

Hertfordshire Natural History Society

Autumn Meeting and AGM

Saturday 19th October 2013

from 2.00 to 5.15 at Woolmer Green Hall

The programme will include illustrated talks on:

- **Woodlands for People and Wildlife**

a project aiming to restore woodlands in South Herts and get local communities involved and inspired, by Susannah O'Riordan, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

- **Farming with Wildlife in Mind**

Edward Darling from Greys Farm at Therfield will describe how by working with conservation bodies he has transformed the value of his farm for wildlife, including Grey Partridge.

- **The Living Churchyard: Managing God's Acre**

David Curry will talk about the opportunities for promoting wildlife in these unique spaces.

Presentation of the HNHS 1875 Awards for 2013

- Michael Clark - an outstanding Hertfordshire Naturalist; Michael is a talented artist and naturalist and author of many books including *Mammals of Hertfordshire*.
- John Catt - for an outstanding contribution to natural history in Hertfordshire, John is a distinguished geologist and the author of *Hertfordshire Geology and Landscape*.

Everyone is very welcome to our annual get together.

Entrance £5, pay at the door, includes refreshments,

Please put the date in your diary - more details will follow with the Hertfordshire Naturalist 2013 in September

HNHS Annual General Meeting: the Society's AGM will be held just after the tea break from 4.00 - 4.15, before the final talk.

Entrance to the AGM is free, just come along for 4.00.

NEWS

Hertfordshire Natural History Society and Herts Bird Club

15 July 2013

Hertfordshire Bird Report 2011

The latest Bird Report is published today - packed full of all the birds recorded in 2011 - including the fabulous Eastern Crowned Warbler. We also have reports on bird ringing and breeding birds and a feature article on the Black-necked Grebes at Hilfield Park Reservoir

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the report including editor - Ted Fletcher, designer - Jack Fearnside, website co-ordinator - Alan Gardiner, bird records team - Steve Blake, Chris Dee, Alan Gardiner, Mike Ilett, Graham Knight, Barry Reed, Ken Smith and Linda Smith, the writers, Ernie Leahy and the other artists, all those who sent in photographs and not least all of you who submitted your bird records throughout the year.

Unfortunately we realised too late that we have inadvertently missed out a few 2011 Herts rarities. These are being assessed and will be included in the 2012 Report - apologies to those affected.

Hertfordshire Bird Report 2012

We are starting work on the 2012 report straight away, this begins with compiling all the records from the various sources including Herts Bird Club website, BTO Bird Track, Birdguides, WeBS and those submitted directly to the Bird Recorder. If you have any outstanding 2012 records please send them in now to birdrecorder@hnhs.org. You can download a spread sheet from the website at www.hnhs.org/birds which has all the species and Herts sites preloaded, to make it easy to add your records.

For some birds which occur infrequently in Herts we require additional information to support the sighting, full details are in the Bird Report and on the website. The records are assessed by the Herts Rare Birds Panel. A big thank you to Ted Fletcher, who has co-ordinated the panel since the 1993 report, and has now stepped down. Mike Ilett takes on the task for 2012 onwards. If you have a rarity sighting and have not yet sent in a description and/or photo, please do so now to birdrecorder@hnhs.org.

Please send your photographs for possible inclusion in the 2012 report to our photo editor Jack Fearnside at fearnsidej@aol.com

Organisation of the Herts Bird Club

We are grateful to all the volunteers who help to run the Bird Club, but there is always more that we could do. We really need to bring in new people who are willing to take on some of the roles - for example, carrying out survey work, dealing with bird records, researching and writing news stories, publicity, getting sponsorship, writing sections of the bird report, and much more.- if you would like to join in and help please get in touch with Ken Smith, Alan Gardiner or Chris Dee.

The Birds of Hertfordshire - a new Avifauna

A small team, Chris Dee, Jack Fearnside, Mike Ilett, Ken Smith and Graham White, are working on a new book which will be published in spring 2014. This will be a full county avifauna covering all bird species ever recorded in Hertfordshire. It will also be the opportunity to publish the results of the 2007-2012 Atlas of breeding and wintering birds, together with analysis and comparison with the two previous atlases.

We need to raise additional funding for the project and are seeking donors and sponsors. There will be a pre-publication offer to purchase the books - look out for details on the Bird Club website over the winter.

The 2012 Marsh Award for Local Ornithology

For those of you who may have missed it, the Herts Bird Club was honoured to receive the Marsh Local Ornithology Award in October in recognition of Chris Dee's work in developing the Hertfordshire Bird Atlas website for the Club, You can see the website at www.hertsatlas.org.uk, many congratulations to Chris. The Bird Club is planning to use some of the £1000 Award to support bursaries to help young people to carry out studies of birds in Hertfordshire. Full details will be posted on the website in the autumn, but if you know of any potential candidates, please start to think about them now.

HNHS has a new Treasurer - Peter Tallantire

Those of you at the Autumn meeting will know we gave a huge vote of thanks to Ken Pearman when he stood down as HNHS Treasurer after four years in post. At the time we had no replacement. Now we are delighted to announce that Peter Tallantire has volunteered to take on the role and has been co-opted onto the Management Committee. Peter has been an active HNHS and Herts Bird Club member for many years, he works in the civil service in London and lives near Redbourn.

Notice of the 138th Annual General Meeting of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society to be held at 4 o'clock on Saturday 19 October 2013 at Woolmer Green Hall, Hall Lane, Woolmer Green.

You are cordially invited to attend the AGM, which should last about 15 minutes as part of the HNHS Autumn Meeting; see more overleaf.

AGM - Agenda

1. Welcome by HNHS Chairman, Ronni Edmonds-Brown
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 137th AGM held on 19 November 2013
4. Matters arising
5. Report of the Management Committee for 2012/13,
6. Treasurer's report and accounts for 2012/13
7. Election of officers & members of the Management Committee.
8. Any other business (notified in advance to the Secretary)

If you would like to nominate someone for election to the Management Committee or put your own name forward, please let me have details by 2nd September. If you wish to propose an issue for discussion under any other business you must notify me prior to the start of the meeting.

We do hope you will join us, entrance to the AGM is free, there will be a small charge for attending the rest of the autumn meeting.

Linda Smith, Secretary HNHS
24 Mandeville Rise Welwyn Garden City AL8 7JU
Telephone 01707 330405, email; secretary@hnhs.org

HNHS Books, cards and Christmas cards

Copies of all our books and cards are still available from Linda Smith and will also be on sale at the Autumn conference.

News and events

Check our website for all the latest news and a monthly list of all the wildlife meetings and events in the county. The list is compiled from the activities of all the wildlife organisations in the county.

The Hertfordshire Naturalist 2013

We have some fascinating articles this year and superb photos, we plan to circulate to those of you who subscribe in early September

HNHS and Herts Bird Club are run entirely by volunteers and funded by subscriptions from members. HNHS was established in 1875 and is Registered Charity No 216418