

HNHS Autumn Meeting and AGM

Saturday 8 October

2pm-5.30pm: Affinity Water, Tamblin Way, Hatfield, AL10 9EZ

Don't miss this annual opportunity to hear topical talks about Hertfordshire wildlife, and meet other HNHS members, including our county recorders. Speakers include **Feargal Sharkey, archivist of Amwell Magna Fishery** – also well known as a musician and former leader of *The Undertones* group in the 1970s and 80s. In addition:

- **Ian Carle, manager of the Herts Environmental Records Centre** will talk about recording and monitoring at Panshanger Park.
- There will be a progress update from **Chantal Helm** on the Hertfordshire Mammal, Amphibian and Reptile Atlas (MARA) survey and from **Linda Smith** on the Heartwood Forest Monitoring Project.
- The Society's prestigious **1875 Awards** for 2016 will be made to **Ken and Linda Smith**, celebrating their outstanding 40-year contribution to natural history in Hertfordshire. An article written about them by Tim Hill for the 2016 *Hertfordshire Naturalist* is reproduced on the back of this newsletter.

Members and non-members are welcome at the Autumn Meeting. **Admission £5** (pay at the door). The HNHS **Annual General Meeting** will be held from 4 to 4.20pm. Entry to AGM only is free.

Gerald Salisbury Memorial Lecture

8pm Wednesday 23 November

Andrew Hill on *Butterflies of Hertfordshire*

The first lecture commemorating the distinguished naturalist Gerald Salisbury, who died last year, is being jointly hosted by the HNHS and Welwyn Natural History Society and will take place at Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn AL6 9ER. Andrew Hill, our county butterfly recorder will discuss species currently and formerly found in Hertfordshire, their ecology and the best places to see them. The lecture will be based on his forthcoming book *Butterflies of Hertfordshire and Middlesex* (see opposite).

HNHS Committee news – following Linda and Ken Smith's move this spring to a new home in Sussex, **David Utting** has taken over as HNHS Secretary (secretary@hnhs.org) and **Virginia Kennard** as Membership Secretary (membership@hnhs.org). **Alan Gardiner** is the new county recorder for birds.

Recorder and assistant-recorder vacancies –

Would you like to be involved in collating county records for a particular species group? Current vacancies include a recorder for leeches and aquatic molluscs. Contact the Chair of the County Recorders' Committee, Ronni Edmonds-Brown (caddisnet1@tiscali.co.uk), for more details.

Editing the *Hertfordshire Naturalist*

Warm thanks go to Joe Gray, county recorder for land bugs, for editing the 2016 *Hertfordshire Naturalist*. Joe needs more time for his role co-organising the Herts Invertebrate Project – so we need a new editor for the 2017 edition. The editor is actively supported by an editorial team of committee members in planning the edition, producing ideas for articles, encouraging contributors, choosing photographs, editing the copy and proof reading. The editorship normally brings membership of the HNHS management committee – but this is not compulsory. If you might be interested, please contact David Utting.

Thames and Chiltern Bird Atlas – the Bird Club has contributed to a new online atlas showing the changing distribution of birds across Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. It also provides data on densities of breeding and wintering birds and habitat information. The cross-boundary approach yields valuable insights. <http://thamesandchilternbirdatlas.org.uk/>

Forthcoming book: *Butterflies of Hertfordshire and Middlesex* – Andrew Hill's comprehensive 272-page guide to butterflies across the two counties is copiously illustrated with colour photographs and maps. It is due to be published by HNHS in November. Watch out for details of launch events and how to order at an attractive, pre-publication discount.

MARA: survey work for a new atlas of Hertfordshire mammals, amphibians and reptiles continues until 2019. Keep submitting your records via our website.

Other events – Please check the website for news updates and information about meetings and events being organised by wildlife organisations around the county.

Follow us on Twitter - [@HNHSOC](https://twitter.com/HNHSOC) and [@HertsBirds](https://twitter.com/HertsBirds) and [@DragonHerts](https://twitter.com/DragonHerts)

More information can be found on our websites - www.hnhs.org

The HNHS Address is c/o David Utting, 250 Sandridge Road, St Albans, AL1 4AL; phone 01727 762855, HNHS is Registered Charity No 216418.

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

Ken and Linda Smith – recipients of the HNHS 1875 Awards for 2016

The Hertfordshire Natural History Society suffered a great loss in 2016, as Ken and Linda Smith decided to relocate to Sussex, from where they moved to Hertfordshire in 1973. They became involved in the Society shortly after arriving. During their 43 years in the county they played a major role in shaping and developing the Society.

Ken became involved in the bird club first, a natural fit given his role as an ecologist with the RSPB. Over the years he was both Chairman of the club and scientific committee and bird recorder. Ken played a key role in the production of three key books on Hertfordshire's birds – the *Hertfordshire Breeding Bird Atlas* with Chris Mead in 1982, *The Breeding Birds of Hertfordshire* in 1993 and the *Birds of Hertfordshire* in 2015.

Linda was editor of the *Hertfordshire Bird Report* from 1985-1989 and served on 'Council' (subsequently the Management Committee) from 1995, becoming Membership Secretary in 2000, and then Secretary to the Society in 2006. In 2007 the Society took the bold decision to produce the moths atlas and dragonflies atlas and Linda played a central role in working with the authors to complete their texts, as well as organising the design, printing, publication and sales of the books. This continued with the subsequent landmark books on the flora, geology and birds. In 2008 the Society decided to overhaul and update the websites for the Society and the Bird Club and Linda took on the role of webmaster from then until leaving.

Ken and Linda were tireless in their championing of the core value of the Society – the recording of the county's flora and fauna. To that end they worked together, monitoring the woodlands of Hertfordshire and the birds they support. With the initiation of the Heartwood Forest project in 2008 they saw an opportunity for a major monitoring project and worked with the Woodland Trust and other volunteers to survey and then monitor wildlife as the woodland was created and developed. In recognition of that work they were given awards in 2015.

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Ken and Linda. In recognition of the achievements for the Society and Hertfordshire, it was decided that they should receive the highly prestigious 1875 Awards for 2016. Earlier in the year, Tim and Katie Hill hosted a party to celebrate their friendship and an original watercolour painting was given (see photograph below) as a mark of thanks for all they had done for the Society.

Tim Hill, on behalf of the HNHS Management Committee

