

**Autumn Meeting and AGM on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>****October 2014 from 2.00 to 5.15 at Woolmer Green.**

Everyone is very welcome to our annual get together, entrance is £5 to cover costs. See the separate flier and details of our 1875 Award winners overleaf.

**HNHS Annual General Meeting:** the Society's AGM will be held as part of the Autumn meeting, just after the tea break, before the final talk. Entrance to the AGM is free, just come along for 4.00.

**Changing faces**

Ronni Edmonds-Brown who has led the Society for the last three years will be stepping down at the AGM in October. Through this period Ronni has sought ways to promote recording and training especially in identification skills. She said 'To have a healthy future for biological recording, we need more young people coming through who have the skills and expertise to identify at the species level'. In the last year or so Ronni has suffered back problems and underwent a serious operation in April. She is still convalescing and we wish her a full and speedy recovery. Many thanks to Ronni for her hard work during her term in office. She will continue to chair the County Recorders' Committee, assisted by Agneta Burton and Ian Carle.

The HNHS Management Committee have proposed Trevor James as the prospective chairman for 2014/5. Thanks to Trevor for volunteering to take on this role for a third time. All other members of the Committee have agreed to stand again. However we are seeking new people to come forward to join the Management Committee to ensure the Society can function effectively and face new challenges.

**Other events** - Check our website for all the latest news and a monthly list of all the wildlife meetings and events in the county, compiled from the activities of wildlife organisations in the county.

**? Are you able to volunteer to help the Society?**

There are a lot of jobs to do to keep the Society and Herts Bird Club running - from filling envelopes for this mailing - to serving on the management committee. But also including keeping the websites up to date, receiving and cataloguing photographs, survey work, dealing with records, researching and writing news stories, publicity, getting sponsorship, helping to write and edit our journals and much more.- if you would like to join in and help please get in touch. We need to bring in new people to keep the Society going.

**Hertfordshire Naturalist 2014**

The latest edition of the Naturalist, our annual journal, has just been published and we would like to thank all the contributors. We hope you like the balance of short notes and longer more 'in depth' papers all enlivened by superb photographs from our Flickr pool. Have you done a study or noticed some interesting wildlife behaviour? If so please let us have a contribution for next year's Naturalist by April 2015.

We hope you like the report, if you have any comments or suggestions for improvements please let us know at [secretary@hnhs.org](mailto:secretary@hnhs.org)

**Countywide Mammals survey**

Mammals are a very popular group with members of the Society and the public and there are a number of members actively surveying and recording small mammals and amphibians and reptiles. The last organised county survey was started in 1970, so another would be timely. The Management Committee propose that we instigate a new systematic countywide survey to run over the next few years. More details will be discussed at the Autumn Meeting. Anyone interested should get in touch with Ronni Edmonds-Brown.

**Small mammal survey equipment**

To support small mammal recording and monitoring in the county, the Society has purchased 48 Longworth traps. They are second hand, but in good condition and cost only a fraction of the price new. We are very grateful to the seller who made them available to the Society. Ian Flack is the custodian and he will be using the traps for a series of surveys in the county, some in conjunction with Chantal Helm at the University of Hertfordshire. More details are on the website.

**The Birds of Hertfordshire - a new Avifauna**

This full county avifauna will cover all bird species ever recorded in Hertfordshire and the results of the 2007-2012 Atlas of breeding and wintering birds, together with analysis and comparison with the two previous atlases. Completion of the book is taking longer than expected. Look out for details of the pre-publication offer on our website later this year.

**There is lots more information on our website.**

For those of you who would like more information but do not have access to the internet, please get in touch with Linda Smith (contact details below) who will send paper copies of items on request.

*HNHS and Herts Bird Club are run entirely by volunteers and funded by subscriptions from members.*

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*HNHS was established in 1875 and is Registered Charity No 216418.*