

■ The murmurations of starlings at Llandegley Rhos Common.

'Twitchers' get a bird's eye view of spectacle

By Barry Hancock

barry.hancock@countytimes.co.uk

MORE than 80 people braved a distinctly grey and windy January afternoon to watch the inspiring sight of 10s of thousands of starlings coming in to their winter roost in the conifer plantation adjacent to Llandegley Rhos Common.

As well as people from the local area, many had travelled some distances, from Rhayader, Presteigne, Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Kington, Clyro and Ross-on-Wye to experience this starling display at the end of January, at the site of a proposed wind farm development.

Amidst an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation, groups of people of all ages made their way along the public bye-way across the common and waited patiently for the starlings to arrive.

Some 20 or so birdwatchers also crossed the River Edw and made their way up onto Blaen Bank for a better bird's eye view of the



■ The birdwatchers head for Llandegley Rhos Common.

spectacle about to unfold before their eyes.

And the starlings did not disappoint. They started to arrive at 4.25pm and continued to come in from all quarters for another 25 minutes.

RSPB member Lynden Rees-Roberts said: "Depending on where

you were standing, as the frequency of the flocks increased, you found yourself turning like a weather cock, to keep up, as thousands of birds streamed and swirled in across the common and over the pine trees creating beautiful, mesmerising murmurations in the winter sky.

"By five o'clock we had lost the light, although a few late arrivals were still flying in, but it was time for us to leave and seek our own roosts for the night, happy that we had shared one of nature's winter wonders and probably experienced the largest gathering of starlings in Mid Wales."

Dolau WI

DOLAU WI started the year off with a talk by PCSO Miranda Whateley, on the scams and risks posed by computers and mobiles and how to minimise or avoid these scams.

Miranda recommended useful websites Action Fraud and Get Safe Online and recommended reporting anything suspicious either to them or Trading Standards.

Any suspicious communications via email or text from banks to be reported direct to the local bank in person. She distributed useful leaflets and bells to attach to purses.

The recipe for the month was a slimming savoy, and there were some to taste at refreshment time, while the January gardening tip was to cut back the flower beds and mulch well, and to prune apple and pear trees if needed. The WI agreed to adopting the Lullaby Trust as the 2018 charity. This has been started with a generous donation from Iris of £240 from the sugarcraft classes. Severn Arms also to adopt this charity. The Charity raises awareness of Sudden Infant death Syndrome. Specialist equipment is needed by Llandrindod hospital. Fundraising will commence with a sponsored walk up Snowdon by Heather.

Visitors are always welcome, meetings are held in the Community Hall in Dolau and start at 7.30pm.



The big starling winter watch certainly does not disappoint

MORE than 80 intrepid folk braved a distinctly grey and windy January afternoon to come and watch the inspiring sight of tens of thousands of starlings coming in to their winter roost in the conifer plantation adjacent to Llandegley Rhos Common.

As well as people from the local area, many had travelled some distances, from Rhayader, Presteigne, Shrewbury, Church Stretton, Kington, Clyro and Ross-on-Wye to experience this starling display.

Amidst an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation, groups of people of all ages, from families with young children to grandparents with friends and a helping hand, made their way along the public byeway across the Common and waited patiently for the starlings to arrive.

Some 20 or so intrepid bird watchers crossed the River Edw and made their way up onto Blaen Bank

for a better bird's eye view of the roost.

And the starlings did not disappoint. They started to arrive at 4.25pm and continued to come in from all quarters north, south, east and west, for another 25 minutes.

Depending on where you were standing, as the frequency of the flocks increased, you found yourself turning like a weather cock, to keep up, as thousands of birds streamed and swirled in across the common and over the pine trees creating beautiful, mesmerising murmurations in the winter sky.

By five o'clock we had lost the light, although a few late arrivals were still flying in, but it was time for us to leave and seek our own roosts for the night, happy that we had shared one of nature's winter wonders and probably experienced the largest gathering of starlings in Mid-Wales.

LYNDEN REES-ROBERTS



student

Bird watchers come for starling show

MORE than 80 intrepid folk braved a windy January afternoon to watch tens of thousands of starlings coming in to their winter roost in the conifer plantation adjacent to Llandegley Rhos Common.

As well as people from the local area, many had travelled from Rhayader, Presteigne, Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Kington, Clyro and Ross-on-Wye.

Groups of people of all ages, from families with young children to grandparents made their way along the public bye-way and waited for the starlings to arrive.

And the starlings did not disappoint. They started to arrive at 4.25pm and continued to come in from



Above: Bird watchers arrive for the show and inset the starlings in full flight

all quarters for another 25 minutes.

Depending on where you were standing, as the frequency of the flocks increased, you found yourself turning like a weather cock,

to keep up, as thousands of birds streamed and swirled in across the common and over the pine trees creating beautiful, mesmerising murmurations in the winter sky.

Winter wonder fills skies¹¹

The Journal Friday, February 9, 2018

MORE than 80 intrepid folk braved a grey and windy January afternoon to come and watch the inspiring sight of tens of thousands of starlings coming in to their winter roost in the conifer plantation adjacent to Llandegley Rhos Common, near Llandrindod Wells.

As well as people from the local area, many had travelled some distances, from Rhayader, Presteigne, Shrewbury, Church Stretton, Kington, Clyro and Ross-on-Wye to experience this starling display.

Amidst an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation, groups of people of all ages, from families with young children to grandparents with friends and a helping hand, made their way along the public bye-way across the Common and waited patiently for the starlings to arrive.

Some 20 or so intrepid bird watchers crossed the River Edw and made their way up onto Blaen Bank for a better bird's eye view of the roost.

And the starlings did not disappoint. They

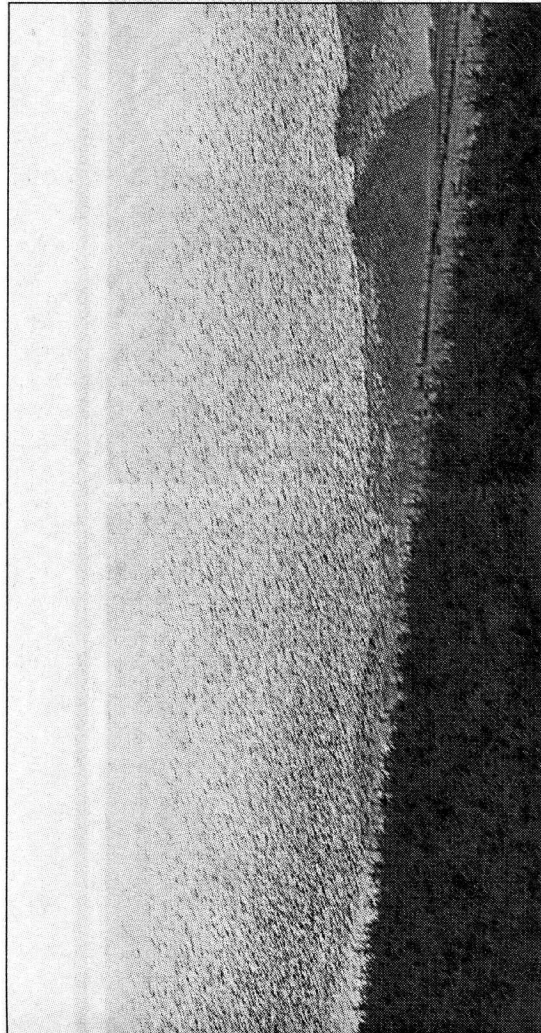
started to arrive at 4.25pm and continued to come in from all quarters north, south, east and west, for another 25 minutes.

Depending on where they were standing, as the frequency of the flocks increased, those witnessing the spectacle found themselves turning like a weather cock, to keep up, as thousands of birds streamed and swirled in across the common and over the pine trees creating beautiful, mesmerising murmurations in the winter sky.

Lynden Rees-Roberts, member Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Radnor Wildlife Trust, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, said: "By five o'clock we had lost the light, although a few late arrivals were still flying in, but it was time for us to leave and seek our own roosts for the night, happy that we had shared one of nature's winter wonders and probably experienced the largest gathering of starlings in Mid-Wales."

Lynden Rees-Roberts, member Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Radnor Wildlife Trust, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, said: "By five o'clock we had lost the light, although a few late arrivals were still flying in, but it was time for us to leave and seek our own roosts for the night, happy that we had shared one of nature's winter wonders and probably experienced the largest gathering of starlings in Mid-Wales."

Lynden Rees-Roberts, member Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Radnor Wildlife Trust, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, said: "By five o'clock we had lost the light, although a few late arrivals were still flying in, but it was time for us to leave and seek our own roosts for the night, happy that we had shared one of nature's winter wonders and probably experienced the largest gathering of starlings in Mid-Wales."



Started to arrive at 4.25pm and continued to come in from all quarters north, south, east and west