

You may have received an e mail from Peter Scott asking for your preferences about 'attending' indoor meetings either by Zoom or to attend in person. Apologies if you were unaware of this 'survey which, for various reasons was only sent out in digital form.

The results showed an even split between the 2 meeting choices.

Your committee has recently decided that for the time being indoor meetings will continue by Zoom until the New Year.

However for the meeting on the 5th October we have reserved the room we have used in the past at VAR. This is to enable members who wish to meet others to do so. Linda Biddle will stream the Zoom presentation onto a screen in the room but this means that people may watch it from home.

There maybe a slight change in the programme so please keep a close eye on the website.

It goes without saying we would love to see you at whichever format you choose.

If anyone has any questions or concerns please contact either Linda Clark [lindaclark\\_888@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaclark_888@yahoo.com) mobile 078381345 or Linda Biddle [abiddle21@talktalk.net](mailto:abiddle21@talktalk.net)  
Phone 01780 762108



## **Zoom in a Room**

**Indoor meeting.**

**Henry Stanier. Stonechats on Great Fen.**

**October 5th start 7.30pm. By Zoom and at VAR for those who wish to attend in person.**

**Please book with either Jeff Wilcox Smith or Linda Clark**

## **RNHS Treasurer Wanted.**

After 8 years service, Margaret has decided to step down as Treasurer and Membership Officer at the next AGM.

Tricia Marston has kindly agreed to take over as Membership Officer, so we are just looking for a new treasurer.

The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the accounts and keeping accurate financial records. Tasks include making payments as required, accounting for money received, and liaising with the Membership Officer about subscriptions. The Treasurer also makes the annual claim for Gift Aid. They prepare the accounts and present them to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The treasurer will normally attend 4-6 committee meetings annually, and advise on the financial situation, but also be able to input to the Society's plans and help with other activities as they choose.

It is not essential to have professional accounting knowledge, just to be numerate with a good attention to detail, and ideally an understanding of Excel spreadsheets (but can develop different systems if preferred). Margaret will continue to be available to handover and help as needed.

If you would like to discuss further what is involved, please contact Margaret on [mjconner-100@gmail.com](mailto:mjconner-100@gmail.com) or call 01664 454532.

## **Calendar 2022.**

**All photos are now in and awaiting judgement.**

**The calendar should be ready in time for Christmas.**

**As last year we will be taking orders so we know how many to print. The cost is likely to be £7 - £8 per copy. The quality will be as in previous years which is high.**

**Please keep an eye on the website for further information and ordering information**

The following article is written by your Fieldfare Editor Carolyn Baxter. I'm convinced you will find it a delightful piece full of information and knowledge presented in the most charming way. Carolyn really is a lady who hides her talents under a bushel.

Carolyn suggested that we should ask members for their book recommendations.....e mail me. [lindaclark\\_888@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaclark_888@yahoo.com)

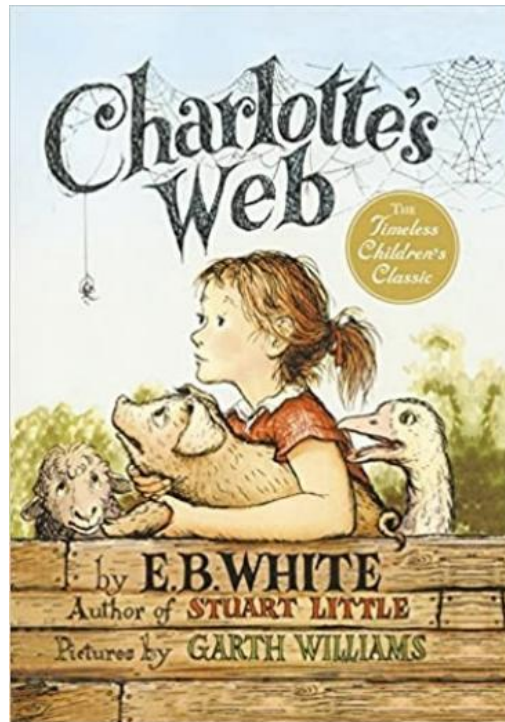
## Share and share alike.

There are many events that happen every year that don't require a calendar to confirm what month we are in. This event usually starts around early September, at the same time the house- martins begin to gather on the telegraph wires. If you are an early morning dog walker, the first sign is when you have to brush a network of invisible threads off your face when you walk out of the back door, and as the month wears on, the evidence becomes clearer. It coincides with that perfect combination of the drawing in of light, when your unaccustomed eyes have to squint in the half-light of each end of the day just to get the day done. It is confirmed when you find yourself sharing your morning shower with what looks like an old-fashioned ink blot in the bottom of the bath. Did it move? O.M.G., It moved! It is probably the male House spider (*Eratigena* or *Tegenaria* spp) – trying to get out of the bath to look for a mate. It is also that dark shadow that your brain half registered, searching around the sitting room carpet in the evenings while you are watching “Life on Earth” on the television. A pity he has scurried towards you and under the sofa, because you just can't relax any more, not knowing where he has gone. Television off and up to bed where you find one just about to crawl under the bed. By the middle of October this Class of the animal kingdom (650 Species in the UK) have rented every available space in and around your home and everyone else's too. There may even be one called “The Wing Mirror spider”! Where on earth did they all come from?



The life history of most spiders in this country are quite similar and a good example is the very pretty Garden spider (*Araneus diadematus*) living in the entrance to my greenhouse at the moment. They are commonly seen at this time of the year, not only in our gardens, but in hedgerows and amongst other shrubbery in the countryside too. She is probably one of the offspring of last year's Garden spider which was huge and took up residence in almost the same place as this smaller one. Garden spiders are in what is known as the “Orb -weaver family” of spiders and unfortunately the one in the entrance to my greenhouse has to repair her web nearly every morning at this time of year when I forget she is there and blunder through her web to water the tomatoes. She is very hard working and patient - a new one is always there by the following morning! I know she is “she” because the male (which I have never seen) doesn't have a rounded fat abdomen like the female (which is probably full of eggs at this time of year) and he doesn't usually spin a web that stays in the same place, since adult males are not territorial and usually just wander around looking for females. Once they have mated with the females, they die. If I am lucky, I should find a silk sac full of eggs somewhere on or near the web before the female dies and leaves the eggs to overwinter in the closed-up greenhouse for the winter.

If you have young grandchildren, why not put “Charlotte's web” on your Christmas list? It comes as a highly recommended tear-jerker by Linda Clark – your newsletter editor.



As far as I can remember this book was only sad at the very end, but, life goes on and is a great lesson about nature. Linda Clark.

## Important information about all Meetings both indoor and outdoor.

Please note, because we need to keep a check on numbers and require contact details, especially for the outdoor meetings, we are requesting that all members wishing to attend meetings book a place. This applies to both indoor and outdoor meetings. Please book with either Jeffrey Wilcox Smith at [wilcoxsmith@btinternet.com](mailto:wilcoxsmith@btinternet.com) Mobile. 07946 733931 or Linda Clark [lindaclark\\_888@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaclark_888@yahoo.com) Mobile. 07718 381345. Please check the WEBSITE for information about booking and any alterations or cancellations.

Outdoor Meeting. Fungi Walk at Prior's Coppice with Ben Devine. 09.10.21 start time 10am. If you wish to attend this walk, which promises to be absolutely fascinating please book beforehand with Jeff Wilcox Smith [wilcoxsmith@btinternet.com](mailto:wilcoxsmith@btinternet.com) or Linda Clark [lindaclark\\_888@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaclark_888@yahoo.com) Car parking can be tight more information about this will be given when bookings are made. Please dress appropriately for the weather and be aware Prior's can be very wet in places.

**Indoor Meeting. John Tinning Wildlife photography. Tuesday 2nd November.** This meeting will take place at the Voluntary Rutland Hub (VAR) starting at 7.30. Places will be limited to 25 to allow for social distancing. Please book.

**Outdoor Meeting. Welney Wetlands 14th November** starting at 14.00hrs. Please book this is particularly important as we need to know numbers attending as soon as possible.

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*The story that follows (with a few minor alterations) was originally sent by Jenny Harris to her Bat carers network in June 2021*

Here is a tale of bat care that began in **early September 2020**, when a brown long-eared in a sorry state was brought to me. He was soon named Monty, as he was from Morcott in Rutland. He has been through the wringer, one way and another. Other bat carers whom I asked for advice suggested that the loss of fur can be caused by stress, so whether a heavy parasite burden caused his almost total baldness seems quite likely, but I can't be sure.

It sounds rather a lot of trouble for one small male long-eared bat, but on the other hand it shows what can be achieved if neither party gives up, and you have the help of an interested vet and members of the National Bat Care Network.

### Monty makes a come back.



When this plucky little male Brown Long Eared (BLE) bat first came to me, he had no fur on his back and not much more on his tummy. He quickly began self-feeding, 30 mealworms a night which was very helpful. At the beginning of November, I realised that his cloth cage was riddled with mites and biting lice, which were not visible on his skin but were hiding in the hanging cloths. The vet gave advice and Monty was treated with Frontline for Cats, a tiny amount on the back of his neck.

Then his wing membranes became depigmented and

blotchy, from the activities of subcutaneous mites, for which the vet provided Ivermectin treatment.

At the end of winter, after a period when I had not been flying him, I was horrified to find that he could not spread his wings out properly, as though the wing membranes had contracted and were pulling his finger bones out of true, like someone with arthritis of their fingers. It seemed painful and he couldn't get any lift; in the mosquito net he just hopped about over the base or ran up the mesh walls. Not knowing what else to do, every other day I added a food supplement to his mealworms, containing vitamin C and calcium, (neither of which bats can synthesise), and various other vitamins and minerals. He was also transferred to a pop-up fabric dog kennel about 90cm long x 50cm wide to give him more exercise room.

Monty gradually began to get lift off, to flutter about and to look as though he was having fun in the net. At the end of May, with fingers crossed, (mine not his) he was given the freedom of my 6m-long lounge. When I opened his box, he was keen to leave it and sprang out like a little jump jet. A metre up he just stopped in mid-air, as if to say: 'Good grief, where did all this space come from?'. Pulling himself together, he then did several circuits of the lounge, dodging the standard lamp, before hanging on the embossed wallpaper for a rest. He's had several more flights since then but still seems to get tired (or bored) quite quickly.

And now, at last, his fur has almost completely grown back. Attached is a reminder of what he looked like, for months after coming into care. I don't yet have a photo of the current, furry Monty, but he should soon look like any well-groomed long-eared bat.

Unlike a BLE fresh from the wild, he still makes flying look quite an effort but he's getting better. I hope in a couple of weeks I shall be able to release him back to Morcott, something I despaired of on so many occasions. He has certainly made an impact in his time here, which I seriously hope is now coming gradually to an end, in the best way possible. Jenny Harris. June 2021.

### **Epilogue. 22nd July 2021. Monty's flight to freedom.**

After a photo shoot with Monty, Jenny, accompanied by myself drove to Morcott and released Monty in the churchyard near to where he was found. At first he seemed reluctant to leave the warmth and security of Jenny's gloved hand but then, all of a sudden, he was off, flying we think, towards the Old Hall in the village. He disappeared in a flash and presumably without a backward glance to Jenny, who I swear, had a tear in her eye.

Of course we'll never know if Monty will survive the winter, find a roost and go on to lead a long life but we do know that Jenny went above and beyond the call of duty to rescue and rehabilitate this lovely little mammal.

Good luck Monty from us all.

Linda Clark. Sept 2021.

