

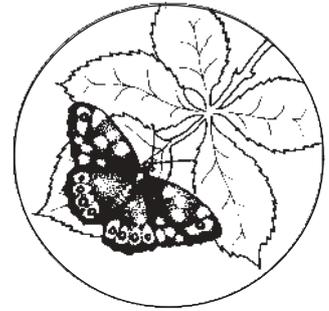
THE ESSEX FIELD CLUB

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

ROMFORD ROAD, STRATFORD,

LONDON, E15 4LZ



NEWSLETTER NO. 24

February 1998

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Charles Watson certainly sparked off some serious letter-writing when he put his article in Newsletter 21 and Duncan Bridges' response in the next issue was not the only one received by the Field Club. It seems that just about everyone agrees that there should be better communication and co-operation between the various natural history bodies in Essex and, in particular between the Essex Field Club as the main data-gatherers/interpreters and the Essex Wildlife Trust as the main conservation body (no ... I am not forgetting English Nature!). At the same time that all this discussion has been going on, The Essex Field Club Council have been regularly lamenting the undoubtedly sorry state of many of the Essex Wildlife Trust Reserves. Important sites such as Cranham marsh are now so degraded that their ecological interest is all but lost whilst sites such as Rushey Mead and Roding Valley Meadows are apparently receiving no management at all! Just down the road from me, Sawbridgeworth Marsh is also a cause for concern, though some management work does take place there.

The real problem underlying all of this seems to me to be the lack of proper management plans for at least those reserves mentioned - perhaps for others too. Having just completed a commission from the London Wildlife Trust to write management plans for Denham Lock Wood in Middlesex and Spencer Road Wetland in Surrey I can well understand the reasons. Proper management plans are time-consuming to produce involving many site visits, accumulation and assessment of species data and liaison with interested parties such as English Nature, the Environment Agency and others. The two I have just produced are around 120 pages each, and these have to be circulated as consultation drafts to a very large list of people before the final plan is ready. As a consequence they are expensive to generate. Whilst that makes my accountant very happy, it does little to hasten the production of proper plans for all the reserves. It is, on the other hand, a matter of priorities, and I would invite the Trust to consider the wisdom of continually using its resources to acquire additional reserves if those which they already possess are being lost. Surely some of the resources could be better placed in the commissioning of management plans?

Back now to the co-operation issue. We, the Essex Field Club, raised this matter, so we should take the lead in sorting things out - put our money where our mouths are, so to speak. I am, therefore, proposing that during 1998 the Club "adopts" an Essex Wildlife Trust nature reserve and carries out a full data-gathering exercise - free of charge. As a result of this, the Trust will be in a better position to get a proper management plan sorted out in 1999. Maybe this will set the ball rolling.

I am therefore proposing we "adopt" Sawbridgeworth Marsh for 1998. We should endeavour to visit the site at least once every month from March to October and we should

cover all of the groups of plants and animals that our expertise permits. I will personally volunteer to put all the data on computer and generate a full species inventory, suitably annotated with Red Data Book, Nationally Notable and other codes, and present this to the Trust together with some outline management ideas. I am now suggesting that we make a date in our diaries to visit the Marsh on the first Sunday of every month from March to October 1998 inclusive, meeting at 10 am. I am not volunteering to be present at every single gathering (I shall be out of the country for at least one of them) but then that should not matter. I hope that ALL of the Club's Recorders will feel able to take part in this survey.

Anyway, unless I miscalculate, this will be the last Newsletter before the 1997/98 Annual General Meeting and, consequently, this will be my last President's Page. It has been an interesting year and I wish my successor good luck (he might need it), and hope that he feels inclined to continue writing the first page to each newsletter.

Colin W. Plant

GOLDCRESTS AND GREY PHALAROPES

Seven members of the Field Club assembled on the nearest road to a new venue for the bird group on Sunday 26th October 1997. This was Paglesham Lagoon in a fairly remote area of Essex near the River Roach. The weather was warm and sunny all day.

We walked along the footpath leading to the lagoon pausing to watch Goldfinches, Blue tits, Great tits and an elusive Goldcrest in small hawthorns and willows. The shrubs also produced some Yellowhammers.

On reaching the lagoon we walked around it to the far side so that we had the sun behind us. The water was inhabited by many gulls, ducks, geese and swans. Four species of gulls were seen and the ducks were admired as their breeding plumage was well developed. The Teal looked particularly beautiful with green and brown heads and a yellow patch near their tails. The sound of Wigeon added to the attractive atmosphere of the location. Two Gadwall were observed amongst the other wildfowl.

The highlight of the day was the arrival of two Grey phalaropes which landed on the water to drink. Although they did not demonstrate their characteristic swimming style, their general shape and particularly the fairly thick black beaks, one of which had a distinctive yellow base, distinguished them from juvenile Little gulls. After ten minutes they flew off again to resume their migration.

The surrounding fields hosted feral pigeons, a few Wood pigeons and some very blueish Stock doves; Lapwings and Golden plovers were also present and at one point in the afternoon a Black-tailed godwit displayed its prominent wing bars.

Our picnic lunch was taken on the sea wall overlooking the River Roach when more Lapwings, Grey plovers, Godwits, Oyster catchers, Redshanks and Curlews were seen.

The walk back added Little grebes to the Great crested grebes seen on the river, and culminated with superb views of two Goldcrests low down, for once, in hawthorn scrub. We also watched three female Reed buntings and two Yellowhammers. A migrant Fieldfare flew over to add to a few departing Swallows seen earlier in the day.

The trip had provided fifty one species of birds, glorious weather, pleasant countryside and good company, and we departed hoping to add this site to our programme in future years.

Species list

Great crested grebe	Grey phalarope
Little grebe	Lesser black-backed gull
Cormorant	Herring gull
Grey heron	Common gull
Mute swan	Black-headed gull
Canada goose	Feral pigeon
Brent goose	Stock dove
Mallard	Wood pigeon
Gadwall	Green woodpecker
Wigeon	Skylark
Teal	Swallow
Shoveler	Meadow pipit
Shelduck	Pied wagtail
Tufted duck	Starling
Pochard	Magpie
Red legged partridge	Carrion crow
Pheasant	Goldcrest
Moorhen	Robin
Coot	Blackbird
Oystercatcher	Fieldfare
Lapwing	Blue tit
Grey plover	Great tit
Golden plover	Goldfinch
Curlew	Reed bunting
Black-tailed godwit	Yellowhammer
Redshank	

Judith and Tony Boniface

ESSEX FIELD CLUB DEER MEETING 25th OCTOBER 1997

A small group of Club members met at Tilty Hill Farm on a sunny Autumn afternoon. We settled down along the old mill stream of Tilty Mill to watch for deer along the valley and up into Tilty Hill Wood. The farmer was drilling winter wheat seed in the fertile valley bottom fields and apart from that it was a peaceful scene.

As the sun went down a group of eight Fallow deer disturbed by the tractor and seed drill left the cover of a copse on the west side and we had a wonderful view of the group, three young bucks and five does. Three of the does were white the rest were normal spotted fallow. No Muntjac deer were seen although they do occur in the area.

Two Grey squirrels were seen on the woodland edge and as dusk began to fall a flock of Wood pigeons began to circle down into the wood to roost.

David Scott

NATURE NOTES from Ken Hill

Earthworms are key organisms in the environment, but little is known about the distribution of the different species, changes in national status or impact and rate of spread of new species or of new predators, such as New Zealand and Australian flat-worms. Urban areas are particularly interesting for recently established species, but rural places and urban fringes may reveal the greatest threats to long established species.

The Department of Biology at Padova University has developed the Lombri Cd-Rom to help identify earthworms from Italy and adult features for 85 species are included together with photos or drawings of 32 species, many of which also occur in central and northern Europe.

For those interested and with the facilities available to use such programmes, contact should be made with Dr. Maurizio G. Paoletti or Dr. Carlo Gradenigro, Dipartimento di Biologia, via Trieste 75, Università di Padova, 35100 Padova, Italy.

Concern regarding the Water vole is led by the Environment Agency, in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. All the surveys to pin-point Water voles are passed to the agency, including the wildlife trusts' Water vole watch project.

The project uses an informative illustrated leaflet with an attached questionnaire aimed to involve younger members of the wildlife trusts movement. The form gives a tick-list for the information needed by scientists.

Urban fringe areas are supposed to be particularly fruitful for searches.

For copies of the Water vole watch leaflet, contact Water Volewatch, Wildlife Watch, The Green, Witham Park, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JR.

Aberdeen City Council and Scottish Natural Heritage commissioned a survey on the location of Badgers in their area, in order to take the needs of this shy mammal into consideration when preparing new developments.

Householders are warned to think long and hard before feeding Badgers. They are very much creatures of habit, and problems often develop if the food supply suddenly stops, if their benefactor suddenly moves away or goes on holiday, for example. The Badgers will turn up at the usual time expecting food, if none is provided, they will go into a frenzy searching for some. The search can involve digging up lawns looking for earthworms - regarded as a nuisance by most householders.

Scottish Natural Heritage advises that there is no reason why Badgers should require extra food from people.

The above notes were gleaned from Urban Wildlife News Volume 14 No. 3, dated August 1997, and published by English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough.

Engineering work on the Fowles Brook in Stoke-on-Trent, has badly damaged a colony of Water voles. Although their presence was common knowledge, it had not been reported to the Biological Records Centre, so there was no official knowledge to ring alarm bells. A survey by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust backed by the Environment Agency, identified the site as one of the most important in the county, but it arrived too late.

This case reinforces the importance of systematic surveys like this, and of information being passed to the local Biological Records Centre and Field Club County Recorders.

It is now official, Britain's most common bat is in fact two distinct species. In 1993 Gareth Jones showed that the Pipistrelle had two forms which used different frequencies for their echolocation calls, one at around 45KHz, the other at around 55KHz.

Scientists at London Zoo have shown that two genetic types exist, corresponding exactly to the two echolocating types. Results suggest that the two species have been distinct for 5 to 10 million years. It is speculated that the two different frequencies permit the two species to eat different prey, thus minimising competition between them.

The two species are difficult but not impossible to distinguish physically. Bat enthusiasts are going to have to fine-tune their detectors, and revise distribution maps (and invent temporary names?).

A fungal disease, *Phytophthora*, is killing Alder trees, *Alnus glutinosa*, along many of Britain's streams and rivers. The trees are important for birds such as Siskin and Redpoll, which feed on the small cones in winter, but also for their stabilising effect on banks, thereby reducing erosion.

The Environment Agency and Forestry Commission want help from the public, to help build up a good picture quickly of the present extent of this very potentially very damaging disease, and to monitor its rate of spread.

Dead Alders should be noted and their localities reported to the local Environment Agency or Forestry Commission office.

The above notes were taken from Urban Wildlife News Volume 14 No. 4, November 1997, published by English Nature.

The report on the second national Badger survey, funded by People's Trust for Endangered Species, just published, shows a substantial increase in the badger population, following improved protection of setts, and has also revealed a deal of information about Badger ecology.

The first survey established a baseline for future population change measurements, the new survey was undertaken between October 1994 and early 1997. Over one percent of the whole of Britain was covered. Number of main setts occupied increased by 24%, annex setts by 87%, subsidiary setts by 54%, and outlying setts by 55%. Numbers of Badgers were estimated to have increased by 77%.

The figures are encouraging, showing the effectiveness of conservation legislation, but not all the news is good. In the nine years between the two surveys, good Badger habitat had declined by 19%, underlining the dramatic changes taking place in the countryside.

The reason for the increase in the Badger population appears to lie in the reduction in levels of persecution. Extent of Badger digging had declined to half that shown up by the first survey, and appears to have been accompanied by reductions in other forms of persecution, such as shooting at night.

The full report costs £16 (including postage and packing) from People's Trust for Endangered Species, 15 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG.

Severe browsing damage has been reported in Mammal News, issue No. 112 (Winter 1997-8) on coppice regeneration in Blake's Wood, Essex, an ancient woodland site following an increase in Muntjac sightings. Hornbeam coppice cut since 1995 has received the heaviest browsing, but a clear species preference is shown. Total destruction of Hornbeam, heavy grazing of Oak and thorn, but no damage to Sweet chestnut or Sycamore. Bluebells, of which Blake's Wood has a great density, have not been touched.

AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE NOTES FOR 1997

May I thank members who have sent me records during the past year. It is encouraging to have received new records of the Common lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*). This reptile has suffered badly as a result of road verge mowing because it often occurs in areas of undisturbed rough grassland. The lizard loves to bask on walls, fence-posts, logs, etc. and is so well camouflaged that it often goes un-noticed. The Common lizard occurs throughout the county but in the northern arable areas is confined to isolated pockets of suitable habitat such as churchyards, railway embankments, and areas of rank grassland exposed to the sun. In south Essex Epping Forest, the various Wildlife Trust reserves, and the sea wall areas provide ideal habitats.

I receive very few records of the Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*), as this animal is seldom seen basking in the sun as the Common lizard does. They also frequent rough grassland and can sometimes be found under sheets of tin or wood where they are attracted by the warmth of the sun. In gardens Slow Worms love to lie just below the surface of well-rotted compost heaps where they enjoy the warmth of the decomposition as well as that of the sun.

As regards the snakes, only one Adder (*Vipera berus*) record in 1997 for Weeley, where it was observed on the railway embankment. This shy reptile likes grassy places, the sea wall is good as well as some of the Wildlife Trust reserves. Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) records come from Epping Forest, the Frating area, Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Fingringhoe. I also found a young male at Herongate where I was called to help as the snake was alarming residents. This Grass snake had taken up residence behind a step into the lounge of the house adjacent to a patio and near a small pond full of young fish, an ideal habitat with a good food source. Unfortunately, the occupants were not nature lovers and were alarmed by the hissing of this snake as they crossed the step into the house. As requested I removed the creature from the cavity behind the step with the aid of a wire hook and relocated it to a safe haven.

On the amphibian scene alien frog records are growing in number. These are likely to be either the Pool frog (*Rana lessonae*) or the Marsh frog (*Rana ridibunda*) the later is recorded from Hadleigh Country Park. Both are noisy frogs, the males having external vocal sacs and can be heard calling loudly during their breeding season in April and early May. They love to bask in the sun at the water's edge and leap into the pond when disturbed.

I would welcome records of amphibians and reptiles and am pleased to visit where identification is a problem. I look forward to hearing from Club members next Spring and Summer with their observations.

David Scott, Court Hill, Church Lane, Little Leighs, Chelmsford, CM3 1PG
Tel: (01245) 361475 Fax: (01245) 362409

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

**Please send contributions for the next Newsletter, due out in May, to the Editor,
Mr Peter Harvey, 32 Lodge Lane, Grays, RM16 2YP by the end of March at the latest.**

Deadline dates for the Newsletter each year

January/February Newsletter:	deadline - end of December
April/May Newsletter:	deadline - end of March
August/September Newsletter:	deadline - end of July
October/November Newsletter:	deadline - end of September

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Field Club and other conservation bodies

I welcome the letter in Newsletter No. 23 from Mr D.C. Bridges, Conservation Manager of the Essex Wildlife Trust, in reply to my comments on this subject. I am pleased that he shares my views on co-operation and the exchange of biological data.

My criticism of the Trust, however, concerned the failure after 2 years to even acknowledge the receipt of a fairly comprehensive recording survey of Rushy Mead NR by Field Club members. Many unpaid hours were spent in the field and at the microscope to prepare a document listing a large number of insects, fungi, molluscs, etc., including some of Red Data Book status.

Mr Bridges says in his letter: "I can confirm that the Trust has received the report and that the records therein have been added to the register for that reserve."

The above words are unlikely to encourage Club members to do further work on Trust reserves if records are simply to be "added to the register" without comment. A word of appreciation would not have gone amiss.

Perhaps the Trust has been somewhat taken aback by the presentation of a list of some 800 insects, mostly in Latin, and really does not know quite what to do with it.

Biodiversity means just that, and so includes all orders, even the small unpopular creepy crawly things and the slimy ones.

Full recording of as many species as possible, followed by interpretation, is essential for successful reserve management. At some stage a much closer working arrangement must be achieved between the managers of wildlife sites and those who have the expertise to record.

I suspect that at present most Field Club members are unsure whether the Trust does in fact welcome recording on its reserves. If so, what should be recorded, and where? Some clarification would be helpful and could lead to closer co-operation.

I am sorry if my comments appear to be "stirring up trouble", but we need to know where we stand, and unless volunteers are seen to be appreciated and can feel that their effort serves a worthwhile purpose, then the wildlife of Essex will suffer.

Charles Watson

 WHATS ON: ESSEX FIELD CLUB

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Saturday 7th | General Meeting 1417. "Wildlife of Langdon Hills". Talk by Rodney Cole at 3.00pm at Red Cross Hall, London Road, Chelmsford (car park entrance in Writtle Road). |
| Sunday 15th | Bird Group. Wintering birds hopefully including Short Eared Owls at Hamford Water. Meet at 10.30am at Little Oakley. TM 215284. Leaders Judith and Tony Boniface (01245) 266316. |

NEW MEETINGS FOR MARCH, APRIL AND MAY 1998

(The subsequent programme cards will run from June 1st to May 31st.)

MARCH

- Sunday 1st **Sawbridgeworth Marsh Monthly Recording Meeting No.1**
Meet 10am by the south entrance in Hallingbury Road TL 493158. Nearby pub for lunch or bring sandwiches. The purpose of these meetings is to carry out species recording on this joint Essex Trust/Herts Trust nature reserve, all groups required. No leader - just turn up, join in and send species lists to Colin Plant as soon as possible.
- Saturday 21st **AGM 118.** Red Cross Hall, London Road, Chelmsford (car park entrance in Writtle Road) at 3.00pm followed by Presidential address from Peter Allen "Recent Developments concerning the Geology of the Thames Terraces of South Essex."
- Sunday 29th **Joint Meeting with South Essex N.H.S. Mosses at Belfairs Wood Nature Reserve.** Meet 10.30am at Warren Road entrance, signposts from A13. TQ 821875. Leader Tim Pyner 01702 332425.

APRIL

- Sunday 5th **Sawbridgeworth Marsh Monthly Recording Meeting No.2**
Details as No. 1. Send species lists to Colin Plant as soon as possible.
- Saturday 18th **Amphibians. Gardening for Amphibians.** A visit to a garden in Basildon to see exotic frogs, toads and newts. Meet at 2.30pm. Phone John Dobson for details (01245) 224408.
- Sunday 19th **Essex Fungi Group. Foray in Broak's Wood.** Meet in car park at 10.30am, TL 786314. (Location between Braintree and Sible Hedingham). Leader Martin gregory (01245) 223300.
- Sunday 26th **Bird Group. Wat Tyler Country Park.** Meet in car park at 10.00am, TQ 738864. Possibility of migrant warblers, bearded tits and water rail. (Location Pitsea area). Leader John Bath (01277) 651890.

MAY

- Sunday 3rd **Sawbridgeworth Marsh Monthly Recording Meeting No.3**
Details as No. 1. Send species lists to Colin Plant as soon as possible.
- Saturday 9th **Joint Meeting with the Essex Spider Group. Recording of spiders and aculeates (bees and wasps).** Meet 10.30am car park at Hanningfield Reservoir. TQ737976. Leader Peter Harvey (01375) 371571.
- Sunday 10th **Recording of all groups at an MOD location Shoebury Beach** if permission obtained. Phone Roger Payne (01702) 434449 to obtain details before 8th May.
- Saturday 16th **Botany Group BSBI Atlas 2000 recording meeting.** Square TL62. Meet Little Easton Church TL 605234 at 10.30am. Leader Jeremy Ison (01376) 345235.
- Sunday 17th **General Meeting 1418.** Birds and Flowering Plants of Epping Forest. Meet 10.00am at Bury Road car park TQ394949, near Chingford Station, opposite golf course. Leader Jeremy dagley 0181-508 2266. An excellent opportunity to learn bird songs and calls.
- Sunday 31st **Botany Group. Black Poplar Search.** Meet Writtle car park 10.30am. Leader Ken Adams 0181-508 7863.

The following publications are available, from Tony Boniface, 40 Pentland Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4AZ. All titles are available to individuals on a cash with order basis. Please add 50p towards postage and packing irrespective of the size of the order.

Field Club notelets (illustrated in previous Newsletters) are marketed in packets of ten, two of each design, together with envelopes. They are on sale at Field Club Meetings at £1.00 per packet or by post for £1 + 75p to cover postage and packing.

THE ESSEX NATURALIST SERIES

- No. 1. **Deer of Essex** by Dr Donald Chapman.
A 50 page paperback describing the distribution and history of deer in Essex. Photographs, maps, etc. ISBN 0 905637 06 2 (published 1977) PRICE £2.00
- No. 3. **Tiptree Heath - its history and natural history** by Laurie Forsyth.
19 page booklet describing the most important heathland habitat in Essex. ISBN 0 905637 08 9 (published 1978) PRICE 60p.
- No. 4. **The Wildlife of Epping Forest** edited by Dr David Corke.
60 page paperback with photographs and line illustrations. A review of the animal life of the Forest by the leading experts on each group of animals. ISBN 0 905637 09 7 (published 1979) PRICE £1.50
- No. 5. **The Essex Field Club - the first 100 years** by L. S. Harley.
21 page booklet describing the history of the Club on the occasion of its centenary. Photographs. ISBN 0 905637 10 0 (published 1980) PRICE £1.00
- No. 6. **The Smaller Moths of Essex** by A. M. Emmet.
The most detailed account of the smaller moths ever published for any British county. Distribution maps and details of over 1000 species. Illustrations of representative moths in each major group. ISBN 0 905637 11 9 (published 1981) PRICE £5.00 (reduced from £7.00).
- No. 7. **Lords Bushes** by M. W. Hanson.
The history and ecology of an Epping Forest woodland. 69 page paperback with 8 pages of photographs and additional line drawings. ISBN 0 905637 12 7 (published 1983) PRICE £3.00
- No. 8. **The Larger Moths and Butterflies of Essex** by A. M. Emmet and G. A. Pyman.
The companion volume to No. 6. Distribution maps for every species and a complete analysis of the changing butterfly and moth fauna of Essex. ISBN 0 905637 13 5 (published 1985) PRICE £6.00 (reduced from £9.00).
Volume 6 and Volume 8 are available together for £9.00 post free.
- No. 9. **The Dragonflies of Essex** by Dr Edward Benton.
A very comprehensive and readable account of the county dragonfly fauna. It includes the results of a recent county-wide survey and much historical information. ISBN 0905637 143 (published 1988) PRICE £5.95
- No. 10. **Essex Elm** by M. W. Hanson.
Elms were devastated by Dutch Elm disease. In this booklet Mark Hanson examines the role of elms in the landscape and their uses, and also gives an up-to-date account of their status in Essex today. 87 pages, 19 photographs, maps and illustrations. ISBN 0 905637 15 1 (published 1990) PRICE £3.95
- No. 11. **Epping Forest - through the eye of the naturalist** edited by M. W. Hanson.
A book chronicling the complex land-use history of Essex's most famous Forest with modern accounts of its flora and fauna. ISBN 0 905637 16 X (published 1992) PRICE £10
- No. 12. **Essex Naturalist No 12 (New series) - Journal** edited by M. W. Hanson.
ISSN 0071-1489, ISBN 0 905637-17-8 (published 1995) PRICE £5
- No. 13. **Essex Naturalist No 13 (New series) -Journal** edited by P.R. Harvey & C.W. Plant.
ISSN 0071-1489 (published 1996) PRICE £5
- No. 14. **Essex Naturalist No 14 (New series) -Journal** edited by C.W. Plant.
ISSN 0071-1489 (published 1997) PRICE £5

The Clay Tobacco-pipe in Britain by L. S. Harley. 51 page paperback covering the history and identification of these pipes. Special attention is given to pipes made in Essex and East Anglia. ISBN 0 905637 00 3 (second edition 1976) PRICE £2.50.

ESSEX FIELD CLUB**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Annual General Meeting 118 will be held at the Red Cross Hall, London Road, Chelmsford (car park entrance in Writtle Road), on Saturday 21st March 1998 at 3 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 1997
3. Report of Council for 1997
4. Balance Sheet and Accounts for 1997
5. Election of Officers and Members of Council
6. Honorary Auditor
7. Any Other Business
8. Members' Notes and Exhibits
9. Presidential Address: "Recent Developments concerning the Geology of the Thames Terraces of South Essex." by Dr Peter Allen.

The Council's nominations for Officers and Council Members to fill vacancies of those retiring are as follows:-

1998-99

President	Dr Peter Allen
Vice-President	Prof Ted Benton
General Secretary	Dr Jeremy Dagley
Meetings Secretary	Mr & Mrs Tony & Judith Boniface
Membership Secretary	Mr John Bath
Minuting Secretary	Vice-President
Treasurer	Mr John Bath
Editor, Essex Naturalist	Mr Colin Plant
Editor, Newsletter	Mr Peter Harvey
Ordinary Members of Council	Mr Charles Watson

Any further nominations must be handed to the President in writing either before or at this meeting. All nominations are to be duly seconded. In the event of no further nominations being received, those nominated will be declared elected at the Annual General Meeting.

**IMPORTANT: THIS ENTIRE NOTICE SHOULD BE
BROUGHT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER



As members will know, all subscriptions are due on the 1st January and the new subscription rates announced by the President in the August Newsletter are as follows: £10 for single membership, £12.50 for family membership (with one copy of publications), £5 for under-eighteens and £15 for libraries/societies.

Many members with existing Banker's Orders have not yet remembered to complete a new one for the revised amounts. To avoid the problem of having to remember to pay each year, and the time and money wasted posting reminders to those who forget to send their subscriptions, all members are encouraged to use the Banker's Order form provided below.

Please send your subscription as early as possible completing either the Banker's Order or Return Slip and send to The Hon. Treasurer Mr. John Bath, 34 Chestnut Ave., Billericay, Essex CM12 9JF, enclosing your cheque if applicable.

ESSEX FIELD CLUB - BANKER'S ORDER

To: (Bank)
..... (Branch)
Address:
.....
.....
Account Number:

Please pay Lloyds Bank Plc., Billericay (30-90-80), 89 High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9AT, for the credit of the Essex Field Club (Account 0630373) (on receipt of this order and thereafter*) until further notice at annual intervals on the first of January the sum of £

This order succeeds any existing order to the Essex Field Club which is hereby cancelled.

Signed:
Name: Mr./Mrs./Miss
Address:
.....
.....

* Delete if not applicable

RETURN SLIP

Name: Mr./Mrs./Miss Tel. No.
Address:
.....
.....

Single Member Family Membership Under-eighteen Library/Soc

I enclose a cheque made payable to Essex Field Club for £

Details of Club membership are kept on computer disk. These records will be used solely for Club purposes. If you object to your membership details being stored in this way will you please advise the General Secretary in writing accordingly.