

# Mid-Herts Local Group



Herts and  
Middlesex

NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE MID-HERTS LOCAL GROUP - OCTOBER 2019 - MARCH 2020



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## Celebrating 25 Years of MHLG!

We hope you enjoy this our 50th programme since our inception 25 years ago, it's quite a milestone for us having now notched up a total of 574 events. Our committee are all passionate about supporting the Trust's work - contributing over 3,000 volunteer hours and collecting over £10,000 for conservation.

Our memory banks are stacked full of exquisite moments shared with the natural world in all weathers and in diverse locations many of which we or our highly



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valued supporters would not have discovered and relished without the constant drive to seek out all elements of the natural world.

We couldn't begin to summarise the breadth of those venues and experiences so we will have to settle for our 2019 Weekend Birding Bonanza...

The weekend kicked off on a Friday in late April with with a scenic ferry trip to Brownsea Island for the red squirrels. On Saturday morning we enjoyed a drafty stroll around another stunning landscape RSPB Arne for osprey, crossbills and Dartford warbler followed by an afternoon on the cliffs at Durlston Country park in awe of gliding fulmars, diving gannets, nesting razorbills and guillemots plus a lesser whitethroat singing its heart out in the windblown scrub with early spider orchids in the foreground. We loved the park so much we returned the same

evening to be entranced by the stars and planets above with the Wessex Astronomers Club.



©Dave Kjaer

↪ Great bustard

The finale of our weekend was a Sunday roast in a rustic pub followed by a 4WD ride across the Salisbury Plains with the Great Bustard Project watching majestic courting male birds turning themselves inside out as they tried to impress the females - it clearly isn't wasted energy as the project has been a great success. The latest count put the population at over 70 birds not seen in England due to persecution for 131 years. We hope you can join us soon!

*Dave Laming, September 2019*

# MID-HERTS LOCAL WILDLIFE GROUP EVENTS OCTOBER 2019 - MARCH 2020

Suggested donation £3/5 for members/non-members unless otherwise stated. For car sharing, please contact Neale Holmes-Smith 01707 324313 or Claudia Harflett 07754 145029 / claudia.harflett@gmail.com.

**BOOK EVENTS AT: [HERTSWILDLIFETRUST.ORG.UK/EVENTS](http://HERTSWILDLIFETRUST.ORG.UK/EVENTS) OR ON 01727 858 901**

**Sunday 13 October | 10am- 12pm**

## Autumn Colours

### HEARTWOOD FOREST

Casual circular walk exploring the forest's 500,000 saplings which connect ancient bluebell woodland, old hedgerows, meadows and open grassland.

**Tuesday 22 October | 8pm to 10pm**

## 22 Ideas That Saved The Countryside!

### HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

A presentation by Peter Waine, former CPRE chairman, and author of the aforementioned book, reviewed as "a passionate history of our countryside over the past 150 years"

**Sunday 17 November | 10:15am to 1pm**

## (Wild) Cat Survival Trust

### CODICOTE

A guided tour of the Welwyn Cat Survival Trust, including snow leopards and the feeding of massed red kites.

**Tuesday 26 November | 8pm to 10pm**

## Wader Conservation Talk

### HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

A talk by the charity Wader Quest on the beauty and diversity of the waders to be found around the world replete with stunning photos of the birds.

**Friday 27 December | 10am - 4pm**

## Post-Christmas Walk

### COLNE VALLEY

If you are new to birding or just want to burn off some mince pies, come along with our friendly group for a 6-7 mile wetland bird walk, followed by a pub lunch.

**Sunday 12 January | 10am - 3pm**

## Tewin Orchard Work Party

### TEWIN ORCHARD NATURE RESERVE

Come along and lend a hand doing a variety of winter tasks to help care for the orchard.

**Tuesday 28 January | 8pm - 10pm**

## Wildlife Through The Lens

### HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

British Wildlife Photography award-winning Russell Savory presents advice on how to observe animals respectfully and get those amazing shots using camera phones to professional-level DSLRs.

**Sunday 16 February | 10am - 12pm**

## Visit to Maple Lodge

### MAPLE LODGE, RICKMANSWORTH

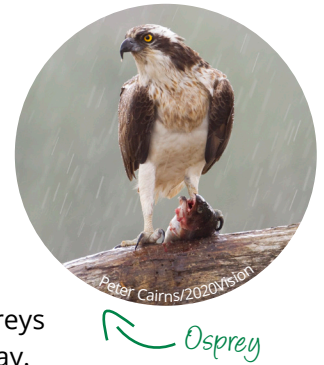
Enjoy a private group tour around one of Hertfordshire's hidden secrets - home to a rich variety of wildlife including waterfowl, woodland birds and bats.

**Tuesday 25 February | 8pm - 10pm**

## Rutland Osprey Project

### HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

After being extinct as a breeding species in England since 1840, ospreys were reintroduced to Rutland Water nature reserve in the 1990s thanks to a pioneering translocation project. Learn about the history of the Rutland Osprey Project, the trials and tribulations of reintroducing ospreys and how the project is faring today.



**Sunday 8 March | 9.30am - 2pm**

## Mystery Bird Walk!

### WELWYN GARDEN CITY

Herts Bird Club will help us make the most of local birdwatching. Using its sightings database we will decide within a radius of 30 mins by car, where we will go today?

**Tuesday 24 March | 8pm - 10pm**

## Hertfordshire's Dragonflies

### HOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH, WELWYN

Roy Woodward, county recorder for dragonflies in Hertfordshire, introduces us to these fascinating insects.

## Expression of interest

We are looking at putting on two longer trips in 2020. If you are interested in either of these day trips, please contact Penny Fanthorpe on 07761712245 or via e-mail: [Penny.fanthorpe@ntlworld.com](mailto:Penny.fanthorpe@ntlworld.com).

**Sun 10th May 2020 (TBC)**

### Knepp Estate, West Sussex

Guided tour of the famous rewilding project.

**Nov/Dec 2020**

### Blakeney Point, Norfolk

Boat trip to see grey seals and their pups.

