

Mid-Herts Local Group



Herts and
Middlesex

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE MID-HERTS LOCAL GROUP OCTOBER 2018 - MARCH 2019



There's something for everyone at the events run by the Mid Herts Local Group! The past six months have been great examples of diversity in our county and beyond. We visited new gems such as Stotfold Watermill & Nature Reserve and Stanmore Common, we inspired and engaged with Wildlife Poetry, we saw the Rose Plume Moth - a county first for 41 years along with 130 other species at Danemead, we explored the 160 year old Park Grass experiment at Rothamsted and finally a 2 day Birding Bonanza in Suffolk & Norfolk where we saw a total of 112 bird species!

All of them have in common passion and enthusiasm - the bread and butter of any volunteer group. This was highlighted at our recent AGM at the Cat's Survival Trust in Codicote, where we saw the beautiful range of rescued captive felines kindly looked after by Dr Terry Moore and his dedicated band of volunteers. The stunning Snow Leopards, Jaguars, Puma

and Lynx (plus many more!) living in the Hertfordshire countryside are a result of illegal trade and folly but Terry's 3,796 hectare reserve in Argentina shows how much a person can do to reverse the damage and help conserve the Jaguarundi, Ocelot, Margay, Puma and Tiger Cats that thrive here.

As we move into the end of this year and the beginning of 2019, the events for the next 6 months

bring seasonal delights and migrating birds at Waterford Heath, Dungeness, London Wetland Centre, and misty mornings at Ashridge to watch fallow deer rutting. This is followed by a range of talks on Hertfordshire's historic orchards and their restoration, hibernating hedgehogs and for a change, maths in biology! Then we welcome in the spring at Panshanger Park with the People and Wildlife Officer Murray Brown.



Waterford Heath Wildlife Sketch by Peter Osborne

MID-HERTS LOCAL GROUP EVENTS OCTOBER 2018 - MARCH 2019

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 Claudia Harflett 07754 145029 and claudia.harflett@gmail.com

BOOK ONLINE AT HERTSWILDLIFETRUST.ORG.UK/EVENTS OR CALL 01727 858 901

Sunday 14 October | 7am - 9am

Deer Rut Walk

ASHRIDGE, NR BERKHAMSTED

Watch the sun rise over the Ashridge Estate, listen to the bellows and clashes of wild fallow deer bucks and hopefully get close to these majestic animals during the rutting season.

Tuesday 23 October | 8pm - 10pm

Orchards in the Landscape

HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

Learn about the history of Hertfordshire's Orchards, their restoration, biodiversity and their future conservation with Professor Tom Williamson (Orchards East Project & UEA).

Sunday 28 October | 10:30am - 5pm

Dungeness Daytrip

RSPB DUNGENESS, KENT

Complete beginners and old hands - all welcome! Join our friendly group and explore this unique shingle coast habitat, watch migratory seabirds and waterfowl, and be sure of seeing some new!

Tuesday 27 November | 8pm - 10pm

Ancient Trees and Woodlands of Britain

HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

Andy Sands, one of Hertfordshire's leading photographers, will lead us in this illustrated talk through the fascinating history of Hertfordshire's forests and woodlands.

Thursday 27 December | 10am - 4pm

Wetland Bird Walk followed by pub lunch

FISHERS GREEN

A winter wetland bird walk through a series of old water-filled gravel pits and extensive reedbeds. Walk includes a couple of bird hides so if you are new to birding come along and our friendly group will help you see them close up! Pub lunch available in Waltham Abbey.

Sunday 13 January | 10am - 3pm

Tewin Orchard Work Party

TEWIN ORCHARD

Annual work party at Tewin Orchard. Meet at the orchard entrance 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 lunch if required. Booking essential with Ian Cogger on 01920 484373 / 07598 758672 or iancogger@gmail.com

Tuesday 22 January | 8pm - 10pm

Coastal Nature Conservation

HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

Come and hear about the diverse range of conservation work that goes on in the stunning landscape surrounding Blakeney Point and Orford Ness, Suffolk. Presented by Dr Stuart Warrington - Nature Conservation and Wildlife Advisor for the National Trust.

Sunday 10 February | 10:30am - 5pm

Winter Wetland Birds

LONDON WETLAND CENTRE

Explore the award-winning London Wetland Centre, perfect for young and old alike! Winter is the best time to see charismatic waterfowl like widgeon, teal and pintail. For transport arrangements - please contact Claudia Harflett. Binoculars available to hire from reserve and MHLG.

Tuesday 26 February | 8pm - 10pm

Helping Herts' Hedgehogs

HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

Learn about the natural history, hibernation & threats to the unassuming hedgehog. Mary Barrow, an expert in hedgehog rescue and care, will advise on what you can do to help and how to deal with vulnerable hedgehogs.

Sunday 10 March | 10:00am - 1pm

Winter Birds and Signs of Spring

PANSHANGER PARK

Take in the history of the former Panshanger House, Orangery and the Great Oak on this easy walk with People and Wildlife Officer Murray Brown. Learn more about wintering birds and look for spring blossoming!

Tuesday 26 March | 8pm - 10pm

Physics + Maths = Biology?

HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

Ever wondered why size is important, why shells have the shape that they do and marvelled at the mechanical efficiency of animal skeletons? Join Professor Alan Davies (University of Herts) for this introductory talk aimed at general audiences of all ages.

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

