



**NEWS**

**February 2018**

## Hertfordshire Natural History Society – Herts Bird Club

[www.hnhs.org](http://www.hnhs.org) & [www.hnhs.org/herts-bird-club/home](http://www.hnhs.org/herts-bird-club/home)

Welcome to the first HNHS Newsletter of 2018. We hope the New Year has already brought you good opportunities to enjoy our county's winter wildlife and – of course – send your latest records to the HNHS and Bird Club websites.

### 2018 membership renewals

If you have not already done so, now is the **time to renew your membership** for 2018. Subscription rates are unchanged:

**£18:** individual membership plus *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and *Herts Bird Report*

**£12:** individual membership plus *Herts Bird Report*

**£22:** family membership plus *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and *Herts Bird Report*.

You can pay by:

- Standing order or bank transfer: our Lloyds Bank account number is 02994402, sort code 30-94-08
- Credit/debit card using the Virgin Money Giving link our website [www.hnhs.org](http://www.hnhs.org)
- Cheque - payable to 'Hertfordshire Natural History Society' and mailed to **Virginia Kennard**, HNHS Membership Secretary, 72 The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts. AL9 5DL.

Gift aid will increase the value of your subscription to the Society by 25%, if you are a UK taxpayer. For more information you can email Virginia at [membership@hnhs.org](mailto:membership@hnhs.org).

We are very grateful to everyone who has already renewed their membership for the year. Prompt payment saves our volunteers the administrative effort of chasing subscriptions later in the year.

### Creating an online digital archive

Thank you to everyone who has so far offered to help with proof reading as we convert archives of *The Hertfordshire Naturalist* and *Herts Bird Report* into a searchable, online resource. Scanning is already taking place and HNHS Management Committee member **Ian Carle**, who is overseeing the 'digitisation' project, expects to be in touch with volunteers soon.

The optical character recognition technology is highly accurate, but throws-up occasional misreadings that need to be checked by human eyes. Bespoke software designed by Ian means the proof reading can be done by anyone owning a computer that runs Windows. If you can spare a few hours to help, it is not too late to volunteer. Please email **David Utting**: [secretary@hnhs.org](mailto:secretary@hnhs.org).



### Bird Club/BTO conference



Don't miss this year's Bird Club / BTO conference, taking place on from 2 to 5.30pm on Saturday 10 March at the offices of Affinity Water, in Tamblin Way, Hatfield, AL10 9EZ.

The guest speakers include RSPB investigator, **Guy Shorrocks** whose talk is entitled 'On the Trail of the Raptor Killers'. **Tony Blake** will be speak on 'The Birds of Hilfield Park Reservoir' and **Neil Calbrade** from the BTO on 'The Wetland Bird Survey'. **Graham Knight** will be reviewing the best bird sightings of 2017. Admission is £5 on the door. There will be the usual raffle and also stalls for inspection during the tea break, including special offers at the HNHS bookstall. We are, again, grateful to Affinity Water for hosting the meeting.



### Membership Secretary

We are sorry to announce that **Virginia Kennard**, our Membership Secretary, will be moving away from Hertfordshire this spring. She deserves warm thanks for her hard work over two years in collecting subscriptions and maintaining our membership records. We hope to circulate the name and contact details of her successor soon.

### New data protection rules

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that comes into force on 25 May affects every organisation keeping individuals' personal data. In addition to our membership records, it seems likely to apply to anyone submitting a wildlife record, since they show that the individual was in a specified place at a particular time and date. The HNHS Management Committee is seeking guidance on how best to ensure that our membership database and records submission system (whether online or via communications sent directly to county recorders) comply with the new regulations. We will let members know when it becomes clearer exactly what changes need to be made.

### Field and other meetings

Thank you to **Mikhail Mashanov** for agreeing to curate the meetings page on the HNHS website and our (non-bird) wildlife photo galleries. Please send details of Hertfordshire field and other meetings to [secretary@hnhs.org](mailto:secretary@hnhs.org). Send your photographs to [photogallery@hnhs.org](mailto:photogallery@hnhs.org). For bird images the email address is [birdphotos@hnhs.org](mailto:birdphotos@hnhs.org).