

# Mini Bus Holiday to the Somerset Levels

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

## **MEMBERS ONLY**

Cost: £275 PP, Including B&B accommodation and all travel costs.

Excluded: Entry fees, dinners, lunches, drinks and items of personal interest

Following Mike Watson's talk last year on the Isle of Avalon, there seemed to be a genuine interest in visiting Somerset. So a group of us went to do a recce in 2018.

We were delighted with what we found and feel that we can competently guide the group around the various reserves in the area.

For those who don't know, the Somerset Levels is a unique flat landscape that extends for about 170,000 acres (70,000 hectares) across parts of the north and centre of the county of Somerset. Thousands of years ago the area was covered by the sea, but today it's a landscape of rivers and wetlands - artificially drained, irrigated and modified to allow productive farming.

The area is mostly grassland and arable with willow grown commercially. It has an abundance of wildlife and enjoys special protection across a number of reserves.

It has the largest lowland population of breeding wading birds and is a great place to hear Bittern, see Starling murmurations and watch Otters.

We will be visiting a range of reserves, expected to include RSPB Ham Wall, RSPB Greylake, RSPB Swell Wood, SWT (Somerset Wildlife Trust) Catcott Lows, SWT Westhay Moor and Natural England Shapwick Heath.

We also hope to get views of the Crane Project (of Countryfile fame!), visit the WWT Steart Marshes reserve on Bridgewater Bay and WWT Slimbridge.

Current information suggests that the only place where entry fees are expected to be paid are at Slimbridge, for non-members. This is not included in the trip cost.

The itinerary will be flexible and decided on the day, depending on the weather and what we have previously seen.

We have managed to find 2 people willing to share the driving of the minibus and we will go out to neighbouring towns (e.g. Wells, Street, Glastonbury) for dinner each evening, where people will have a choice of restaurants, depending on taste and budget.

**FULLY BOOKED – WAITING LIST ONLY**

# Somerset Recce Bird Sightings

20th – 23rd May 2018

Mute Swan	Canada Goose
Shelduck	Mallard
Gadwall	Pochard
Shoveler	Tufted Duck
Pheasant	Little Grebe
Great Crested Grebe	Cormorant
Bittern	Little Egret
Great Egret	Grey Heron
Red Kite	Marsh Harrier
Common Buzzard	Kestrel
Hobby	Moorhen
Coot	Oystercatcher
Avocet	Ringed Plover
Lapwing	Black Headed Gull
Great Black Backed Gull	Lesser Black Backed Gull
Wood Pigeon	Collared Dove
Cuckoo [h]	Swift
Kingfisher	Great Spotted Woodpecker
Barn Swallow	House Martin
Meadow Pipit	Pied Wagtail
Dunnock	Robin
Blackbird	Blackcap
Whitethroat	Sedge Warbler
Cetti`s Warbler	Reed Warbler
Willow Warbler	Chiffchaff
Wren	Great Tit
Blue Tit	Long-Tailed Tit
Magpie	Jay
Jackdaw	Rook
Carrion crow	Starling
House sparrow	Chaffinch
Linnet	Goldfinch
Reed Bunting	