

Bird-watching visit to and luncheon at Elmley National Nature Reserve (NNR, Isle of Sheppey, north Kent) on Monday 15th May 2023 (10:30 for 11:00am start)



Whether you are an experienced birdwatcher, someone familiar with birds in your own garden or completely new to bird-watching, you will see an amazing variety of wild birds on this visit. The reserve at Elmley, located close to the Isle of Sheppey bridge, comprises 3,300 acres of farmland and extensive reedbeds, with purpose-built hides overlooking lagoons, accessed by a track that follows the Swale seawall.

The reserve is most easily accessed by car (sat nav post code: ME12 3RW) though may also be reached by rail and taxi (rail to Sittingbourne station, A2 taxis (outside station) to the reserve buildings, £15-20 each way). Visitors are encouraged to bring their own binoculars; if you don't have a pair, they may be hired on the day (£5 each) if reserved in advance.

The visit will last a minimum of four hours and include a light luncheon following our bird-watching tour (details below). Visitors will be transported from the reserve buildings in a Saviem 4x4 transporter (or a tractor-drawn trailer, depending on visitor numbers) to each of two birdwatching hides; there will therefore be a limited amount of flat to slightly uneven walking involved. Please bring clothing suitable for all weather conditions and walking shoes – at this time of year, Elmley may be anything from wet and windy to warm and sunny!

The cost will be £65 per person. Early booking is encouraged as the reserve can only host a maximum of 20 visitors on the visit; places will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Further details will be sent nearer the time to all Apothecaries and their guests booked on the visit.

Programme:

- 10:30 Arrival with tea or coffee and pastries
11:00 Introductory talk (outline of the day, the reserve and its history, birds and other wildlife, what visitors are likely to see)
11:30 Start of our tour
13:30 Lunch (served in the Linhay, a covered area)
15:00 End of lunch (visitors are welcome to leave after lunch or enjoy free-time on the reserve until 17:00)
17:00 End of our visit

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS - FRIDAY 5th MAY 2023

I wish to participate in the visit to Elmley NNR on Monday 15th May 2023, that will also include a light luncheon, at a cost of £65 per person. Details of the luncheon will be provided nearer the time and are likely to comprise a limited choice of main courses, plus a dessert and tea or coffee. Soft and alcoholic drinks will also be available for purchase. This represents the actual charge being made by the reserve; should guests wish to make a modest donation in addition, which would go towards the Master's charity, it would be greatly appreciated.

Name:
Guest's name:
Mobile no:
Email address:
Binocular hire: If yes, how many (£5 per pair)?.....

Payment:

EITHER I shall pay by bank transfer:

'WSA Livery Committee', Sort Code: 40-46-08; Account no: 92018829

Please reference payment with your surname and event name (Name/Elmley).

OR I enclose my cheque for £

Please make cheques payable to 'WSA Livery Committee' and send to:
Dr Alan Collett, Hornbeam Cottage, New Road, Blakeney, Norfolk, NR25 7NZ

All applications and payments will be acknowledged.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on the day!

Mark Fox (contact: mfox@rvc.ac.uk or 07711 551049)