



Welcome to our Autumn/Winter newsletter and events sheet

Hares and fallow deer at Therfield

Ian Cogger

On a bright spring morning eighteen of us gathered on Therfield village green to meet Robin Cole, our guide for the morning.

We then set off with high expectations of seeing hares but none were visible at first, although we did come across a large herd of fallow deer in the distance. Whilst adjusting our binoculars to see the deer we noticed some brown shapes in the field next to them and when these shapes began to move we realised to our delight that they were hares.

As we watched they began to move quickly across the field chasing one another and soon others came into view - I think the final count was eight.

Our only disappointment was that we didn't witness any hares boxing but we were nevertheless delighted to see so many hares in one place especially as some of our party had never see hares in the wild before.



Visit to Greys Farm

Dave Laming

The group spent a great morning with Edward Darling at Greys Farm. Those attending were treated to a guided stroll round this special farm and gazed in awe at the magnificent blaze of colour created by Edward's wildflower meadows packed with poppies, cornflower, coltsfoot, vipers bugloss, sanfoin, knapweed and more stretching hundreds of metres - alive with bees and other pollinating insects.



We saw grey partridge, skylarks, yellowhammers, mistle thrush, numerous lapwings, linnets, goldfinches and fine-looking brown hares bounding across open fields below soaring buzzards, red kites and kestrels sharing the sky with swifts, swallows and more.

Mid-Herts Local Wildlife Group Events - October 2015 - March 2016

Venue for all indoor evening events: Howlands Baptist Church, The Commons, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 4RS. Adjacent to Commonswood School. Donations: £4 for indoor and outdoor events 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

Sunday 11th October - Fungal walk at Panshanger Park

FULLY BOOKED

Sunday 11th October – HMWT Apple Day.

Support your local group with a fun day at Tewin Orchard to celebrate all things apple. Join us from 12.00 noon to 4.30pm at The Pavillion, Upper Green, Tewin, Herts. Full details on the website www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/apple-day

Tuesday 27th October - The Geology of Hertfordshire

Dr Chris Woolston, University of Hertfordshire Lecturer will enlighten us about the ground beneath our feet. Meet 8pm Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required.

Sunday 8th November - Autumn Colours in Heartwood Forest, Sandridge

Meet 10.00am in the car park situated off the B651, the main road that runs from Sandridge to Wheathampstead. The nearest postcode is AL4 9DQ and there is a brown tourist sign pointing into the car park from the main road. No booking required

Tuesday 24th November - The disappearing bee and its life history

David Brown, 15 years a Beekeeper with Hertfordshire Beekeepers Association helps us to understand the importance of these creatures and how we can assist their continued survival. Meet 8pm Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required.

Sunday 27th December – Post Christmas walk at RSPB Ryemeads

Meet 10.00 at this delightful wetland reserve for winter birds beside the River Lee Nr Hoddesdon Postcode: SG12 8JS Grid reference: TL389103 Optional pub lunch in Stanstead Abbots to be arranged on the day. Contact Ian Cogger iancogger@gmail.com or call 07598 758672

Sunday 10th January - Tewin Orchard Work Party

Meet 10.00am - 3.00pm. Reserve on Upper Green Road, Tewin. Pass the cricket ground on the left. Immediately after a bend turn right at sign into Tewin Orchard (TL268155). Bring refreshments.

Sunday 17th January – In search of Hen Harriers - Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire

Car share 9.00am from Campus West Car Park, Welwyn Garden City or meet 10.00am at the visitor centre. This is Europe's most important wetlands which

supports an abundance of wildlife. Entrance £5.50 (free for NT Members), £2.50 car park and approx £5 for petrol. Booking via the HMWT website only. www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on or call 01727 858901

Tuesday 26th January – Birds of Hertfordshire Ken Smith, Chairman of Herts Natural History Society Bird Club and retired RSPB Research Biologist will give an illustrated talk on the changing fortunes of Hertfordshire birds over the past 50 years. His recently published book co-written with Chris Dee, Jack Fearnside and Mike Ilett will be on sale. Meet 8pm Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required

Sunday 14th February - Coach trip to Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Arundel, W Sussex

Its reedbeds and boardwalks are part of a SSSI providing a rich wildlife habitat for water voles and wildfowl. Coach cost £18.50 payable by cheque in advance. Payable on the day - discounted group entrance fee £9.23 adults, £7.34 concessions and £4.63 children under 16 (WWT members free) and £1.50pp for the services of our WWT guide. Coach leaves at 08.30 from the front steps of John Lewis, Welwyn Garden City. Visit www.wwt.org.uk for further information. Booking with Vicky Davies. victoria.davies206@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01707 390064

Tuesday 23rd February – Ashwell Quarry & Quarry Springs HMWT Reserve

Chris James, reserve warden and local Landscape and Ecology Officer will tell us about the long term management of this special place, prior to our planned site visit in May. Meet 8pm Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required.

Sunday 13th March – Fishers Green, Lee Valley wintering birds

Car share 9.30am from Campus West Car Park, Welwyn Garden City or meet 10am in car park Fishers Green, Stubbins Hall Lane Waltham Abbey Essex EN9 2EF Grid Ref TL377032. Booking via the HMWT website only www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on or call 01727 858901.

Tuesday 22nd March – Understanding our Beetles

Trevor James one of Hertfordshire's most respected naturalists, Chairman of the Herts branch of the British Naturalists Assc, Author - Flora of Herts, Special projects archivist Herts Natural History Society and founder member of HMWT will take us into the fascinating underworld of beetles. Love them or hate them they are a vital part of our natural world. Meet 8pm Howlands Baptist Church. No booking required

