



February
2022

HERTFORDSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY AND BIRD CLUB NEWS

Unmissable events as we head into spring!

Members and guests are warmly invited to join us online for two important events in the weeks ahead:

Life in Hertfordshire – from 100 million BC

On **Wednesday 23 February (8pm)** the postponed Gerald Salisbury Memorial Lecture will be given by Herts-based geologist and chalk landscape expert Haydon Bailey.

Speaking on **A Hundred Million Years of Life in Hertfordshire** he will describe how the county's characteristic chalk scenery was formed and the impact of the Ice Age on its landscape and natural history. Intriguing questions Dr Bailey plans to address include: 'How deep was the Chalk Sea (and how warm was it when you went for a quick swim)?', 'Who or what made Hertfordshire Puddingstone?' and 'Where was Hertfordshire's coastline in the Eocene period and what was living there?'

He will bring the story up to date by considering the implications of climate change for the Chiltern region. A Zoom link for joining the lecture – from 7.45pm onwards – can be found at www.hnhs.org.

The 2022 Bird Conference

The annual **Herts Bird Club – British Trust for Ornithology Conference** will take place on the morning of Saturday 19 March (10.30am). This year's featured speakers are Barry Trevis on **Hertfordshire's Breeding Peregrines** and Graham White on 30 years of the Wetland Bird Survey in the Lea Valley or, as he titles it, **The Rise and Fall of the Coot Mugger!** Martin Ketcher and Murray Orchard will provide an update on BTO survey activities. Graham Knight will be back with the popular **What Did You Miss?** review of the past year's birding highlights and Tom Speller will oversee an online vote for the **Herts Bird Photo of the Year**.

Visit the website for instructions on how to join the conference (from 10.15am onwards)

New online membership options

We are pleased to announce near completion of work to revise the available methods for paying annual subscriptions. For the first time, these include an option to join HNHS/Bird Club or renew a subscription via a one-stop, online payment. This uses the 'MemberMOJO' app that has already been successfully trialled by our neighbours in Bedfordshire Natural History Society. The app should also ensure that existing members receive timely, automatic reminders when subs fall due or overdue. But please note **there is no need to change your existing, preferred payment method**. Bank transfers, cheques and (even better) annually-renewed standing orders continue to be welcome – the more so because they save HNHS the commission that Stripe or PayPal will charge us for collecting online payments.

Further details can be found on the website. The management committee will be grateful for your feedback on the new scheme, which can be sent to David Utting (secretary@hnhs.org). Your patience and forbearance will also be appreciated as we fine-tune the new system and deal with any teething troubles. Thanks meanwhile go to our Membership Secretary, Martin Ketcher and our IT adviser Chris Dee for getting the new system up and running.

Herts grasshopper and bush-cricket guide

Bask in thoughts of warmer days to come by visiting our new website page on grasshoppers, bush-crickets, ground-hoppers and allied species that include earwigs and cockroaches.

County orthoptera recorder Ian Carle has written and designed the guide to 22 species that can be seen in Hertfordshire. Its linked to a downloadable identification guide to the grasshoppers and bush-crickets that is beautifully illustrated with his own photographs.

www.hnhs.org. The guide includes expert information on life-cycles, including photographs of instars and nymphs as well as adults.