



## HERTFORDSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY AND BIRD CLUB

This newsletter is being mailed out with the *Hertfordshire Bird Report 2019*. Congratulations go to editor Clifford Smout and his team for once more publishing the report only 11 months after the end of the recording year.

### **Don't miss our online AGM and *Hertfordshire's State of Nature* presentation**

HNHS/Bird Club members are warmly invited to join us for the Society's 2020 **Annual General Meeting**. The continuing Covid-19 emergency means this will take place online at **11am on Saturday 28 November**.

The business meeting will be followed by this year's **1875 Awards** ceremony honouring an outstanding Hertfordshire naturalist and an outstanding contribution to natural history in the county. This will be followed by a presentation from **Tom Day** and **Ian Carle** of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust on the *Hertfordshire's State of Nature 2020* report that was published this summer.

Details of the online meeting – including a Zoom link to the meeting, the Society's 2019-20 financial statement and proxy voting arrangements for those unable to take part in person – have been emailed to HNHS and Herts Bird Club members (or posted to those for whom we have no email address). Please contact **David Utting** ([secretary@hnhs.org](mailto:secretary@hnhs.org)) if you have not received the relevant information – although please first check your spam filter and (if using G-mail) your file for 'Promotional' emails.

### **Hertfordshire Naturalist 2021**

We hope that members who received the *Herts Naturalist* are enjoying the 2020 edition, sent out around the start of October. However, no sooner has editor **Judy England** finished one issue than it is time to start planning for next year. A number of interesting ideas for contributions have already been received, but if you have a suggestion for an article you would like to write, feedback to offer on the current issue or thoughts about topics you would like to see covered in future, do contact Judy via [hertsnaturalist@hnhs.org](mailto:hertsnaturalist@hnhs.org). For a sneak preview of the 2021 edition watch out for articles by **Ronni Edmonds-Brown** on caddisflies and by **Chantal Helm** on Barbastelle bats that will shortly be made available on the website.

### **2021 subscription rates unchanged!**

The HNHS Management Committee is delighted to announce that continuing stability in the Society's finances means there is no change in subscription rates for next year.

These are £22 for a family (two adults plus children under 18) and £18 for individuals.

Membership includes being sent both *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and the *Herts Bird Report*. The membership fee for individuals wishing to receive only the *Bird Report* or the *Herts Naturalist* is £12. As always, we encourage members who are UK taxpayers to sign a Gift Aid declaration, enabling the Society to claim an extra 25p for every £1 subscribed. Please also note that all subscriptions, no matter how late you paid in the current year, fall due on January 1 2021. However, Geoff Hill, our Membership Secretary, will be more than happy to hear from members who want to make sure they have paid for next year by sending their renewal payments before the old year is out. Better still, if you have not already done so, why not set up an annual Standing Order? You can find all the necessary forms on the website.

### **Continued care with Covid**

Encouraging recent news from vaccine trials has raised hopes that life may be more 'normal' by the spring, when wildlife recording activities ought to be returning to peak levels. But for the time being we must do all we can without mass immunisation to prevent the Covid-19 virus from spreading. During the latest lockdown and whatever restrictions follow we hope you will continue to submit wildlife sightings from the garden or when out and about. We will play our part in discouraging illegal public gatherings by not publishing information about rare species that might attract group interest. Observers who find rarities can safely record them on our websites knowing they will be treated with discretion. Stay safe!