

Wishing you a very happy and wildlife rich 2014

January 2014.

We have a great event coming up - we hope to see you there.



The Society, in partnership with Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, is screening the film 'Project Wild Thing' on **Thursday 30th January at 8pm** at Welwyn Civic Hall, Prospect Place, Welwyn, AL6 9ER. Do please join us if you can.

Project Wild Thing is a film led movement to get more children (and their families!) outside and reconnecting with nature. The film aimed at parents and teachers is an ambitious, feature-length documentary that takes a funny and revealing look at a complex issue, the increasingly disparate connection between children and nature. More information and a trailer for the film are at <http://projectwildthing.com/>

Entrance - free, including a glass of wine or soft drink - donations to cover costs welcome. Parking is available at the hall or in Welwyn Village.

We expect lots of people will want to see the film - so if you would like to attend, please book a place via the Wildlife Trust's website - <http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/projectwildthing> or ring Sarah Buckingham at the Trust on 01727 858901.

The Society welcomes the new Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre.

We are delighted that in November the new Herts Environmental Records Centre was established at Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. It is headed by Ian Carle who is also a member of our HNHS Management Committee. All the data previously held in the County Council Biological Records Centre has been transferred to the Trust. The data on wildlife and wildlife sites are an important resource for planning authorities, developers and nature conservation groups. The Trust make this information available to a wide range of individuals and organisations to aid decision making.

Ian Carle, the new Records Centre Manager said:

"The data we now hold is provided by wildlife recorders, professional ecologists and the public. We hold just over 690,000 records of species, over 4,000 sites and 20,000 habitat records for Hertfordshire – and the database will grow in the future as more data are added."

All records submitted to the Society and the Herts Bird Club, either through the website or on paper, will be made available to the new Records Centre and we look forward to working closely with them. The Society will be represented on the Centre's steering Committee.

For more information about Herts Environmental Records Centre see their website: www.hercinfo.org.uk or telephone Ian Carle or Jennie Mitchell on 01727 732 767

Please let us have your wildlife records for last year (2013)

Thanks to all of you who have sent in your sightings throughout the year. We shall soon start compiling the 2013 records so please send yours in as soon as you can. We have made it easy: Herts Bird Club records team welcome records via the website at <http://www.hnhs.org/birds/> or through BTO Birdtrack or using our spread sheet available on the website or on paper.

Our new on line submission for flora records is up and running through our Herts Flora Group webpage at <http://www.hnhs.org/flora/>. Give it a try.

For other wildlife please send your records to the relevant county recorders (details your copy of Hertfordshire Naturalist or on our website) or send direct to the new Environmental Records Centre.

The Hertfordshire Naturalist 2014 - could you write a paper or short note on something of interest that you have observed? If so please talk to Stuart Warrington, 01707885676 or email stuart.warrington@nationaltrust.org.uk. The deadline for articles is 31 May.

Photographs - we have a wonderful selection on our Flickr site organised by Steve Chilton he could do with some assistance - would you like to help? contact Steve at steve_chilton@ntlworld.com.

Herts Bird Club Spring Conference on Saturday 22 March at Woolmer Green

Our annual get together in partnership with the BTO, featuring all the latest news on Hertfordshire's birds. Talks will include:

- Why have we lost our Willow Warblers? by Catriona Morrison, BTO Research Ecologist
- Corn Buntings - Rosemary Setchfield from the RSPB on their work in north Herts/Cambs and details of a new Herts Bird Club survey
- Amwell's amazing birds - Mike Ilett, chair of Herts Rare Birds Panel.
- What has changed in 40 years - key outcomes from the Herts Bird Atlas and nationally
- All the best Herts birds from 2013

Plus lots more and a chance to meet other Herts Birders. Time 2.00-5.30 at Woolmer Green.

Entrance £5 including refreshments; tickets via the website or pay at the door,

Full details will be posted nearer the time on our website: www.hnhs.org/birds

See our meetings webpage for details of other Hertfordshire Wildlife events and meetings

Your Membership for 2014

It is time to renew your membership of the Society and the Herts Bird Club.

The number of members is the highest for many years - so please keep it up. Your subscription not only pays for your copies of the Hertfordshire Naturalist and Bird Report but also funds our very successful websites and supports our research and monitoring projects, development of new books and other publications and of course the mundane things like admin and insurance cover.

The subscription rates are unchanged for 2014

£18 individual membership plus Hertfordshire Naturalist and Herts Bird Report

£12 individual membership plus Herts Bird Report

£22 family membership plus Hertfordshire Naturalist and Herts Bird Report

It is easy to pay by credit/debit card via Virgin Money Giving link our website www.hnhs.org

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Please add Gift Aid if you can

We do hope you will continue your membership.

Please make your payment by 31 January 2014 - it is expensive to have to send a reminder

**Linda Smith - HNHS Secretary, 24 Mandeville Rise, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 7JU
Telephone 01707 330405: email: secretary@hnhs.org**

Visit our websites www.hnhs.org and www.hertsbirdclub.org.uk