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HERTFORDSHIRE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY AND BIRD CLUB NEWS

Exceptional naturalists honoured

Congratulations go to three remarkable Hertfordshire naturalists who were presented with HNHS awards at the Autumn Meeting and AGM last month. Expert owl ringer Peter Wilkinson (*below right*) received the Trevor James Award for an outstanding Hertfordshire naturalist, butterfly specialist Liz Goodyear (*centre*) received the 1875 Award for an outstanding contribution to natural history in the county, and the Society's Long-Service Award was presented to former Chairman, Peter Delaloye (*left*).



Since the 1970s, Peter Wilkinson, working with professional ecologist Colin Shawyer, has ringed around 22,000 Barn Owl chicks in England. Liz Goodyear, in addition to her long-serving role as Secretary of the Herts and Middlesex branch of Butterfly Conservation, is celebrated for her work with London-based naturalist Andrew Middleton to discover Purple Emperor colonies across the county. Peter Delaloye's Long-Service Award was prompted by his retirement from the Bird Club committee after 25 years, including six years as Chairman and another five years as overall HNHS Chair.

The Autumn Meeting was attended by more than 40 members who enjoyed a programme of talks. These ranged through street-level action taken by the St Albans Wilderhood Watch, successful training for Colne Valley anglers in practical conservation measures, and the results of a Water Vole survey along the lower River Lea. Links to videos of the talks and presentations can be found on the website www.hnhs.org. Thanks go to Affinity Water for hosting the event at their Hatfield offices.

AGM agrees constitutional changes

Amendments updating the HNHS constitution were approved at October's AGM. These include changes that recognise the Society's use of internet banking services and online conferencing software for meetings. New rules for declaring an interest at Management Committee (trustee) meetings were also adopted, together with a 'model' clause drafted by the Charity Commission defining limited circumstances in which trustees could be paid for work undertaken on the Society's behalf. The revised constitution can be found on the Management Committee page of the website.

Commemorating the late Trevor James

The many natural history achievements of the late Trevor James, who died in 2020, were celebrated at a special conference at Redbourn in September. Despite very hot weather, an audience of more than 50 HNHS and Herts Bird Club members enjoyed a day of tributes and talks. These covered Trevor's impressive national contribution to biological recording and related to three particular areas of his wildlife interests in Hertfordshire: plants, beetles and birds. For those unable to attend, links to video recordings of the proceedings can be found in the news section on the website.

Look out for our e-news messages!

Don't miss out on news from HNHS, including information to be announced about the 2024 Gerald Salisbury Lecture in February and the forthcoming Bird Club-BTO conference. In addition to website postings, we use the Mailchimp platform to send e-newsletters to members. To be sure you are hearing from us, it may be worth checking your 'junk' filter and 'promotions' (in Gmail) for any mislaid messages.