



Estuary Bird-watching

3-5 February 2012

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- **Explore the estuary by boat - birds from a different perspective**
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- *Early morning visit to Tollesbury's Managed Realignment*
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- **Expert local introduction to Tollesbury Wick Marshes - the conservation and wildlife.**
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- *Experience the variety of habitat at Essex Wildlife Trust Fingringhoe Wick Reserve / Abberton Reservoir*
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- **Enjoy our unique accommodation based on the converted Trinity House lightvessel *Trinity***
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The Sail Lofts, Woodrolfe Road, Tollesbury, Maldon, Essex CM9 8SE

Telephone office: 01621 868113

centre: 01621 869779

Fax: 01621 869771

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Estuary Birdwatching 2012

Fellowship Afloat's centre at Tollesbury, Essex, is a unique place for exploring the environment. The saltmarsh with its creeks, abundant plant and wildlife is worth visiting simply for its own sake. During the winter months, Tollesbury and the surrounding marshes come alive with a startling variety of visiting birds.

Based on a converted lightvessel moored on the coast, it is the ideal venue for bird-watching. Accommodation is in the warmth and comfort of *Trinity* and trips into the field are led by acknowledged experts with an enormous fund of local knowledge.

Guests are served by the centre staff and expert volunteers who form the lively Christian community which is Fellowship Afloat.

Programme

Friday

(HW 20:37 / 3.7m)

- 18.30 Arrive
- 19.00 Running buffet supper
- 20.15 Formal welcome & introduction to the centre and the weekend
- 20.45 Evening speaker
- 22.00 Evening drinks

Saturday

(HW 09:11 / 4.1m)

- 07.00 Sunrise bird-watch - Managed Realignment
- 08.00 Leaders' meeting
- 08.30 Breakfast & thought for the day
- 10.00 Visits to Abberton Reservoir / Fingringhoe Wick
- 12.30 Lunch out
- 15.00 Return to *Trinity* prepare for boat trip
- 15.30 Boat trip onto Blackwater Estuary to visit roosting sites
- 18.30 Dinner
- 20.00 Evening speaker
- 22.30 Evening drinks

Sunday

(HW 10:13 / 4.3m)

- 07.00 Sunrise bird-watch from helideck
- 08.00 Leaders' meeting
- 08.30 Breakfast & thought for the day
- 10.00 Options: Visit to Mersea Stone, Braxted Park or walk around Tollesbury Wick to spot short-eared owls
- 13.00 Lunch onboard
- 14.30 Informal service
- 15.30 Clear up & pack up
- 16.00 Depart

When: 3-5 February 2012
Arrive 18.30hrs Friday (light evening refreshments)
Depart 16.00hrs Sunday

Where: *Trinity*, Tollesbury, Essex.

Who for: Anyone interested in nature.

Cost: £99.00 (includes VAT)
Full board

To Book: Return booking form with deposit of £50.00 or full fees of £99.00

INTRODUCTION

These notes are designed to help you enjoy and make the most of your visit to Fellowship Afloat.

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

On arrival we will meet you in our car park and assist you with your luggage for the five-minute walk to *Trinity*. If you require assistance, please call the centre on 01621 869 779. After settling everyone in, we will have some introductions and talk through the rules of the centre and safety aspects.

FELLOWSHIP AFLOAT STAFF

During your stay, you will be looked after by both permanent staff and sessional volunteers, all of whom are trained and familiar with life on board and the various specialist activities. Appropriate personal checks, which include a CRB disclosure, are made on all new staff.

Fellowship Afloat staff take full responsibility for the organisation of domestic arrangements and activities. The highest priority is given to the safety and comfort of visitors.

LIFE ON TRINITY

The experience of living together in a community is one of the most important aspects of your stay on board. Guests always enjoy sharing and doing things together – helping with the washing-up and cleaning is as much a part of your stay as the activities.

As Christians we welcome the opportunity of sharing our faith; feel free to join us in the Christian life of the Centre.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

For the time we spend on the water - be prepared with plenty of warm clothes - the list opposite will give you an idea of what to bring.

Protection against the sun when you are on the water is important: sunglasses are recommended, sun cream is essential.

Footwear requires thought too – you'll need one pair of outside shoes and wellies if

possible (we have some wellies onboard catering for most sizes up to size 8) and trainers or light shoes onboard.

Waterproofs and buoyancy aids are available for all visitors at no extra cost.

We discourage use of radios and personal stereos on board; they are a distraction and easily get lost and broken.

Smoking and the consumption of alcohol are not allowed on board.

SUGGESTED KIT LIST

(bring in a soft bag):

- sleeping bag*
- 2 towels
- warm jacket
- at least one complete change of clothes
- indoor and outdoor shoes
- hat and gloves (for cold weather)
- warm jumpers/sweatshirts
- washing kit
- nightwear
- wellies

If you don't own a sleeping bag, we have spares that can be hired at £3.00 a weekend or £5.00 a week. Foam pillows and pillowcases are provided for each individual.

FOR TIME SPENT ON THE WATER you will need:

- soft-soled shoes e.g. trainers
- tracksuit trousers or leggings (not jeans)
- plenty of warm layers
- a woolly hat or cap / gloves
- sun cream

SHOP

We have a small souvenir shop on board, items 30p - £7.50, also *Trinity* garments – T-shirts £8.00 - £10.00, baseball caps £6.00. Sweets and drinks can be purchased in the village.

PROGRAMME EVALUATION

We are constantly striving to improve and develop our service so, at the end of your stay, we will ask you to fill in and return to us a feedback form with any comments and suggestions for the future.



CONDITIONS OF BOOKING

- A booking is only secured when a deposit and booking form are received and acknowledged by us.
- If you cancel your booking, the deposit is forfeited.
- The balance of fees must be paid four weeks before the start of a course.
- If you cancel your booking less than 12 weeks before the start of the course, 60% of full fees are due; if less than two weeks, then full fees are due.
- Should you have a change in circumstances, contact the Fellowship Afloat office immediately; we will do all we can to accommodate your needs.
- Anyone participating in water activities must be fit for the activity and confident in water wearing a buoyancy aid (supplied at no extra cost by Fellowship Afloat). Fellowship Afloat is covered by public liability insurance which indemnifies the Trust in the event of accident or loss resulting from negligence on its part. Personal accident, property loss or cancellation costs for visitors is not covered, so we advise you to make your own arrangements if insurance is required.



watersports

The Spirit of Adventure

Fellowship Afloat's centre at Tollesbury, Essex, is a unique place for adventure, relaxation and exploring the environment.

Based on a converted lightvessel moored on the coast, it is an ideal activity venue for youth clubs, schools, churches, special needs groups and people wishing to gain sailing and powerboat qualifications.

Guests are served by the centre staff and expert volunteers who form the lively community which is Fellowship Afloat.

Want to find out more?

Contact the office at:

Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust
The Sail Lofts, Woodrolfe Road
Tollesbury, Maldon, Essex. CM9 8SE

Telephone Office: 01621 868 113
Centre: 01621 869 779

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