



Local events you may like to attend

- 1) Old Low Light heritage centre, North Shields fish quay.
Saturday, 15 April, 11 a.m. A presentation about the beached bird and fulmar projects in Northeast England, with international implications.
- 2) Dove Marine Laboratory (Newcastle University), Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear.
Wednesday, 16 August, 10 am – 4 pm The aquarium will be open to the public and there will be a display with information about our beached bird and fulmar projects.

In Memoriam, Eric Meek (1947 - 2017)

Eric Meek died on 16 February, 2017 after a very short illness. Eric was a well-known and greatly respected member of the birding community in Northeast England, before moving to work for the RSPB on Orkney. We thought a few words in appreciation of his achievements would be appropriate.

from Dr Jan Andries van Franeker (international organiser of the fulmar study group):

‘Eric was a valued member of our fulmar study group. Although he only attended the very early fulmar workshop on Texel, in later years Eric remained active in the collection of beached Fulmars in the Orkney Islands, where he worked for RSPB and organized the beached bird surveys. Since a few years ago Eric had (largely) retired from his RSPB job and lived much of his time in mainland Scotland. I’ve sent Eric’s wife Aileen a card with our sincere condolences also on behalf of the fulmar study group.’

from NEBBS group coordinator:

‘As a teenage member of the Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club in the 1970s I became aware of Eric and his particular involvement in studies of nesting merlins in Northumberland, from where he originated. I remember seeing him at winter club meetings, so keen and involved, sporting a bushy, ginger beard. His joint publications (1978, 1980, 1983) with Bryan Galloway on Northumberland’s Birds, published in the Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumbria, remain important works. I have sent a card on behalf of our beached bird group to Aileen with our condolences.’

from Stuart Housden, RSPB (extracted from his blog entry):

‘I first met Eric in 1980, and he then became RSPB Scotland’s Orkney Officer from early 1981 until retiring in 2012. His encyclopaedic knowledge of Orkney, especially its wildlife and in particular its birds was highly valued by all. He always sought to promote the case of conservation, and his wise and calm advice on conservation issues made them accessible and inspiring to others.’

For Stuart’s full tribute, see his blog

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/ourwork/b/stuarthousden/archive/2017/02/17/a-tribute-to-my-friend-and-colleague-eric-meek.aspx>

tribute from Dr Mark Avery (former Director of Conservation at the RSPB):

‘His paper on the breeding ecology and decline of the Merlin on Orkney, in Bird Study, was awarded the BTO Boddy and Sparrow Award.’ For Mark’s full tribute, see

<http://markavery.info/2017/02/20/sad-news-eric-meek-19471917/>

Important new report

Boucher, J. and Friot D. (2017) Primary Microplastics in the Oceans: A Global Evaluation of Sources. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 43pp. ISBN: 978-2-8317-1827-9.

You may access it here

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2017-002.pdf>