



Newsletter - Jan/Feb 2020

Events Diary

Presidents Walk – Roger’s Ramble Thursday 6th February. 10.00am start. 2-2½ hours

This will be a circular morning walk starting and finishing at the Blue Ship, The Haven, Billingshurst <http://www.theblueship.co.uk/>. Easy going, but may be muddy in places. There will be some road. Well behaved dogs welcome. Lunches available at the Blue Ship. Park in front of the pub if you have lunch/drink, otherwise opposite. Please email Roger (email on last page) if you will be attending, so we can wait for you if you are a shade late. Phone 07976 306492 if you are unable to make it on the day. There may be some interesting things to see, so bring the usual kit. Please bring as many friends as you wish.

Winter Meetings All start promptly at 7.30pm on Mondays in the Wesley Hall, London Road, Horsham, RH12 1AN

6th Jan.

HNHS have walked around various places near to Horsham on summer evenings for many years. This is the first time we are reporting what we have seen to the general membership in the hope of tempting members to take part and encourage potential members to the society.

Who knows at the time of writing what treats there will be? In previous years we have seen some wonderful dragonflies, rare flowers and visited some interesting places. JOSIE ALLEN and SU REED will show and describe what was seen during the 2019 walks in "**The Monday Evening Summer Walks**"

(Chairman Roger Mason)

13th Jan.

The main natural history interest of HNHS member JOHN RICHARDSON is birds, often from far away places that many of us will never have the opportunity to visit. He usually includes other subjects to give us a flavour of his many travels. "**Around the World in 80 Birds - and More**" is his chosen title this evening, the "...and more" may well include some of his usual surprises.

(Chairman Su Reed)

20th Jan.

JACQUI MIDDLETON. "**Nordic Montane Ecology**"

Winter Meeting Secretary's note:-

Jan/Feb 2020

In asking speakers for abstracts I am presented with a wide variety. I can copy and paste some without alteration, some are several hundred words long that I edit into something much shorter, often by removing what has nothing to do with the topic, others I am given nothing and told something like ".....you know me - make it up yourself"! Some of our speakers are very busy and interesting people. As an example I share Jacqui Middleton's abstract as I think shows that despite a very busy and interesting life, she can still find time to speak to others about her interests, so I have left it as received. *Roger*.

I am employed as an Open University Associate Lecturer on five environmental science/studies modules (across all undergraduate levels from entry to final year modules, with final year modules being my speciality). I work from home and, apart from the ninety students I look after, I also look after a busy husband (Bruce, who you know!) and our daughter Isabelle, a dog, cat, an Icelandic pony (brought over from my time in Iceland) and a good number of bee colonies (11 at present and building!).

This is a slide show about how I got into all things Nordic, and some of the ecology that goes with it. We will travel from Abisko in Arctic Sweden, where I developed this infatuation, when I was an undergraduate in the 1980s. Then to the glaciers of south-central Norway, where I studied for my PhD, and then Iceland, another love of mine, where I lived for eight years. Finally, we will end with a recent trip (2018) back to Sweden – this time to south-central Sweden. The plan for my presentation is to present some of the ecology through my research and ecological interests.

(Chairman Roger Patterson)

27th Jan.

TOM SIMPSON is the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership Officer. His work mainly focuses on managing for biodiversity at two sites around Gatwick Airport, where there is a surprising variety of habitats and associated wildlife that he will tell us about in "**Gatwick Biodiversity**".

(Chairman Roger Mason)

3rd Feb.

IAN CURRIE is a local weatherman who has made several previous visits to HNHS. He operates the weather website Frosted Earth <http://www.frostedearth.co.uk/> and offers several weather related services to industry and individuals. This evening Ian will tell us about "**The Wonderful World of Clouds**".

(Chairman Roger Patterson)

10th Feb.

"**The Two Rogers**" is the long running favourite that will show members what was seen on the 2019 "Field Meetings". Photographs will be selected from the several hundreds that were taken by attendees. ROGER MASON will name and describe what was seen and ROGER PATTERSON will put the programme together (if he has time!). We regularly see things that are unexpected, perhaps in the wrong place or out of season. There may be some repetition of species, but they are shown to indicate they may tolerate different soil types/conditions or have an extended season. There are usually some surprises.

(Chairman Josie Allen)

17th Feb.

IAN RUMLEY-DAWSON is a freelance wildlife photographer, lecturer and course leader who has travelled to many parts of Britain, Europe and other more remote regions of the world, to study and record animals in the wild. This evening he is close to home with the topic of deer.

In parts of Britain, deer are very abundant, but have become extremely wary because they have been so extensively hunted during the last few hundred years. Their three main senses of scent, sight and hearing are extremely acute, which may sometimes make it quite difficult to watch these secretive animals. However, with a lot of patience, experience and some careful stalking, they can be easily seen and studied in some deer parks, as well as in Britain's wilder countryside. This lecture, "**Deer in Britain**", will show how to identify the different species and will describe their annual cycle of life and antler development.

(Chairman Roger Mason)

24th Feb.

The speaker this evening is ROGER PATTERSON who first joined HNHS in the 1970s. He was born and brought up in the area and has lived and worked there all his life. An engineer by trade, Roger has always been involved with the land. As well as being a well-known beekeeper, he has been involved with farming, fruit growing, hedge laying, coppicing, timber cutting, etc.

When time allows he likes to walk in the company of his dogs and anyone else who doesn't mind stopping to look at or photograph something interesting, even though he may not know what it is. He has had a lifetime close to nature, where his keen eye is often able to spot something different that others may miss.

Sussex is very diverse with plenty to see. As well as nature "**A Few Observations of Sussex**" will probably cover a few of the people, places and history that are part of the county. This lecture was postponed from the last winter programme.

(Chairman Josie Allen)

Winter Meeting Reports

"Highlights of 2018/19"

Josie Allen. 21st October

Unfortunately no one took any notes during Josie's talk but she has submitted a photo of the Early Spider Orchid. Josie visited Castle Hill NNR on two occasions over 2018/19 - both times to view Early Spider Orchids.



"The Reptiles of Sussex"

Tom Forward. 28th October

There are only six reptile species in the UK which seems rather few as there are 151 species in Europe as a whole. So we have less than 4% of the total. France numbers about thirty but Denmark only five, the same ones as ours, excepting the smooth snake.

And here's the hint to the answer: - top to bottom, there are many more species the further south you look, with the highest concentration in the Balkans.

And here's the second part of the answer: - temperature.

The normal functioning temperature of animals is 25 to 32 degrees Celsius and most animals generate their own heat. The outer limbs can tolerate a wide range of temperature without lasting injury though with real discomfort as we know on a winter's day; the inner organs are a different matter. Here the range is limited to a few degrees either side of normal or disabling effects are suffered. Reptiles usually have to absorb heat from the sun or radiated heat from their surroundings, hence we often come across them basking in the summer's rays or squatting under warmed surfaces.

This looks an idyllic existence, just lolling in the sun all day, snatching a passing insect or two and generally snoozing away the day.

All is not as it seems.

The creature is dependent upon taking up enough warmth to be really active, otherwise it's torpid and vulnerable. Lying in the open is a clear invitation to predators to seize an easy meal and the fact that reptiles are relatively rare in Britain is in part due to the long time spent basking in a weak sun: even the high reproductive rate of the grass snake, for example, which can lay forty young at a time, isn't sufficient to offset the vulnerabilities of its lifestyle.

The story gets worse. Britain has long and dismal winters so hibernation is obligatory for many reptiles. This adds greater pressure to exploit summer's abundance and store up fat for the months of sleep. Of course, any sleeping reptile which is unlucky enough to be found in winter is unable to escape because of its low body temperature and will be rapidly dispatched by the hunter.

Given all this, the average survival rate of reptiles must be very short. Only a small percentage of any brood will survive their first few months and even fewer their first few years. Some take quite a while to mature; adders, for example, take three to four years. Their life expectancy is up to 10 years, though I doubt many reach more than half that.

A sand lizard matches that life expectancy while smooth snakes can double it to twenty years. The best recording yet for longevity is for a slow worm which lived into its fifties in captivity. Captivity is such an artificial existence that we can hardly draw any reliable conclusions from it for life expectancy in the wild. Without predators, with abundant food and protection from the elements the natural span is at least doubled if not tripled.

Reptiles cut short the natural span of those they prey upon, mainly insects, spiders and small mammals. Fledglings are also common prey and reptiles will feed on each other, lizards being commonly hunted by snakes. They form an important part of the food chain, seeing that they themselves are preyed upon by many other creatures, most notable birds.

Given the mobility of the desired prey and the relative slowness of reptiles until close to their victims, one can see how some developed venomous fangs as a means of disabling injured prey. Once bitten, the prey may escape the first attack but it will be pursued until it collapses from the poison and then be eaten by the attacker.

So why don't adders poison themselves when they eat poisoned prey?

Could you eat an adder, poison gland and all, and expect to survive?

The answer is yes, quite easily.

Snake venom is a form of protein and is digestible by others without harm. Hence the adder doesn't die from eating its own prey. The real harm is done by the proteins getting into the bloodstream undigested. There they are truly deadly, just as the products of your own pancreas would poison you if they leaked into your bloodstream, rather than being ejected into the digestive tract.

Can common lizards have two tails?

Yes, on rare occasions. A common lizard caught by the tail will detach it and re-grow another (shorter) one from the stump. Sometimes the original attack fails to detach the tail completely but does prompt a re-growth. So some lizards sport two tails.

Could you find a hundred eggs from grass snakes?

Yes, grass snakes will search out the best location to lay and if there is a singularly favourable place several will lay together, yielding over a hundred eggs in one spot. The female will travel up to two kilometres to such a desirable area, and the young are born in a sticky pile of eggs which will take up to two months to hatch. Like birds, the young have an egg tooth, later discarded, to chip out of the egg.

Are we grateful to Tom Forward for prompting these reflections?

We certainly are. Thank-you Tom.

Oliver Farley

"Woodland from the Equator to the Arctic"

Simon Davey. 4th November

Simon took us on a global journey this evening all around the world viewing forests. We ventured into the dark Amazon and off to the Galapagos. We stopped in Costa Rica and wandered to the Canaries; we purveyed the Mediterranean, surveyed France and wound slowly to Britain only to leave for Spitzbergen and Iceland.

In Iceland we found the smallest or perhaps the lowest forests; tiny dwarf birch, no better than knee high and struggling to survive the bitter cold of that aptly named region.

By contrast, in the Amazon we must have seen the tallest of trees -- at least collectively, judging from the giddy heights of the walk-ways high over the misty canopy of this ocean of trees.

Each forest was a huge living organ, a host to teeming life in its amazing diversity, and everything interacting daily in balance with each other,

Simon called the forests "...the world's lungs" and we were reminded of that volume of so long ago, *The Ages of Gaia* by James Lovelock. It was first published in 1988 and both Lovelock and Lynn Margulis were revolutionary promoters of a new idea at the time. Their idea gained ground, urged on by other publications such as *The Symbiotic Planet* by Lynn Margulis in 1999. Margulis' last chapter in this book is entitled 'Gaia'

Their idea is a simple concept -- simple, yet convincing.

Gaia is the ancient goddess of the earth and the authors adapted the term to support the view that the whole earth can be seen as an inter-active single living being, with inter-dependent parts and feedback loops from one feature to another, altering and reacting with one another, to form the evolving cell of the earth. No one part is independent of the others over the long term; and the continued presence of each segment implies (temporary) evolutionary success.

That includes us.

And the forests.

With this in mind, let's take up Simon's phrase that forests are lungs and imagine the earth as a body. We could call mountain ranges the bones, the seas are bodily liquids, forests are the lungs and the molten interior is a furnace for a heart.

Accepting this metaphor, our earthly body deserves more respect than it has received in the last century or so.

Forests today cover 30% of the land surface of the earth or about 4 billion hectares (approximately 15 million square miles).

That's down a third from the pre-industrial age total of 5.9 billion.

Where has lost, where has gained?

The Amazon covers 570 million square hectares and is the largest concentration of dense tropical rain forest in the world. Since 1970 20% of it has disappeared which is an alarming decline. The Amazon holds 10% of the world's biodiversity and accounts for 15% of its fresh water; we destroy it at our peril. The rate of destruction slowed in recent years but reports of late claim that mass demolition has surged again this very year, fuelled by efforts to grapple with Brazil's perpetual economic problems and altered perspectives on environmental priorities.

Yet a study of satellite data over the last thirty-six years by a group at the University of Maryland shows a more encouraging picture for the global scene. The area of the world covered by trees has risen by 7% in that time, mainly in Europe and North America. We recall that the largest extent of forest cover is the Taiga or the northern woodlands all across Europe, Asia and North America, and this is where most of the extra tree cover is to be found. The story is one of tropical loss offset by temperate climate gain.

Should we therefore be more relaxed about our lungs of green forest?

We might perhaps be more sanguine than those who see immediate peril ahead but relaxation is too casual to be acceptable.

The fact that more trees are appearing in the northern hemisphere is both welcome and yet a warning in itself. Trees are growing now where they never did in centuries past because global warming has opened an opportunity for them. Further, the range of biodiversity in the tropics is far greater than in cooler climes so the losses near the equator are far more serious than the smaller positive gains elsewhere.

As with so many of the irritating puzzles about the natural world we live in, nothing is straightforward and too little heed is paid to the longer term consequences of today's actions. A schoolgirl is shrilly reminding us that we damage the world at the cost of her generation's future and for all her immature years she's right to demand answers from her supposedly responsible seniors.

After all, when forests are cut down we know what follows.

Deserts.

Oliver Farley

"Spiders of Sussex"

Graeme Lyons. 11th November

Is this the year of the spider?

A diamond spider brooch has played a part in national politics this year, with a symbolism much commented upon.

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For Graeme this certainly is the year of the spider, or as many of the 683 UK species as he can find, because he accepted the challenge from a Devon colleague to find and identify all the British spiders in a twelve-month period. Note the inclusion of identification in the task. Spiders are not easy to tell apart or to be sure of gender, so microscopes are employed and specialists consulted. This essential research all adds to the time taken to capture the entire range.

Capturing the range is an uneven and complicated task, both in terms of their geographical distribution and their frequency in the historical record. The further south the more species because spiders prefer warmth, while the historic sightings are patchy and spread over a century or more.

Graeme showed us several distribution maps with only two or three tetrads filled in, and claimed with justifiable satisfaction to have found species not otherwise recorded since 1908.

This gives rise to a small doubt in the minds of some listeners, based upon the reasonable suspicion that rarities not seen for a century and suddenly found again may well reflect more the endeavour of looking for the species rather than the species' rarity.

How often and how intensely are spiders surveyed?

Arachnid specialists must be rare and overworked, so it's more than likely that many species exist in natural abundance but evade attention. Graeme assured us that the field is adequately covered but his own evidence could point to the opposite supposition.

He illustrated his couple of hours with clear images of numerous spiders, few of which have common names, and many of which were new to his audience. Perhaps two or three of the audience, including the polymath Roger Mason, recognised the samples, though for the rest of us this was a venture into an undiscovered miniature world. Naturally, we thank Graeme for acting as our guide into the unknown, and will pay more respect to the octopeds, if we may coin such a neologism, in our houses in future.

Oliver Farley

"An Entomological Year with my Camera"

Su Reed. 18th November

After a commendably short AGM, Su took the floor and treated us to a spectacular display of beautiful insects, thanks to her expertise with a camera. First we saw the indomitable bumblebee, which will take nectar from a snowdrop even in the snow, and even when covered in mites.

The year started properly in March when Su set up her beloved moth trap to see what was flying at night. Exotically named moths followed one after the other and we learned that the peppered moth, which changed to a melanic form during the Industrial Revolution, so as to be better camouflaged against the darkened tree barks, is now much paler again. Shield bugs are also out and about in March, but in their duller, winter colours. Later in the year their legs and antennae shine out to attract mates. Peacock butterflies are on the wing, also Brimstones and Commas. The Commas have overwintered and are darker with a more marked scalloped edge than the summer brood. Ladybirds are venturing out from their massed winter dormitories.

With April, spring comes and is marked for Su by her first sighting of the fluffy little bee fly. Hover flies and bluebottles are about, and St. Mark's flies which, appropriately, appear on St Mark's day, April 25th. Orange tip butterflies have emerged from their pupae, and again there are a myriad of moths beautifully camouflaged to avoid predation. Identification can be hard, especially when members of the public mistake Su's intentions with her sweep net. We saw the hairy footed flower bee, which, though harmless, alarmed the school gardening club.

May was the last month detailed by Su, and her favourite. She showed us a variety of bees, including the cuckoo bee which lays its eggs within a colony of other bumblebees so that the hatchlings can eat their eggs. We saw some lovely butterflies, including the rare Duke of Burgundy and the numerous Wood Whites, all photographed by Su herself this year. Though most photos were taken locally, we saw a magnificent Swallowtail, found in Norfolk. Again, there were many moths, both day and night flying. Beetles and weevils were scuttling, drawing in their antennae and legs (the tortoise beetle) or rolling up leaves (the leaf-rolling weevil). Su actually found a stag beetle on the outside of her moth trap. Lovely Damsel flies and Chasers abound and wonderfully patterned shield bugs crawl over their specific plant species.

This was a feast for the eyes and much appreciation goes to Su for her dedication, patience and skill in photographing some of the most elusive creatures which inhabit our countryside and gardens.

Sally Neely

“Medmerry Reserve – 5 years on...”

Steve Webster. 25th November

King Canute Vindicated

Steve had talked to us before so we knew to expect a lively evening, and this occasion was a bit special because he was going to tell us about his very own reserve five years on.

Medmerry Reserve is below Chichester and is flanked by Pagham harbour to the east; it measures 1,213 acres and it cost £26million to convert it to its present state. That's an awful lot of money to spend on a reserve but it's much more than a reserve. It's a prototype for sea defences, and not only defences in Britain but also abroad. It has aroused interest by the French, Chinese visitors have come three times and the greatest accolade is that even those masters of coastal control, the Dutch, have shown keen appreciation for how it's build and what it's done.

Start at the beginning. No, Steve isn't really a Canute, and Canute didn't manage to hold back the sea. Nor did the coast line in question in 2008 when flooding caused £5million of damage.

The real problem is the low lying land along the Sussex coast and its vulnerability to marine invasion and erosion. If world temperatures were to rise by 4 degrees Celsius -- a possible though upper forecast for global warming -- then all the land south of the A27 will be flooded. Cities, towns and villages, farms, orchards and gardens will all be lost to the sea.

A sea wall seems the obvious solution. But made of what and how high and how expensive?

The clever answer we were asked to consider this Monday was not a latter day wall of Jericho but an ingenious way to let the sea partly have its way at the price of defending everywhere else.

Deep pits were dug, whole lagoons created, and the spoil was used to erect a sea wall, 7 kilometres long in a wide loop. Between the ends of the loop, which faced the sea and are strengthened by 600 tonnes of rock, is a deliberate breach to allow the sea ingress. The tide moves in through sluice gates into the excavated land; so too from the other direction does excess fresh water from rain storms. The pits hold the lot and when the tide goes out, the sluice gates open and out flows the surplus.

Naturally this involved the loss of some open green land initially as construction proceeded. Now that it's finished, there is as much open land as there was at the beginning, and more space for birds and wildlife. Nesting pairs of avocets, skylarks, redshanks and yellowhammers have all established themselves, and a triumphant quantity of linnets have appeared: 1,240 on one sighting.

32 species of fish, and 15 species of molluscs have joined dozens of bottom feeders to give variety -- and food -- to the lagoons.

It all adds up to a spectacularly successful project, one which both Sussex and Steve can be proud of. Can it be grossed up to defend the longer coast? Can whole towns and settlements be saved by judicious channelling of the tides?

We can't rightly say at the moment but Steve and his reserve may well have shown the way.

Oliver Farley

Chesworth Farm



Figure 1: Horse Mushroom

The farm's recent fungi count has reflected the capricious weather over the autumn, with arguably more sightings on its borders. First sightings on our fields proper were almost inevitably, the Parasols (*Macrolepiota procera*) followed closely by a few Horse Mushrooms (*Agaricus arvensis*) and plenty of Field Blewits (*Lepista saeva*).

An unusual protozoan, appropriately called Dog's Vomit slime mould (*Mucilago crustacea*), was found in a number of the fields, creeping

its way over a range of grasses. This single-celled organism, interestingly, moves. It may even have the ability to navigate its way over the grasses on which it is found. Like fungi it reproduces by spores.

However, later in the season a range of different fungi appeared and, in some ways, proved to be more exciting. Hairy Curtain Crust (*Stereum hirsutum*), Peeling Oysterling (*Crepidotus mollis*), Deceiver (*Laccartia laccata*), the beautifully-named Sordid Blewit (*Lepista sordida*), and a Wood Blewit (*Lepista nuda*), curiously found in grass on this occasion. *With thanks to Jonathan Simons for confirming identification.*

Perhaps more reliable have been the sightings of Redwings (*Turdus iliacus*) and Fieldfares (*T. pilaris*), as they are always popular winter visitors to the farm. These take the fruits from most of the farm's hedgerows, our sloes and haws. Of course, the windfalls in the orchard are always a favourite with all the migrant thrushes including what might well be some visiting continental Blackbirds (*T. merula*). It is often said that the males of these winter migrants are easily picked out as they always show much darker bills compared to "our" resident birds. Keep a good look out throughout these feeding flocks for all our overseas visitors, there is always something different!

Tim Thomas

"Cattlestone Cameos"

We have the usual winter invasion of Wood pigeons. Buzzards are seen daily.

Myxomatosis is currently affecting the rabbit population.

Two Ravens seen flying over our fields enjoying the wind, tumbling over each other. Another raven 'croaking' in a tree in the garden.

Many Fieldfares and Redwings.



Figure 2: Dog's Vomit slime mould

The white doves, which are usually in Jan's barn, have disappeared, the probable reason being a fresh Barn owl pellet found on the site.

When walking dogs around the farm Woodcocks are often put up. Some years ago, after a considerable fall of snow, a Woodcock flew into our white washing line and killed itself. We sent its leg ring in and later learned that it had been ringed in Sweden.

We have many birds visiting our gardens, currently lots of Great tits, Blue tits, Coal tits, Long-Tailed tits, Marsh tits, Nuthatches, Greenfinches, Great spotted woodpeckers, Chaffinches, Robins, Collared doves, and Pheasants around the feeders, also Goldcrest, Wrens, Blackbirds, and Jackdaws in the garden.

Sparrow hawks, Kestrels, Jays, Magpies, and Song thrush seen regularly, also Tawny owls very vocal at night.

Madeleine Dougharty

Weekly Sightings (The Blue Book)

The committee thought that members might well be interested in a summary of what members have reported (from a natural history point of view). We also hope that members will generally keep an eye on their locality and be willing to report their findings on a Monday evening. This material proves to be of some interest over the years – for example – the first redwings in the autumn.

To Date:

30th September – A range of moths – Blue Underwing, Box Moth, a Deaths Head hawk moth caterpillar (Bognor). Fungi in Broadbridge Heath - Earth Stars.

28th October – Peacock and Red Admiral butterflies still flying, Buzzards be mobbed by gulls. A Southern Oak Bush Cricket. A Woodcock at Cattlestone Farm.

4th November – A Small White butterfly. A white hedgehog at Warnham. Ravens at Cattlestone Farm.

11th November – Red Admirals are still feeding on lobelia flowers. Redwings and Fieldfares have been seen at Chesworth Farm. Also a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

25th November – A large number of Little Egrets (16) have been observed. Fieldfares and Redwings are now more prolific (and noisy).

Member submissions

John Richardson. 19th November

"I attach a pic of a male Sparrowhawk which had killed a Robin at my feed station. At the time of the action there were some 20 plus mixed tits, and just the single Robin, ironic, his name must have been on the list. Nature works in weird and wonderful ways. I spend up to 2 hours in my hide by the feed station and usually see 12 plus species of birds in that time. No Winter thrushes yet but, after this morning's frost expecting them any time! Spot the robin!"



Did you know...?

The cashew nut is one of Nature's Curiosities. It's not even a nut! Think of a large, red-green pear-shaped strawberry and remove all the surface pips (achenes) except one which you supersize to look like a kidney bean glued to the surface. That's the 'nut'. The dark shell is removed before sale because it contains a toxic oil. The name cashew derives from a Brazilian aboriginal word *acajú*, meaning "nut that produces itself".



The common houseleek (*Sempervivum tectorum*) has a wealth of folk names, one of which is "Welcome Home Husband However Drunk You Be"

Acorn Barnacle larvae glue their heads to hard surfaces, surround themselves with a set of calcareous plates and spend the rest of their lives capturing food with their feet.

The question is, "Do they suffer from headache?"



Facebook

Roger P would like members to know that Facebook can be accessed from the website.

Thanks

Thanks to all contributors for supplying copy for the newsletter. All efforts are greatly appreciated.

Important

Contributions for the newsletter should be with the Editor on the first day of the month preceding publication i.e. February, April, June, August, October and December, unless otherwise agreed. The submission of copy is no guarantee it will be published.

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