



NEWS

Hertfordshire Natural History Society – Herts Bird Club

September 2019

This newsletter is being sent out with copies of the *Hertfordshire Naturalist 2019*. We trust you will agree that editor Judy England and her team have done a great job filling the journal with interesting articles.

Autumn Conference and AGM

Saturday 9 November

We look forward to seeing members and their guests at the Autumn Meeting and Annual General Meeting on **Saturday 9 November 2019 at the offices of Affinity Water, Tamblin Way, Hatfield AL10 9EZ** from 2 to 5.30pm. Speakers will include county recorder Roy Woodward talking about the Dragonflies of Hertfordshire, including exciting new species that have been recorded in recent years. There will also be updates on some of the Society's current projects. Presentations will be made to this year's winners of the prestigious 1875 Awards and there will be a range of stalls to visit, including bargain offers on HNHS books. Admission to the conference is £5 on the door. The AGM itself is free of charge to members. Contact David Utting (secretary@hnhs.org) if you wish to nominate someone to the Society's Management Committee or would be interested in joining the committee yourself. Our thanks go to Affinity Water for kindly hosting this event.

Gerald Salisbury Memorial Lecture

Wednesday 27 November

Following his entertaining '*Have I got Poos for You!*' talks at the Festival of Wildlife, we are delighted that Graham White, RSPB Head of Reserves Ecology and an enthusiastic coprologist, has agreed to lecture in more detail about the role of scat, spraint and dung identification in wildlife conservation. A former Chair of Herts Bird Club, Graham was last year's winner of the 1875 Award for an outstanding Hertfordshire naturalist. His 2019 Gerald Salisbury Memorial Lecture is jointly organised with Welwyn Natural History Society and will take place at 8pm on Wednesday 27 November in the Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn, AL6 9EN

Landscape and Geology Symposium

More than 50 geology, archaeology and natural history enthusiasts attended a successful conference at Bayfordbury this July in memory of Prof. John Catt, contributing editor of our *Hertfordshire Geology and Landscape* publication. The event, organised by Herts Geology Society, featured ten contrasted presentations ranging from the use of advanced technology to date shoreline deposits in the Chilterns to the incidence of sinkholes and crown holes across the county.

HNHS collection of rare botany books

A bequest made in 1881 endowed the Society with one of the finest collections of historic botany books in the country. Since 1935, these have been conserved in the library at University College London (UCL). The collection, which belonged to Alfred Reginald Pryor, author of a posthumously published *Flora of Hertfordshire*, includes volumes dating back to the late 15th century. Some feature exquisitely hand-coloured engravings. Visit the news section on our website to view photographs and read more about a recent 'pop-up' exhibition organised by the UCL's Head of Rare Books. The botany books are part of a larger HNHS library housed at the college. An index of the whole collection can be found in the library's online catalogue. The rare books can be viewed by special request. It is also worth noting that our deposit agreement with UCL entitles HNHS members to obtain a reader's pass for the college library as a whole.

Subscriptions reminder

Memberships subscriptions fall due in January of each year. If you have not yet renewed for 2019 please help prevent the need to send out final reminders by arranging payment now. The rates are:

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

£12: individual membership plus *Herts Bird Report* or *Hertfordshire Naturalist*

£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 on our website www.hnhs.org
- Cheque - payable to 'Hertfordshire Natural History Society' and mailed to **Geoff Hill, Membership Secretary, 84 Park Avenue, Bushey, Herts. WD23 2BB.**

Gift aid will increase the value of your subscription to the Society by 25%, if you are a UK taxpayer. For information e-mail Geoff: membership@hnhs.org

For further news about HNHS and the Bird Club, visit: hnhs.org and hnhs.org/herts-bird-club