

**HNHS AGM 2010: Agenda Item 7
Election of Officers and Members of the Management Committee**

As required by the constitution all members of the Management Committee retire from office together at the close of the AGM but may be re-elected or reappointed.

Nominations from the Management Committee:

Role	Current 2009/10	Nominations 2010/11
Chairman	Trevor James	Trevor James
Treasurer	Ken Pearman	Ken Pearman
Secretary and Registrar	Linda Smith	Linda Smith
Chair Herts Bird Club	Ken Smith	Ken Smith
Chair Recorders' Committee	Ronni Edmonds Brown	Ronni Edmonds Brown
Editor Herts Bird Report	Ted Fletcher	Ted Fletcher
Editor Hertfordshire Naturalist	Stuart Warrington	Stuart Warrington
Special Projects (webmaster)	Alan Gardiner	Alan Gardiner
Special Projects (events)	Tim Hill	Tim Hill
Special Projects	Peter Delaloye	
Special Projects	Sarah Scott, co-opted April 2009	Sarah Scott
Special Projects		Steve Chilton
Special Projects		John Murray

Sarah Scott is a conservation scientist with the Environment Agency.
John Murray is a volcanologist at the Open University and our Butterfly Recorder.

Steve Chilton is a manager at Waterstones bookshop, an expert photographer and masterminds the HNHS website photo galleries.

Any other nominations for the Management Committee must be received by the Secretary by 16th October, 14 days before the meeting.

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**The HNHS 1875 Awards for 2010** will be presented to:

**Tom Gladwin** – an outstanding Hertfordshire Naturalist

and

**Jim Terry** - for his outstanding contribution to natural history in Hertfordshire

**Hertfordshire Natural History Society**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday 30 October 2010 at Haileybury College, Hertford Heath**

Dear HNHS Member

You are cordially invited to the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society, which will be held at about 3.30pm as part of the HNHS Autumn Meeting from 2.00 –5.00 pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October in the Ayckbourn Theatre at Haileybury College, Hertford Heath. See attached newsletter for directions and map.

If you would like to nominate someone for election to the Management Committee please let me have details by 16 October (14 days before the meeting). If you would like to propose an issue for discussion under any other business you must notify me prior to the start of the meeting.

We do hope you will be able to join us.

Yours sincerely

**Linda Smith, Secretary HNHS**

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Telephone 01707 330405,

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**HNHS – Annual General Meeting 2010**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome by HNHS Chairman, Trevor James
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 134<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 24 October 2009 (attached)
4. Matters arising
5. Report of the Management Committee for 2009/10 (attached)
6. Treasurer's report and accounts for 2009/10 (attached)
7. Election of officers and members of the Management Committee
8. Any other business (notified in advance to the Secretary)

*HNHS was established in 1875 and is Registered Charity Number 216418*

### HNHS AGM 2010: Agenda Item 3

**Minutes of the 134<sup>th</sup> HNHS Annual General Meeting in 2009** held at 3.30pm on Saturday 24 October 2009 at Haileybury College

**Present:** Peter Delaloye (Chairman) and 48 members of the Society.

**Item 1:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM, the first to be held at Haileybury.

**Item 2: Apologies:** Bryan Sage.

**Item 3: Minutes of the 133<sup>rd</sup> AGM** held on 15 November 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

Proposers: John Moss and Judy Adams. Agreed: Unanimously

**Item 4: Matters Arising:** There were none.

#### **Item 5: Report of the Management Committee for 2008/9**

The Chairman introduced the report (previously circulated) and thanked all those who had contributed. He said it had been a pleasure to lead the Society over the last two and a half years and highlighted how much had been achieved during this time, particularly the publication of three HNHS books and the redevelopment of the website.

#### **Item 6: Annual Accounts for 2008/9**

The Treasurer, Ken Pearman, presented the summary accounts. He said cash flow had been tight due to the heavy expenditure on the publication of two books and stock market conditions but the value of our investments was now starting to rise again. The decision to reclaim Gift Aid had brought in £1500 from HM Revenue and Customs, which was good news. He thanked the independent examiner, Shirley Bell, for preparing the accounts, which were agreed.

Proposers: Neale Holmes Smith and Raymond Uffen. Agreed: Unanimously

#### **Item 7: Election of Officers and members of the Management Committee for 2009/10**

All members of the Management Committee retire from office at the end of the AGM. Jane Clark and Simon Weightman do not wish to serve again and the Chairman thanked them for their contributions. All other members of the Committee were willing to continue and Trevor James was proposed as Chairman. No other nominations had been received, so the officers and members were elected unopposed: Chairman, Trevor James; Secretary, Linda Smith; Treasurer, Ken Pearman;

|                             | <b>General</b> | <b>Des A</b> | <b>Des B</b> | <b>Totals</b> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Value at 31/03/09 (Note 2)  | 13041          | 14747        | 7132         | 34920         |
| Income General              | 9190           |              |              | 9190          |
| Sales of other publications |                | 702          | 750          | 1452          |
| Sales of Flora              |                | 16905        |              | 16905         |
| Donations Flora             |                | 11853        |              | 11853         |
| Investment Income           | 752            | 848          | 411          | 2011          |
| Increase in Investments     | 3792           | 4287         | 2073         | 10152         |
| Sub Total                   | 26775          | 49342        | 10366        | 86483         |
| Less Expenditure            | 15593          | 39241        |              | 54834         |
| Free Reserves               | 11182          | 10101        | 10366        | 31649         |
| Plus Tree Sparrow Grant     |                |              |              | 442           |
| Bird Club                   |                |              |              | 2276          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>         |                |              |              | <b>34367</b>  |

For the year ended 31 March 2010 the Society's net assets showed a marginal reduction from £36000 to £34000. The carrying cost of publishing the book '*Flora of Hertfordshire*' and the investment in our web site have been largely offset by an increase in the unit trust investments which constitute our reserves.

We decided, as far as possible, to manage a tight cashflow to avoid any realisations of the unit trust funds as they produce a good income stream. To ensure we could meet our commitments as they arose we agreed a short term loan from two committee members. We intend to repay the loan from normal cashflow during 2010/11.

As previously advised we are registered with HM Revenue and Customs for Gift Aid claims and we have received our first remittance representing two years claims on membership subscriptions.

#### **Membership**

The membership of the Society increased during the year, probably as a result of the publicity to promote our books, but a larger number than usual failed to renew their membership in January. At 31 March 2010 membership stood at 350.

During the year *the Management Committee* met twice.

**4. Subscriptions paid:**

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Mammal Society | £20  |
| HMWT           | £35  |
| CPRE           | £32  |
| NFBR           | £20  |
| Just Giving.   | £122 |
| Total          | £229 |

**5. Grants and Funds**

|                      | Opening Bal. | Grant Rec'd | Paid Out | Closing Bal |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Tree Sparrow Project | £160         | £500        | £218     | £442        |
| BTO Hawfinch page    |              |             | £500     |             |

The Society has agreed to fund a further two annual tranches of £500 each to sponsor the Hawfinch page in the forthcoming BTO Atlas.

**6. Creditors** BSBI. As part of the fund raising for the Flora book, we received a loan of £2,000 from BSBI. This is a conditional loan and is repayable from the sale of that publication once the Society has recovered all its own costs. It is not a general charge against our assets. At present it is estimated once Gift Aid is received the Society will still have a carrying cost of £3680 and therefore it is not envisaged that the Loan will be eligible for repayment in the immediate future.

**7. Unrecovered Costs** of Printing Moth and Flora Books at 31/03/2010

The Moths is presently showing unrecovered costs of £12,067.00  
 The Flora is presently showing unrecovered costs of £5,985.00  
 Sales from past publications where costs have been recovered are applied to the Commercial Fund. Sales where there are still unrecovered costs are applied to the Non Commercial Publications Fund (Moths- Flora)

**8. Stock of Books.** In accordance with the Society's policy all stocks of books are valued at NIL for Balance Sheet purposes. Details of actual stocks of recent publications are Dragonflies: 376, Moths: 433, Flora:522, see Note 6 above

If we clear our costs of Flora with the next 100-150 books then the next 80-100 books are ear marked for repayment of the BSBI loan depending on price. Once that is clear any remainder sale proceeds reverts to the Society.

**9. Web Site.** Over the last two years the Society has made a major investment in its Web site. This is an intangible asset and as such has been treated as an expense.

**Movement of Funds**

Investment income is added proportionately to the three funds, General, Des A for non-commercial publications and DesB for commercial publications.

Members: Peter Delaloye, Ronni Edmonds-Brown, Ted Fletcher, Alan Gardiner, Tim Hill, Ken Smith and Stuart Warrington.

Proposers: Chris Dee and Gerald Salisbury. Agreed: Unanimously.

**Item 8: Other business** – there was none.

**Date of Next Meeting** - to be arranged (30 October 2010).

Minutes of the HNHS AGM held October 2009  
 Linda Smith, Secretary to Hertfordshire Natural History Society

**HNHS AGM 2010: Agenda Item 5****Management Committee Report for the year April 2009-March 2010**

The Natural History Society's major achievements this year were the publication of the long awaited book '*Flora of Hertfordshire*' and development of new websites for the Society and the Herts Bird Club. We were very sorry to see Peter Delaloye retire as Chairman at the Annual General Meeting, the Society has achieved so much under his leadership during his two and a half years in post. We welcome our new Chairman, Trevor James.

As reported last year, the Management Committee decided to make a significant investment in redeveloping our websites. We set up a small group, chaired by Ken Smith, to oversee the project; Jack Fearnside of LTD Design Consultants undertook the creative design and a specialist company, Digital Routes, the technical work. Some of the main features are online submission of wildlife records and the ability to upload and edit the material on the sites ourselves. The new HNHS website was launched in April and the Herts Bird Club site in July. On-line submission of bird records was an immediate success and a team of moderators, headed by Alan Gardiner ensure that the most interesting sightings are displayed within a matter of hours or sometimes minutes. On-line submission of records for mammals, amphibians, reptiles and dragonflies was added to the HNHS site in March. We have also been pleased at the number and quality of photographs received for display on both websites. We are very grateful to Jack Fearnside for masterminding the birds photograph gallery. He has now been joined by Steve Chilton who is managing the galleries on the HNHS site.

We are delighted that in December, after 22 years of work by Trevor James and the Herts Flora Group, the Society published a new '*Flora of Hertfordshire*'. The book covers over 2000 species hybrids and alien

vascular plants recorded in Hertfordshire, based on a countywide survey from 1987 to 2005. The species accounts include distribution maps by tetrad for all species with eight or more records, analysis of status, and comparison with information from the previous flora of Hertfordshire, published in 1967.

There are also introductory sections setting the scene describing the history of botanical recording, Hertfordshire's physical make up – geology, soils, climate and hydrology, the history of our natural landscape; Hertfordshire's wild plant habitats, their ecology and changing flora. Appendices cover a Hertfordshire Plant Red Data List, a selected bibliography and sources and a Gazetteer of localities and sites named in the text. The previous '*Flora*' by John Dony was published in 1967, but botanical recording goes back to at least 1548 and the first real county '*Flora*' published in 1849 by Webb and Coleman.

We hosted two book launch events for participants in the Flora Survey, land owners, sponsors, and those who had pre-ordered copies of the book. Over 50 people came to Hitchin Museum and Art Gallery on the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> December and 70 joined us at the Manor House at Chiswell Green (new home of the Royal Entomological Society) on 9<sup>th</sup> December. The events were very enjoyable, with Trevor on hand to sign copies of his book, and were self financing from the savings in book distribution costs.

In the best traditions of British natural history, the book was produced on a voluntary and non-profit basis and publication was only made possible with generous financial and/or practical support from many people and organisations. We received over £16,000 of sponsorship plus a loan of £2,000 and practical help with design work and publicity. Our thanks go to everyone who contributed, including Linda Smith who organised the fundraising, production, publication, marketing and distribution the sponsoring organisations and generous individual donations from Trevor James, Silvia Kingsbury, Gerald Salisbury, Vernon Taylor, Shirley Watson and 13 other individual HNHS members, and a loan from the Botanical Society of the British Isles. We are very grateful to you all for helping us to produce this beautiful book.

We have now published five books which provide a small but significant income and a substantial focus for the Society.

#### **Future HNHS books**

| <b>Balance Sheet at 31 March 2010</b> |                             | 2009/10 | 2008/9       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------|
|                                       |                             | Note    |              |
|                                       |                             | £       | £            |
| Fixed                                 |                             |         |              |
| Assets:                               | Investments                 | 1       | 39043        |
| Current assets:                       |                             |         |              |
|                                       | Debtors                     |         | 39           |
|                                       | Alliance and Leics          |         | 213          |
|                                       | Lloyds Current A/C          |         | 1933         |
|                                       | Lloyds Deposit A/C          |         | 139          |
|                                       |                             |         | <u>139</u>   |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                 |                             |         | <b>2324</b>  |
| <b>Liabilities:</b>                   | Long term BSBI              | 6&8     | 2000         |
| Loans                                 | Short term, 2 cttee members |         | 5000         |
|                                       |                             |         | 0            |
|                                       | <b>Sub Total</b>            |         | <b>7000</b>  |
|                                       |                             |         | <u>7000</u>  |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                   |                             |         | <b>34367</b> |
|                                       |                             |         | <u>36309</u> |
| Represented by                        |                             |         |              |
| :                                     | General Fund                |         | 11182        |
|                                       | Des A (Non-comm)            | 7       | 10101        |
|                                       | Des B (Comm)                |         | 10366        |
|                                       | Bird Club                   | 2       | 2276         |
|                                       | Tree Sparrow Project        | 5       | 442          |
|                                       |                             |         | <u>160</u>   |
|                                       |                             |         | <b>34367</b> |
|                                       |                             |         | <u>36309</u> |

#### **Notes to accounts 31/03/2010**

##### **1. Investment Funds**

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Opening balance 01/04/2010 | Charifund |
| Increase in Value          | £28891    |
| Closing balance 31/03/2010 | £10152    |
|                            | £39043    |

**2. Bird Club.** During 2008/9 the accounts of the Bird Club were consolidated on the understanding the funds remained designated for the Bird Club. During the current year we decided to account separately for the proceeds of the Bird Club conference. This resulted in a restatement of reserve funds for Yr 2009 of £111. There is a cost still to be received for the 2010 Conference of approx £500.

##### **3. Printing and Distribution:**

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Bird Bulletins   | nil     |
| Bird Reports     | £2,244  |
| Field Notes      | £298    |
| Herts Naturalist | £1,931  |
| Flora Book       | £39,241 |
| Others           | £422    |
| Total            | £44,136 |

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2010**  
**Income and Expenditure**

|                                           | Note | 31.03.2010   | 31.03.09     |
|-------------------------------------------|------|--------------|--------------|
|                                           |      | £            | £            |
| <b>Income</b>                             |      |              |              |
| Subscriptions                             |      | 5885         | 5961         |
| Dividends and Interest                    |      | 2011         | 2891         |
| Sales prior year publications             | 8    | 1452         | 1170         |
| Meetings                                  |      | 1278         | 0            |
| Donations Book Publishing                 |      | 11579        | 5000         |
| Sales Flora Book                          |      | 16905        | 5919         |
| Donations                                 |      | 1870         | 940          |
| Gift Aid                                  |      | 2043         | 0            |
| Bird Club Consolidation                   |      | 0            | 1118         |
| Realisation                               |      | 0            | 2789         |
|                                           |      | <u>43023</u> | <u>25788</u> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                        |      |              |              |
| Flora Publication                         | 3    | 39241        | 0            |
| Printing and Distribution                 | 3    | 4895         | 12025        |
| Meetings                                  |      | 907          | 496          |
| Subscriptions paid                        | 4    | 229          | 127          |
| Web Site                                  | 9    | 8641         | 1199         |
| Transaction Charges                       |      | 40           | 0            |
| Crystal award                             |      | 187          | 0            |
| Administration                            |      | 68           | 192          |
| Insurance                                 |      | 191          | 496          |
| <b>Total Current Expenses</b>             |      | <b>54399</b> | <b>14535</b> |
| <b>Distribution of Grants</b>             |      |              |              |
| Hawfinch                                  | 5    | 500          | 500          |
| Tree Sparrow Project                      | 5    | 218          | 56           |
| <b>Total of All Expenses</b>              |      | <b>55117</b> | <b>15091</b> |
| Excess Expenditure /Income                |      | -12094       | 10697        |
| <b>less Increase in Fixed Investments</b> | 1    | <u>10152</u> | <u>20313</u> |
| <b>Net surplus/(deficit) for the year</b> |      | -1942        | -9616        |
| Brought forward from previous year        |      | 36309        | 45925        |
| <b>Gross Assets at year end</b>           |      | <b>34367</b> | <b>36309</b> |

Last year we agreed in principle to publish a book on Hertfordshire's geology being written by John Catt and others for the Hertfordshire Geology Society (HGS) provided sufficient external funds can be secured by HGS to underpin the costs of production and marketing. We hope the book will be published in December 2010.

The Herts Bird Club intends to produce a new Avifauna based on the results of the five year countywide bird survey started in 2007 and a complete update of birds recorded in the county. The last '*Hertfordshire Breeding Bird Atlas*' was published by HNHS in 1993 and the '*Birds in Hertfordshire*' by Gladwin and Sage dates from 1986.

**HNHS 1875 Award**

Instigated last year, the annual 1875 Award recognises an outstanding Hertfordshire naturalist and/or someone who has made an outstanding contribution to natural history in Hertfordshire. This year June Crew was honoured for her outstanding contribution to natural history in Hertfordshire through the Cheshunt Natural History Society and her conservation work including her 'toad rescues' at Amwell. The second award went to outstanding Hertfordshire naturalist and conservationist John Fielding, a botanist from Bishops Stortford, who had helped with both the 1967 and 2009 *Floras*. Sadly John died before he could receive his award; it was accepted in his memory by his daughter Pat Saltmarsh at the HNHS AGM and Autumn meeting in October.

**HNHS AGM and other meetings**

The Annual General Meeting was held as part of the Society's Autumn Conference on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Members gathered at a new venue for us the splendid Attlee Room at Haileybury College. The first talk was 'Hertfordshire's freshwater fish' by Tom Grayling. He is one of the fisheries scientists with the Environment Agency and also our new county recorder for fish. He also explained the role of the Environment Agency in monitoring and conserving fish stocks.

After the AGM and tea, Trevor James whetted our appetites for the '*Flora of Hertfordshire*'. Covering 1989 species, plus 155 subspecies and 166 hybrids, the Flora Project, running from 1987-2005 was a mammoth undertaking. He reminded us that the previous '*Flora*' by John Dony was published in 1967, but botanical recording goes back to at least 1548. Trevor then described some of the highlights of the survey when special plants were found or re-found, such as Marsh Violet found on Patmore Heath by John Fielding, and some disappointments - plants

that have disappeared since 1967, including Moon Carrot, Bog Pimpernel and Ground Pine. He also mentioned plants which have responded to conservation measures, such as Crested Cow-wheat at Nuthampsted. He said that future monitoring of our county's changing flora would continue.

The HNHS Annual General Meeting was chaired by Peter Delaloye, who then stepped down after two and a half years at the helm. Peter presented a review of the work of the Society over the last five years and concluded that he believed the Society is well placed to play an important part in conserving the county's environment. Linda Smith proposed a vote of thanks for Peter in recognition of his work for the Society and the achievements during his Chairmanship.

### **Herts Bird Club Conference**

'*Ringing the Changes – marking 50 years of bird ringing in Hertfordshire*' was the theme of the Herts Bird Club / BTO conference at Rothamsted Research on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Over 120 people attended. In the first of a series of illustrated talks Chris Dee highlighted the amazing amount of information on bird migration and behaviour gathered over the 50 years at Rye Meads. Robin Cole told the story of the development of the management of the reed beds at Tewinbury nature reserve. Peter Delaloye highlighted the most interesting birds ringed in his Hertfordshire gardens over 50 years. Finally Phil Atkinson from the BTO gave a fascinating account of the pioneering BTO and RSPB work in West Africa to understand what happens to migrants in winter and how changes to the habitats there (caused by both humans and climate) are affecting survival. It was an excellent afternoon and the raffle raised £200 towards the Herts Bird Club sponsorship of the Hawfinch in the BTO Bird Atlas 2007-11.

We would like to record our thanks to Tim Hill for organising both events and to Society members for their support.

### **Transactions of the Herts Natural History Society 2009, Volume 41**

*The Hertfordshire Bird Report 2007* (edited by Ted Fletcher) was published in September. A Hoopoe seen at Bishops Stortford featured on the cover and the contents included papers on Little Ringed Plover, Ringed Plover and other gravel pit breeding waders in Hertfordshire in 2007; Wintering Green Sandpipers in Hertfordshire in 2006/7; a possible Siberian Chiffchaff wintering at Wilstone Reservoir 2006/7, Little Bunting at Amwell Nature Reserve; Cetti's Warbler at Tring Reservoirs and part

2 of the review of first and last dates of migrants; in addition to the systematic list, ringing report, breeding bird survey results and nest recording in 2007.

*The Hertfordshire Naturalist 2009* (edited by Stuart Warrington) was distributed in December. Topics for the main papers included Crayfish in Hertfordshire, the ecology of caterpillars of Ringlet, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper butterflies; a reptile survey at King's Meads, William Yarrell (1784-1856); and there were updates on moths and bryophytes as well as the County Recorders' reports.

A monthly summary of birds seen in the county (edited by Alan Gardiner) drawn from records submitted through the website and the BTO's Bird Track system is published on our website.

### **Survey and Recording work**

The newly appointed recorder for Odonata, Roy Woodward, will co-ordinate the Hertfordshire contribution to the national dragonfly survey 2008-2012 organised by the Dragonfly Society. We are still looking for a recorder for Orthoptera following John Widgery's retirement. We have strengthened our links with the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC). At least one member of HBRC staff now attends our Recorders' Committee; Ken Smith chairs the HBRC steering group and Ronni Edmond-Brown attends a Biodiversity group which includes biological records centres and Natural England. The first meeting of this group covered the key problems of data acquisition – a subject being discussed at several levels including government departments and agencies and the Linnaean Society. There is now national concern over the skills level for systematics and taxonomy in the UK.

### **Herts Bird Club**

Members continue to carry out the field work for both the national and county aspects of the Bird Atlas 2007-11 with enthusiasm. Chris Dee, the project leader, has set up a web-site displaying the latest results in the form of distribution maps. We are continuing to provide supplementary feeding for Tree Sparrow at Tyttenhanger and monitor the breeding colony. The owners of the site, Lafarge Aggregates and Concrete UK, have generously donated £500 towards this conservation work. We have also secured funding from Hertfordshire Environmental Forum as part of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

### **Accounts and finances**