

Mid-Herts Local Group



Herts and
Middlesex

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE MID-HERTS LOCAL GROUP - APRIL 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2018



Why not join our group outings? The photograph above was taken on a visit to Rainham Marshes where Pat, a fellow wildlife volunteer in Essex, showed us a round his patch on a stunning November day. Armed with his local knowledge and our keen-eyes we saw 54 species of birds which included firecrest, water pipit, wonderful flocks of lapwing, golden plover, dunlin and ruff. Marsh harriers patrolled the reed beds - closely watched by a barn owl, its face protruding into the warm sunshine from its nest box. The autumn light accentuated the exquisite feathering of the black-tailed godwits, pintails, wigeon and snipe feeding on the exposed mudflats. Flitting amongst the reeds and scrub were other gorgeous local

birds such as reed

bunting,
black
redstart,
goldcrest,
linnet and



Ruff

stonechat. As sunset approached and the air chilled we retreated to the warmth and hospitality of the superb reserve cafe with commanding views across the reedbed. So ended another great day with the Mid-Herts Local Group. Feel free to share others with us in the future you're very welcome.

Our annual program also includes indoor talks and one of the highlights this past year was given by RSPB Special Investigator Guy Shorrocks about his work fighting wildlife crime at home and abroad. Although the scale and detail of such crimes shocked us we were humbled by the dedication of this small team and the impact they can have on such crimes. One potent example was their investigation of organised trapping in Cyprus where Birdlife Cyprus estimate that over 900,000 birds were killed in one year of trapping. Using covert cameras 19 trappers were subsequently convicted of bird

crime, receiving lengthy suspended prison sentences and hefty fines. This action, and other joint actions, have drastically reduced the annual slaughter that has been ongoing for far too many years. Guys' parting



Guy seizing an illegal raptor trap

message was that bird crime in Cyprus affects the health of our bird populations throughout Europe and bird persecution, especially against raptors, also occurs here in Britain - so keep your eyes open and report anything suspicious.

MID-HERTS LOCAL WILDLIFE GROUP EVENTS APRIL 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2018

Venue for all indoor evening events: Howlands Baptist Church, The Commons, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 4RS (adjacent to Commonswood School). Suggested donation £3/5 for members/non-members unless otherwise stated. Families welcome. Please check for pushchair and wheelchair accessibility at outdoor events. Contact: Neale Holmes-Smith 01707 324313 or Penny Fanthorpe 07761712245 penny.fanthorpe@ntlworld.com

PLEASE BOOK ALL EVENTS ONLINE AT: HERTSWILDLIFETRUST.ORG.UK/EVENTS

Sunday 6 May | 10am

Stotfold Nature Reserve

BEDFORDSHIRE

Meet 10am Mill Lane, Stotfold, Bedfordshire SG5 4NU
Guided walk around this eight acre plantation of native trees, hedges and a wildflower meadow. There is a lovely one mile walk with a wide grass path which ambles through the meadows and along the riverside. Optional lunch and afternoon at Jordans Mill (self-guide).

Friday 29 June | 9.30pm - 12am

The Mystical World of Moths

DANEMEAD

Enjoy the diversity of our mystical world of Moths with local expert Graeme Smith at our HMWT Danemead Reserve part of the Wormley-Hoddesdonpark Wood SSSI. This wonderful site is home to a vast number of moth species, a surprising number of which are hard to find elsewhere in the County.

Sunday 20 and Monday 21 May 2018

Birding Bonanza

**RSPB LAKENHEATH / WEETING HEATH, SUFFOLK,
NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST ROYDON COMMON /
NWTRUST AND RSPB TITCHWELL.**

The sole aim of this two day itinerary is to provide an opportunity to see some of our rarer British birds including golden orioles, common crane, hobby,

stone curlew, nightjar, bittern and bearded tit. You will need to book your own accommodation for the night of 20.5.18 in Kings Lynn. Further information can be obtained from Neale Holmes Smith.



↖ Bearded tit

Thursday 24 May | 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Rothamsted Research's Park Grass

HARPENDEN

Meet in Rothamsted Main Car Park Entrance, West Common, Harpenden, AL5 2JQ Rothamsted Research's Park Grass long term experiment started in 1856 as an investigation into fertilisers on hay yield and quality. For the next 160 years it has emerged as a unique and fascinating exploration into the ecological consequences of nutrients on grassland species and the soil beneath. Join us for a tour of this unique resource with Dr Jon Storkley. More information on Park Grass can be found on the Rothamsted website.

Sunday 8 July | 10am - 12pm

Stanmore Common Guided Walk

STANMORE COMMON

Join us at 10am for a guided walk with Simon Braidman at Stanmore Common Local Nature Reserve to explore its acid grasslands, ancient woodland and marshes.

Tuesday 24 July | 7pm - 10pm

Mid-Herts Local Wildlife Group AGM

WELWYN

Mid-Herts Local Wildlife Group AGM - 7.00pm at The Cat Survival Trust, 46-52 Codicote Road, Welwyn Herts. AL6 9TU. Everybody welcome to join a short walk and talk viewing snow leopards, jaguars and more. Plus an opportunity to see a state of the art wildlife hide. A short AGM will follow this. Then a pizza oven in the meeting room will be available for use bring own food and utensils. Tea/coffee provided.

Sunday 9 September | 10am - 1pm

Wildlife Safari

WATERFORD HEATH AND MARSH

A very varied 2.5 mile walk to take in the River Beane and Great Mole wood, Meet in the reserve car park on Vicarage Road, Waterford, just east of the railway bridge. Postcode: SG14 3LU Grid ref: TL318150 Booking on line, but further information can be obtained by contacting Neale Holmes-Smith.

Please check the website for our future events at www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/events

