

MEMBERS' DAY



Hampshire Ornithological Society

Charity Commission registration number 1042309

Saturday 28th March 2020

at St Swithun's School,
Alresford Rd, Winchester SO21 1HA

11:00 to 17:00



Hampshire Ornithological Society Members' Day

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St Swithun's School (SU499296)
Alresford Rd, Winchester SO21 1HA

Non-members welcome (admission £5)

11.00	Doors open	
	Display stands and trade stalls will be available for viewing	
12.30	Welcome and introduction	Keith Betton HOS Chairman
12.35	HOS AGM	Chris Packham HOS President
	The 41st Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society will be held at 12.35 hours. Only fully paid up members of the Society may vote at the meeting. After the formal business, committee members will be available to answer questions.	
13.15	A Life of Restoring Nature	Roy Dennis
14.00	Hampshire bird studies— Swift, Hawfinch and Wood Warbler	Tim Norriss, Marcus Ward and Tony Davis
14.45	Interval Tea, coffee and cake (and time to chat, view displays etc)	
16.00	The John Taverner Memorial Lecture: Saving Curlews	Mary Colwell
17.00	Chairman's closing remarks	
	Close	

For further information, contact Andy Broadhurst,
Telephone 07941 349002; E-mail: andy@tali.me.uk

Front Cover Photo—Curlew by John Shillitoe

Chairman's Report - 2019

At a time when the word "austerity" is used with great regularity it is heartening to know that the Society's membership is continuing to grow, and we are very pleased to welcome the 143 members who signed up in 2019. We are also grateful to the Cameron Bepolka Trust for continuing their support of our Young Member initiative which has enabled 30 birders under the age of 21 to benefit from free HOS membership. We are also grateful to the HOS members who have given freely of their time to organise special events for these young members and their parents.

We are also thankful to the members who have agreed to run workshops to help others to learn more about bird identification or the understanding of ecology. These have proved hugely popular and most sell out in just a few days. There is a real thirst for more knowledge and it is great that we can call upon experts to share their knowledge and enthusiasm.

As is mentioned elsewhere, HOS was also invited by Forestry England to tender against other organisations to co-ordinate surveys of Woodlarks and breeding waders in the New Forest. I think it is a sign of our ability to mobilize teams of volunteers that we won both contracts. Thank you to everyone who helped to deliver the results in good time, demonstrating the value of citizen science.

We know that protecting valuable bird habitats is high among our members' wishes and we have increased our work in this area, at a time when some conservation organisations have cut back their resources. On the basis that when it has gone it really has gone for ever, we intend to put the case for birds strongly.

Once again the Hampshire Bird Report drew plaudits from many in the birding world. We are lucky to have a great team of contributors whose words and photographs make the difference between success and failure. Similarly the efforts of Barry Page to bring new ideas and designs to our Kingfisher newsletter have been favourably received.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who helps to make the HOS organisation work so smoothly, and in particular the two Sub-committee chairs – Andy Broadhurst and Marcus Ward. Barry Page will replace Andy at the AGM and I am looking forward to hearing his ideas – and I am grateful to Andy for all that he has done. We are also sorry to see John Shillitoe stepping down as the Society's Secretary. Nobody knows HOS better than John, and I doubt that anyone has ever devoted more time to making it work. The exception might be Kay Shillitoe who is our Membership Secretary. If there is a dream team then this is it. John, we are very grateful for all you have done – and it's great that you are

remaining involved in all the other things you do for us. Thank you also to David Brookes for stepping forward to be the next Secretary.

Finally, on behalf of everyone in HOS I'd like to thank Chris Packham for his support as our President. Although his work takes him around the world, Chris's heart is in Hampshire – and it is great that having completed 20 years as our President he is happy to be nominated for a further term in office.

Wherever you are in Hampshire or elsewhere, I wish you good birding in 2020, and hope to see you at one of our events – particularly at our Members' Day on Saturday 28th March.

Keith Betton
Chairman, Hampshire Ornithological Society
December 2019

Scientific Sub-committee – Chairman's report

The core focus of the Scientific Sub-committee is to co-ordinate field survey work in the county to ensure we have a good understanding of distribution and density of the counties avifauna in particular those that are either scarce, declining or difficult to monitor. In addition the committee oversees the grant funding process, conservation issues, the Hampshire Bird Report and record management. Many members of the committee co-ordinate their own survey work on a range of species in the county bringing a wealth of experience to the meetings. In addition, we liaise with organisations such as HBIC, BTO, RSPB, HIWWT, Forestry England and Natural England to ensure that we focus our priorities together to achieve the best outcome.

In 2019 HOS successfully tendered to conduct two surveys with Forestry England, working with HOS members to gather and collate records to produce a comprehensive set of data for Woodlark in the New Forest, breeding waders in the New Forest and the ongoing wintering Hen Harrier survey also in the New Forest. Full write-ups for these surveys will be published in the 2019 Hampshire Bird Report. Funds generated from these surveys will be put back into conservation of Hampshire's bird life via the grant process.

The fieldworkers meeting in February was again very well attended with a diverse range of speakers, we were especially pleased to have some of our youngest members speaking passionately about their experiences with birdlife in Hampshire. The event will take place again in 2020 but pushed back to November, full details will be published in the summer

edition of Kingfisher.

Thanks to funding from HBIC, HOS hosted a well-attended recorders meeting in November to promote the importance of recording and reporting records.

The committee again received a number of high quality grant applications again this year and awarded a total of £7380 supporting three deserving projects, Hawfinch tracking in the New Forest using GPS technology, tracking our breeding Curlew also using GPS technology and habitat management at Hazeley Heath RSPB to improve the environment for heathland breeding species.

2020 is shaping up to be another busy one, plans are in full swing for a survey of breeding Snipe in the New Forest to complement data collected on breeding waders in 2019. HOS will also be coordinating a repeat survey of Willow Tit in Hampshire and plans are underway to survey breeding Ringed Plover. HOS will also be working with partners to support fieldwork for a range of key species such as Wood Warbler, Curlew, Nightingale, Hawfinch and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. In addition to supporting ongoing surveys such as the New Forest Winter Bird Survey, Wintering Hen Harriers plus supporting BTO with their BBS, WeBS, Heronry and the upcoming Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows Survey. As always we welcome volunteers for any of the surveys mentioned above, please do get in contact if you would like to get involved.

HOS will again be accepting applications for grants in 2020, so if you are working on projects studying or conserving birdlife in Hampshire the deadline for applications will be 30th September. Full details are available from the HOS website.

We have again had a few personnel changes; I would like to thank Olly Frampton for his work as secretary and welcome in Andrew Colenutt who has taken over the role from September. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following members that have served on the committee this year; Mike Armitage, Keith Betton, Andy Broadhurst, Ryan Burrell, Mike Chalmers, John Clark, Rob Clements, Trevor Codlin, Andrew Colenutt, Alison Cross, Tony Davis, Glynne Evans, Olly Frampton, Andy Lester, Andy Page, Barry Page, John Shillitoe and Ken Smith

Marcus Ward
Chairman, Scientific Sub-Committee
December 2019

Membership Sub-committee Chairman's Report

At the end of December 2019, there were over 2,000 members of the Society at 1,359 addresses with 143 new members joining during the year, slightly down on last year (164). For the first time in a number of years the annual HOS subscription has been increased to £16 and Kay Shillitoe, our Membership Secretary, is anticipating a busy January as all repeat subscriptions rely on members informing their banks of the increased annual fees. Your assistance in facilitating implementation of the new subscription will be greatly appreciated. Investigations are on-going to determine whether it will be possible to switch subscriptions to direct debit rather than standing orders, a change which would greatly simplify adjustments in future years.

Members' Day on 7th April 2019 was a great success. There were approximately 280 attendees present to hear fantastic talks by Jenny Gill on Black-tailed Godwits, Tim Mackrill (from Roy Dennis's team) on their work reintroducing rare species and, notably, Ian Newton who was able to present the John Taverner Memorial Lecture on "Bird Migration" on the second time of asking, following his last minute withdrawal due to health reasons in 2018. A special mention must be made to Jane McDowell who stepped in with typical good humour and insight to brilliantly manage and co-ordinate this event on the day. Thanks are also due to the many volunteers who offered their time to ensure our flagship meeting ran efficiently.

Our quarterly newsletter 'Kingfisher' has gone from strength to strength under the editorship of Barry Page who has introduced a number of innovative ideas such as interviews and a number of regular features, all of which are proving very popular.

Approximately 50 walks were held during the year with the programme coordinated by Alex Barker. We would like to acknowledge the on-going contribution of the walk leaders in giving up their time in order to share their enthusiasm and birding skills with the participants. We are always looking for volunteers to add variety to the walks currently on offer. In addition to co-ordinating the programme, Alex has also been looking at how the walks programme could be expanded or modified in order to offer more options to a greater number of HOS members and she has initiated this in the last copy of Kingfisher, requesting feedback from HOS members on the walks programme. This will be developed further in 2020.

HOS has been involved in a number of events and activities over the year and we were able to unveil our new HOS banners and activities designed to draw people to our display stand. The popular BirdTrail, run in conjunction with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and the Nature Festival at Gilbert White's House, Selborne both took part in May. HOS was also present at the Roydon Woods Woodfair in June and the early autumn HIWWT event at Keyhaven, in September. Our final appearance in 2019 was at the Rural Crime Event in Sparsholt. The time and effort contributed by all committee members to these activities is significant and without their commitment and dedication your society would be far less able to interact with the wider community. We are looking to increase the number of people who can assist in the running of this programme.

Our sales team, led by Bryan and Sandy Coates, have had another busy year, with over £2,200 of income, comprising £469 (clothing) and the remainder from publications, including a remarkable 70 atlases and the sale of second-hand books. The Visitor Centre at Titchfield Haven remains a major sales outlet for our publications.

I would like to thank the following committee members, Alex Barker, Ted Barnes, Patricia Brown, Sandy & Bryan Coates, Jane McDowell, Dave & Linda Munday, Barry Page and Kay Shillitoe for their hard work throughout the year.

Andy Broadhurst
Chairman, Membership Sub-committee
 December 2019

Hampshire Ornithological Society AGM Agenda

The 41st Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society will be held on Saturday, 28th March 2020 during the Members' Day at St Swithun's School, Winchester

The formal AGM proceedings will commence at 12:35. Only fully paid-up members of the Society may vote at the meeting.

AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the Fortieth Annual General Meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Report by the Chair of the Society.

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Accounts.
 (Copies of the accounts will be available at the AGM but they can be obtained in advance by applying to Andy Mitchelmore or from the HOS website www.hos.org.uk).

6. Re-election of Society President, Chris Packham

7. Election of Officers. The Management Committee commends the following:

Chair	Keith Betton
Honorary Secretary	David Brookes
Honorary Treasurer	Andy Mitchelmore
Chair, Scientific Sub-committee	Marcus Ward
Secretary, Scientific Sub-committee	Andrew Colenutt
Chair, Membership Sub-committee	Barry Page
County Recorder	Keith Betton
Editor of Bird Report	Mike Chalmers
Conservation Liaison Officer	Andy Lester
Kingfisher Editor	Barry Page
Membership Secretary	Kay Shillitoe

Ordinary Members of the Management Committee:

Annette Clayson, Nicky Court, Julianne Evans, Tom Jordan and Nicola Whitmarsh.

Co-opted Ordinary Members of the Management committee:

None

In accordance with Rule 3b(iv): Any other nominations for Officers and Members of the Management Committee must be in writing and must reach the Honorary Secretary not later than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. Nominations must be accompanied by the written consent of the nominees.

Other positions which are not elected posts on the Management

Committee:

Outdoor Meetings co-ordinator – Alex Barker
Sales Officer – Sandy & Bryan Coates

8. Rule change

Current

4b) Misconduct

i) If any member shall be guilty of conduct, which in the opinion of the Management Committee, is contrary to the interests of the Society or injurious to its reputation, that person shall be liable to expulsion by resolution of an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting provided that, at least seven days before such meeting, he/she shall have had notice thereof and the allegations made against him/her, and of the intended passing of the resolution and that he/she shall at such meeting and before the passing of the resolution have had an opportunity of giving orally or in writing any defence he/she may think fit. A notice under this rule shall be held to have been duly given if sent by prepaid post to the address of the member appearing in the Society's books.

Proposed Revision

4b) Misconduct

i) If any member shall be guilty of conduct, which in the opinion of the Management Committee, is contrary to the interests of the Society or injurious to its reputation, that person shall be liable to expulsion from the Society. This will be by resolution of a meeting of the Management Committee. This may be one of the regular meetings of the Management Committee or one especially arranged, if a matter of urgency. The member will be given at least fourteen day's notice of the meeting and will be presented in writing with the allegations and of the intended passing of the resolution. The member shall have the opportunity of attending the meeting, accompanied by one other person, if he/she wants and, before passing of any resolution, have an opportunity of giving orally or in writing any defence he/she may think fit.

9. Any Other Business.

The Secretary would appreciate advance notice of any matter to be raised under this item.

10. President's Address

Minutes of the fortieth Annual General Meeting

of the Hampshire Ornithological Society, held at the St Swithun's School,
Winchester on Sunday 7th April 2019.

The meeting was held at 12:35 during the Hampshire Ornithological Society Members' Day. The HOS Chairman Keith Betton chaired the AGM.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris & Jo Drew, Sue Lambert, Richard Coomber, Rosemary Billett and Chris Packham.

2. Minutes from the Thirty ninth Annual General Meeting (24th March, 2018)

The minutes were accepted. Proposed by Ted Barnes and seconded by Jonathan Mycock.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Keith Betton opened the meeting by welcoming more than 20 young members who had joined HOS. Their membership was kindly funded by the Cameron Bepolka Trust. We previously only had one Junior Member – Tommy Saunders – and Keith acknowledged his efforts in recruiting many of these new members.

On a sad note, Keith reported the recent deaths of four of our HOS Life Members – Michael Bryant, Ralph Cook, Norman Pratt and John Wood – and one of Hampshire's best known birders, Ron "Chunky" King.

Keith reported that HOS is now one of the largest bird clubs in the country, with 164 new members in 2018. With the very welcome arrival of younger members, there had been events arranged especially for them. These included Bird Camp in conjunction with Wild New Forest, a ringing session and the forthcoming Bird Trail in conjunction with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Two major surveys had been undertaken in 2018, for Nightingales and Dartford Warblers. Keith thanked all the surveyors and in particular the survey organisers Trevor Codlin and Rob Clements. Coverage was good, but maybe unsurprisingly, the results showed population declines. HOS has taken on co-ordination of farmland surveys for local farmers and the RSPB. Keith invited volunteers to help with this effort. For 2019 and 2020, HOS has won contracts to survey Hen Harriers, Woodlark and breeding waders in the New Forest. This will bring in £35k for HOS Conservation and Scientific funds.

The Conservation and Scientific funds had been used in 2018 to provide grants to support projects involving Curlew and Hawfinch tracking, Swift nest boxes and habitat improvements at the HIWWT reserve at Roydon Woods. Further money will be made available to suitable projects in 2019.

A recent popular innovation for HOS has been the introduction of courses for members wishing to improve their birding skills. Courses so far have included bird song, wader, gull and raptor identification, ornithology basics and bird photography. Members were charged £10 to attend. Non-members were welcome and their £22 fee included HOS membership for the year.

5. Treasurer's Report

The HOS Treasurer, Andy Mitchelmore presented the 2018 accounts. These had also been made available on the HOS website. The accounts were shown, as usual, on a receipts and payments basis. Receipts totaled £29,840.20 and expenditure was £29,354.09, giving an excess of £486.11 for the year.

Receipts for 2018 showed a positive trend and were up in all areas compared to 2017, except data sales. Andy pointed out that not all of the grants made in 2018 had actually been claimed to date. Also, because of timing of the invoices, the accounts for 2017 did not include an insurance payment in that year. This was actually paid in 2018, along with the 2018 insurance.

Andy thanked HOS member Ian Packer, who is a chartered accountant, for acting as our Independent Examiner – at no cost to the Society.

The accounts were proposed by Brian Sharkey, seconded by Keith Metcalf and accepted by the members present.

6. Election of Officers

The list of Officers presented for election was included in the papers for the AGM, which were sent to all members, six weeks prior to the meeting. Keith thanked the outgoing members of the committee for their support – Olly Frampton, Jonathan Mycock, Dan Hoare, Mary Macmillan and Phil Budd.

He pointed out that the printed list was updated to show Olly Frampton standing down as Secretary of the Scientific Committee. A new volunteer would be very welcome. The list of Officers for the next year, who are Trustees of the Society, is as follows: Keith Betton (Chair), John Shillitoe (Honorary Secretary), Andy Mitchelmore (Honorary Treasurer), Marcus Ward, Andy Broadhurst, Keith Betton (also County Recorder), Mike Chalmers, Andy Lester, Barry Page, Kay Shillitoe, Nicky Court, Alison Cross, David Brookes, Julianne Evans and Tom Jordan.

Proposed by Phil Budd, seconded by Mike Wearing and accepted by the members present.

7. Any Other Business

There was a question on whether HOS provides any training on Living Record. Keith pointed out that most records are submitted on the BTO BirdTrack app/website, Goingbirding website and Excel spreadsheets, but that Living Record input is accepted as well and will be used for farmland surveys.

Keith was delighted to tell the meeting that the Management Committee had proposed Ted Barnes as a Life Member of HOS. In his role of meeting organizer, he has probably met more HOS members than anyone else in the society. This was seconded by Ian Julian and accepted by members.

There being no other business, the formal part of the Annual General Meeting was closed at 12:55.

8. President's Address

Our President, Chris Packham was unable to attend the meeting.

John Shillitoe
Honorary Secretary
June, 2019



How to get to Members' Day



Route 64 buses to St Swithuns—on a Saturday, they are half hourly and go from Winchester Broadway at 15 and 45 mins past the hour.

Photo credit: