July Bridge/ Digital: Fri 22 July
- ◆ **Annual Bug Hunt** Sun 21 Aug

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: May:** Passage waders were still moving north to their Arctic breeding grounds in the first week of May and included a high of 75 **bar-tailed godwits** on the 1<sup>st</sup> along with a **spotted redshank** that visited several other local sites. The 3<sup>rd</sup> saw four each of **sanderling**, **knot** and **grey plover**. **Terns** were also on the move that day four **Arctics**, nine **black** and a single **Sandwich**. Six **avocet** were around for a few days and another **wood sandpiper** and two **little stints** were seen on the 6<sup>th</sup> when a **little tern** was also seen. **Little ringed plovers** appear to be breeding and several **lapwings** were still tumbling in display.



Les Harrison

Male Ring Ouzel

**Marsh harriers** and **buzzards** were seen regularly but only one **kite** (22<sup>nd</sup>). A fine female **Montagu's harrier** drifted south on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Our **peregrines** appear to be summering and hobbies became more active as the dragonflies emerged.



Basil Thornton

Little Egret

**Spotted flycatchers** were seen on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and a pair of **bearded tits** reappeared. Two **ring ouzels** were found on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with three the next day and two still on the 4<sup>th</sup>.



Dave McGough

Little Ringed Plover



Craig Burnett

Horned Treehopper

Both the **grey** and **common seals** were seen in the river and on the 30<sup>th</sup> two **harbour porpoises** were the first of the year and a welcome sight.

There was plenty of invertebrate life to look at with **four-spot** and **broad-bodied chasers** zipping around and the first **Emperor dragonflies** patrolling the ditches. **Ladybird** larvae were everywhere and a young **glow-worm** was discovered so fingers crossed for some 'glowers' later in the summer. **Peacock** and **small tortoiseshell** butterfly caterpillars are devouring the

nettles and we even found some groovy **horned treehoppers** who look strangely cat like when viewed head on!

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



Freddie Roll

Four Spot Chaser

### 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): **July:** Saturday 16 **Aug:** Saturday 13  
**For more information about the events and the RSPB** Phone : 01708 899 840  
**Email :** [rainham.marshes@rspb.org.uk](mailto:rainham.marshes@rspb.org.uk) **Web :** [www.rspb.org.uk/rainham](http://www.rspb.org.uk/rainham)