

Ted Fletcher (1939 -2016)

With great sadness, we learned in September that Ted Fletcher, editor of the Herts Bird Report for the past 18 years, had died suddenly while on a walking holiday with his partner, Marilyn. Ted was a member of the HNHS Management committee and formerly Secretary of the Bird Club and the Herts Rare Birds Panel. He had the satisfaction of seeing the 2014 Bird Report published within 11 months of the end of the year. Thanks to Ted's hard work in the months before he died this achievement has been repeated for the 2015 report. You will find a tribute by Jack Fearnside, who kindly completed the editing task, at the front of the report.

Butterflies of Hertfordshire and Middlesex

More than 200 copies of Andrew Wood's beautiful book have already been sold pre-publication. It makes a great Christmas present, but we are pleased to announce that it will remain on sale at the special price of £19.99 until the end of January (a huge saving of £14 on the full price).

The book provides comprehensive coverage of all resident and migrant species currently found in our area, including population trends from the past 35 years. Numerous locally-taken photographs accompany the distribution maps and assessments of the status, history, ecology and conservation needs of each species. There is also an invaluable guide to the best local places to see butterflies, including rarities. To order visit www.hnhs.org/publications, or send a cheque payable to HNHS for £19.99 to David Utting at the address below (with a note of your own address, and email address or telephone number). There is still time to attend our two remaining launch events and have your copy signed by the author:

- 7.15pm Wednesday 30 November: Burgh House and Hampstead Museum, New End Square, London NW3 1LT.
- 11.30am Friday 9 December: Rye Meads Visitor Centre, Hoddesdon, SG12 8JS

New editor for the Hertfordshire Naturalist

We are still looking for a volunteer to edit the 2017 *Hertfordshire Naturalist*. 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. Please contact David Utting (see below) if you might be interested. The editor is usually a member of the

HNHS management committee, but this is not obligatory.

Bird Club conference

The Bird Club / BTO 2017 conference will take place on Saturday 11 March 2017 at the offices of Affinity Water, Hatfield from 2 to 5.30pm. The programme of speakers, once confirmed, will be posted on the website. Admission £5 on the door. Thanks go to Affinity Water for, again, hosting this popular event.



Creating a digital, online archive

HNHS and the Bird Club are preparing to 'digitise' the Society's published *Transactions* (chiefly *Herts Naturalist* and the *Bird Report*). This will create a website archive going back to 1875. If anyone has relevant expertise and would like to join a working group, please contact David Utting (see below).

2017 membership renewals

A reminder that in January it will be time to renew your membership of the Society and the Herts Bird Club. The subscription pays for your copies of the *Hertfordshire Naturalist* and *Herts Bird Report* and also funds our successful websites and supports all our research and monitoring projects, including the development of new atlases and other publications. Subscription rates are unchanged for 2017

- £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*

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 our website www.hnhs.org
- Cheque - payable to 'Hertfordshire Natural History Society' and mailed to Virginia Kennard, HNHS Membership Secretary, 72 The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts. AL9 5DL

Gift aid will increase the value of your subscription to the Society by 25%, if you are a UK taxpayer. For more information you can email Virginia Kennard: membership@hnhs.org

Check our websites - www.hnhs.org and www.hnhs.org/birds for news, recording opportunities and sightings

The HNHS address is c/o David Utting, 250 Sandridge Road, St Albans, AL1 4AL; phone 01727 762855,

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