

## NHSRF CENTRAL OFFICE UPDATE

Both the **National Council** and **Board of Trustees** at recent meetings were delighted that the future of the Fellowship was assured after the national ballot, but it was appreciated that the discussions leading up to the ballot had significantly increased the level of knowledge about the Fellowship and had prompted a series of debates as to how the organisation should move forward.

It had been agreed that a document highlighting future potential will be produced by the end of May for further discussion by National Council members and Trustees.

Trustees considered a request from National Council that they consider a move towards changing the name of the charity. Trustees were reluctant to make changes for changes sake but agreed that developments and modernisation will enhance the organisation.

I have yet to hear news of any new developments following these recent meetings.

**In Wales**, three branches have closed since the result of the ballot

The branch in Gwent has noticed a decline in membership numbers not dissimilar to our own.

*Norman*

# Forthcoming Events

**Kew Gardens** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July. £37  
Whitchurch 8am, 3-Arches 8.15am

Kew is London's largest UNESCO World Heritage site offering unique landscapes, vistas and iconic architecture from every stage of the Gardens' history. Our collection of living plants is the largest and most diverse in the world, growing out in the landscape and within our glasshouses and nurseries.



**Hay on Wye & Abbey Dore Court**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August. £20. Whitchurch 8.45am, 3-Arches 9am



**Hay** is quite a small town and quite charming but known primarily for its many bookshops. Wherever you are in the town there's a bookshop and another next-door or only a short walk away. There are 2 cash points in the town, served at Barclays and Nat West banks. Toilets are located at the Craft Centre, next to the main car park, and next to the Town Clock. To help maintain them it now costs 20p to use the toilets, so please have 20p coins with you.

**Abbey Dore Court**

is a beautiful, mature, six

acre, plant-lovers' garden developed by Charis Ward in 1976 with formal, wild and river areas set in the glorious Herefordshire countryside. Just over the river bridge is a further four acre meadow full of unusual trees. Just in view of the famous 1147 Cistercian Abbey is this lovely six acre garden and as you enter the garden there is a relatively new area with bamboos, trees and shrubs. Several borders add colour and interest. The walled garden has nine individual borders, divided by brick paths. There are seats throughout the garden where visitors are encouraged to sit and enjoy the peace of the garden. A tearoom is also available.



**Welsh National Conference** Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells, Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> August.  
£15. 3-Arches 8.15am, Whitchurch 8.30am

The subject is ARCH which stands for **A Regional Collaboration for Health**. The project brings together industry, innovation, academic research and the health sector. It is a unique collaboration between the three partners of Bro Morgannwg UHB, Hywel Dda UHB and Swansea University and spans the six local authorities areas of Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.



Supported and funded by the Welsh Government, ARCH is described as a unique proposition of a scale and complexity never seen in Wales before and it is predicted that outcomes resulting from the project will shape the future provision of all health services throughout the NHS in Wales.

**This is a conference NOT to be missed.**

Senior officials representing ARCH and the Welsh Assembly have been invited to present.

The All Wales Liaison Committee has agreed to keep the delegate fee for members to £15.00.



## Windsor September (date to follow)

Coach only, £21. Coach & 2-hour Boat Trip, £33. Coach & Castle, £34  
Whitchurch 8am, 3-Arches 8.15am



**Windsor castle** is the largest and oldest occupied castle in the world and is one of the official residences of the Queen. It was originally built by William the Conqueror in the 11th Century and has seen many extensions and fortifications by English monarchs over the years.

The State Apartments are open to the public from March to October and art lovers will be impressed by a collection of some of the finest paintings by Rembrandt, Canaletto and Gainsborough. Visitors can also view George IV's private apartments which are some of the most lavishly decorated rooms in the castle.

St George's Chapel is one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in England. It is the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter, the senior order of British Chivalry established in 1348 by Edward III. Within the chapel are the tombs of ten sovereigns, including Henry VIII and his third wife Jane Seymour, and Charles I. More recently the Queen Mother was buried here.



### The Boat Trip

Travel from Windsor upstream to Boveney Lock and return, with views of Windsor Castle, Eton College, Mill House, Windsor Racecourse and Brocas Meadows. The boat turns at Boveney Lock and Weir.

The view of the Castle from the river is undoubtedly the finest there is, making this trip excellent for those who are visiting Windsor for the first time. The length of the trip makes it popular with children, with The Home Park close by - providing excellent playground and picnic facilities.

### Pre Meeting Lunch

If you feel like a social gathering, before the next monthly meeting at St Brigid's Hall, join us for lunch at the Three Arches pub on Heathwood Road. Arrive about 12 noon to allow time for a leisurely meal or a light snack lunch, and a chat with other fellowship members, before making your way to the meeting for 2pm.





## Bird Group Outing

Forest Farm and Taff Trail,  
26<sup>th</sup> March

We met by the Warden's Cottages and there were ten of us at the start. We began northward on the Taff Trail then turned east at the Radyr Bridge then south to visit the two hides before joining the Glamorgan Canal path northward to the Motorway. At the second Hide we saw a Snipe and, from the path after, a Little Egret. Our number depleted as we travelled and eight of us saw the Canal. At the point of rejoining the Taff trail two more took another route back while the six

remaining continued north under the motorway bridge. Between us we listed 33 species and heard-only a further three. Among those seen were Bullfinch, Nuthatch, Tree Creeper, Goldcrest, Whitethroat, Dipper and Reed Warbler. The weather was dry but cloudy.

## Birds Further Afield

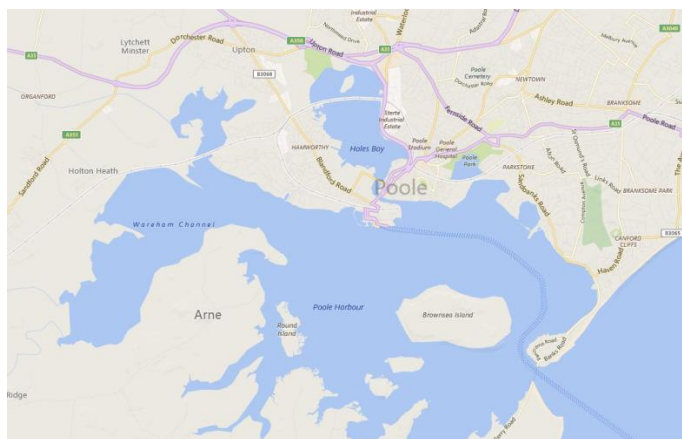
### **Forthcoming** Ornithology Weekend, 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017

The Ornithology SIG is organising a Bird watching trip to the South Coast of England in the Autumn.

We will be visiting sites in the Poole area including Brownsea Island (NT) and RSPB Arne (which you may remember was the venue for the BBC Autumn Watch last year). It may also be possible to visit the Portland Observatory near Weymouth.

A detailed programme will be made available shortly.

Participants will need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.



If there are any other Birdwatchers in the Branch that we are unaware of and might be interested in joining us, please contact me and I will be happy to provide more detailed information.

*Don Ribeiro.*

## The Committee and others

**Chair** Norman Bishop  
029 2075 2237

**Event Day** 07538 671531  
*chairman@nhsrfdiff.org*

**Secretary** Bob Holbrook  
*secretary@nhsrfdiff.org*

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**Newsletter** David Manning  
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**Meeting Registration**  
Christine Lewis  
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**Raffle Organiser**  
Norman Bishop

### **Special Interest Groups:**

**Walking** Bob Holbrook

**Ornithology** Don Ribeiro

**Theatre** Vacant

**Would you like to start a Special Interest Group? Please let us know!**