

The Hullbridge U3A Bird Watching Group  
Monthly Report by Roy Simmons



The meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> February was at Gunner's Park, Shoeburyness. We met at Gunners Park Car Park, and we moved off at 10:15. There are no hides. The weather glorious for once. The tide was at its lowest and so most of the birds were dispersed over the vast expanse of exposed mud flats, but we spotted Oyster Catchers, Redshanks, Curlews and small waders on the closer mud banks.

So we had a very pleasant walk around the lake where there were; Mute Swans, Mallard, Carrion Crows, Moorhens, Coots, and a good selection of Gulls. On the shore we watched Carrion Crows picking up Mussels, flying to 20 feet or so and dropping the mussels trying to break the shells, and repeating this time and time again. Unfortunately there was no sign of the kingfisher while we were there.

The path lead us in the direction of the Serendipity Café so we availed ourselves of Hot Chocolate and cake.

On the way home Pam and Roy stopped off at Old Leigh to raid the fish stall. While there we decided to investigate the Two Tree Island car park

situation. The Car Park had two Camper Vans, the reduced number was probably due to the small “lakes” in the centre of the car park. As we know this is not a new phenomenon and the area appears to be used as a functioning car park again.

All points considered I suggest that the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March will be at Two Tree Island moving off from the Car Park at 10:00 Hrs. Due the recent rain the paths will be wet and probably muddy, so please come prepared. There are no visitor amenities at this venue but there is a Golf Driving Range half a mile up the road who do a good range of food and drink, with the necessary amenities.

**Location:**

Belton Way (by Leigh-on-sea train station)

Leigh on Sea

Essex

SS9 2GB

OS Map Reference

TQ824853

Please note that Phil Perry has created a superb new “U3A Hullbridge” Web Site and the Group Monthly Report can be found on there using this link:- <https://hullbridge.u3asite.uk/>