

Community Leisure

Attenborough Weather Notes

October Weather review

Winds of Change blowin' in the birds

OCTOBER was a month of extremes at Attenborough Nature Reserve.

The wettest since 1998, one of the mildest on record, and the duller since the Nature Centre's solar panels started operating in 2005. Add in some ridiculously mild nights early in the month and strong winds at the end, you could say October has given its 'monies-worth'. The only absentee was fog, normally a common occurrence in October, but the reserve was only layered in occasional mist and murk.

The wind was predominantly from the west or southwest, an important factor in determining what birds you will see at the reserve as we head into the winter migration period. With depression after depression blowing in from the Atlantic Ocean, ornithologists were looking westwards, hoping

the persistent westerly flow would bring across a rare North American species. Such migrants would probably land on the west coast of Britain but some of you will remember the Sora (water rail) which inhabited the Nature Reserve back in 2004.

An occasional northwesterly airflow did bring cooler conditions for a time, and winds from this direction also favour the migration of geese and swans to our region. Sightings of whooper swans are recorded most years and their migration from Iceland to the UK benefits from a stiff northwester helping them on their thousand mile flight; although they do help themselves by flying at heights up to 7000 metres where the wind is strongest.

Of course, the most relevant migration route to Attenborough Nature Reserve originates from Eastern Europe and

Scandinavia and involves those birds looking to escape the harsh winter weather of these areas. The keen westerly winds of October would not have been favourable for a transit across the North Sea, and birds such as starlings, finches, and thrushes, will have to wait a bit longer. These birds do not necessarily need a strong easterly flow to fly to our country although it helps, just a break in the strong and persistent westerlies.

Interestingly, and if you believe in the validity of such things, the first long-term forecast for the coming winter suggests a wet and relatively mild winter, especially compared to the past few winters. If so, we might expect westerly winds to continue dominating our weather and possibly less severe cold across Eastern Europe, all of which could determine which migrant birds end up at Attenborough.

October Weather Data

including long-term norms (figures in red):

Average temperature:
12.8°C (10.6°C)

Highest temperature:
19.4°C, October 8
(20.0°C)

Lowest temperature:
3.5°C, October 30
(1.0°C)

Monthly rainfall:
113.1mm (54.4mm)

Solar panels output:
365Kwh (535Kwh)



Storm clouds gathering over the nature reserve at Attenborough.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW SHAW, ANC

Club Reports...

Beeston Probus Club

BEESTON Probus Club recently celebrated its fortieth anniversary with a very special open meeting at Highfields Fire Station. The meeting also introduced a new format for the club's future, including monthly meetings and a more varied and interesting programme of events.

Club chairman Brian Palmer introduced the guest speaker for the open meeting, Paddy Tipping, the Commissioner of Police for Nottinghamshire and National Vice Chairman of the Ramblers' Association.

Along with the regular members and their wives were invited guests, including the Mayor of Broxtowe, Cllr Iris White and Martin Gawith, Chairman of Nottingham Health Watch. Presidents from neighbouring Probus

Clubs had also been invited to join the celebrations.

Paddy said that, as the role of Police Commissioner is a new Home Office appointment, he has received lots of advice as to how he should carry out the task. He spoke of how he has a good working relationship with Nottinghamshire's chief constable and that his role is administrative rather than operational. He has a deputy and a back-up staff of around eight to carry out the necessary tasks.

On the subject of crime, he said that whilst violent crime and burglary are decreasing, domestic violence is on the increase. Solutions to the current problems and prevention are of paramount importance, he said.

It is necessary to work within the available resources and the whole operations is funded 80 percent by the government and 20 percent locally i.e. from council tax.

The main talk was followed by a question time. There were some extremely pertinent questions raised by the audience and Paddy answered them all comprehensively.

Deputy chairman Philip Leggetter proposed a formal vote of thanks. He extended an invitation to Paddy to return and update us on his progress.

Rami Seth will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the club on November 18, when he will discuss 'Going into Hospital'. By all accounts, this is a most amusing talk.

Long Eaton Rotary Club

JESSICA Lee, the Member of Parliament for Erewash, joined members of the Long Eaton Rotary Club for lunch at Cleve Lodge, Long Eaton, as they gathered for their November 4 meeting.

Jessica told the club members that, as the MP for Erewash, there was always much to do and she spent a great deal of time promoting the constituency, lobbying or meeting ministers to discuss various issues that arose and by supporting causes and charities dear to the people of Erewash.

She also vividly recalled her first experience of being a Member of Parliament after being elected, and of finding her way around the Palace of Westminster.

Rotarian Kevin Miller thanked Jessica for joining the members for lunch and giving the members a taste

of the work undertaken by her as the Erewash MP.

At the previous Long Eaton Rotary Club meeting on October 28, Dr John Bowley, a retired anaesthetist and a new member of the club, entertained his club colleagues with a talk about himself and his work as an anaesthetist.

Dr Bowley's talk was both interesting and

informative, giving a clear insight as to how and what happens when one places oneself into the hands of an anaesthetist!

Past President Martin Cain thanked John for his excellent presentation and for explaining in more detail a procedure that most of us have had, or will experience at some time in our lives.



(l-r) LE Rotary Club President Clive Atkins, Jessica Lee MP and Rotarian Kevin Miller.