

Herts Naturalist 2017

Welcome to this autumn newsletter! If you are a full HNHS member, it comes with your copy of the *2017 Herts Naturalist*. As ever, our journal is full of interesting wildlife articles and reports.

Warm thanks go to the new editor, **Judy England**, and to **David Johnson**, the new commissioning editor.

Autumn Meeting and AGM 2017

Do not miss the opportunity to attend our Autumn Meeting on Saturday 4 November 2017 at the offices of Affinity Water, Tamblin Way, Hatfield AL10 9EZ from 2 to 5.30pm. This year's presentations are:

- The importance of river corridors to bats (**Sarah Scott**)
- Thorley Wash nature reserve – from ruin to riches (**Jenny Sherwen**)
- The Legacy Grazing Project (**Roger Beecroft**)

The Society will be presenting this year's 1875 Awards (see opposite). In addition, **Chantal Helm** will provide an update on our current mammals, reptiles and amphibians atlas (MARA) project and **Ian Carle** will talk about exciting plans to make the *Herts Naturalist* and *Herts Bird Report* available online – going back to 1875 (see below).

Admission is £5 on the door, but there is no charge for attending the Annual General Meeting, between 3.45 and 4pm. There will be a chance to chat to county recorders during the tea break and stalls to visit, including special offers on HNHS books. We are most grateful to Affinity Water for hosting the meeting.



Can you help create our new, digital archive?

Those attending the Autumn Meeting will hear how plans are advancing to convert the 142-year old archive of HNHS *Transactions* into a searchable, online resource available on our website. The scanning and character recognition technology is impressively accurate, but throws-up occasional misreadings that still need to be checked. Bespoke software designed by **Ian Carle**, manager of the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre, will help make this a straightforward task. But we do need volunteers to offer a few hours of their time to complete a task that would, otherwise, cost thousands of pounds to complete. If interested in helping, please email **David Utting** at secretary@hnhs.org.

Gerald Salisbury Memorial Lecture

We are delighted that natural historian **Michael Clark** is giving this year's lecture on 'Tewin Orchard and a Life of Badgers'. A revised edition of his authoritative and accessible book on *Badgers* was published this year and Michael is also author of *Mammals, Amphibians and Reptiles of Hertfordshire* that HNHS published in 2001. The lecture is a joint event with Welwyn Natural History Society and takes place at 8pm on Wednesday 22 November in Welwyn Civic Centre, AL6 9ER. Entrance for non-WNHS members is £3.

1875 Awards

Congratulations to **Andrew Wood**, author of our acclaimed book *Butterflies of Hertfordshire and Middlesex*, who is this year's winner of the Society's prestigious 1875 Award for an outstanding Hertfordshire Naturalist. His beautifully illustrated book has sold more than 400 copies since it was published a year ago (and remains on sale at www.hnhs.org/publications).

The 1875 Award for an outstanding contribution to natural history in Hertfordshire is touched by sadness, since it goes posthumously to **Ted Fletcher**. Ted was Secretary of the Herts Bird Club from 1991 and editor of the *Herts Bird Report* from 1998 until his sudden death a year ago.

A final call for 2016 subscriptions!

If you have overlooked paying this year's subscription please do not delay any further or your membership will be lapsed and you will not receive important benefits such as the *2016 Herts Bird Report* (now in press). Reminders have been sent out during the year. However, we have become aware that some members using Gmail to sort their emails have missed HNHS communications through not checking their 'promotional' folder. Subscription rates remain at £18 for individual membership, or £22 for family membership, plus *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and *Herts Bird Report*. Individual membership plus *Herts Bird Report* (only) is £12. The good news for everyone who goes on to renew their membership again for 2018 is that these rates will remain the same next year. Visit www.hnhs.org/membership for further help, including information about Gift Aid; or contact the Membership Secretary, **Virginia Kennard**: membership@hnhs.org.

Check our websites - www.hnhs.org and www.hnhs.org/birds for news, recording opportunities and sightings

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