

DAGENHAM & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021



NEXT MEETING
which should have been the
on **Saturday 20th February 2021**
10am to 12pm
HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE
CORONAVIRUS

(Please see inside for more information)

SALES TABLE AT EVERY MEETING

Dagenham and District
Cage Bird Society
Meetings held at
Wantz Hall
Rainham Road North
Dagenham
Essex
RM10 7DX

PRESIDENT

Peter Decort
5 Campbell Close
Collier Row
Romford, Essex
RM1 4SA
0772 666 4671

CHAIRMAN

Barry Johnson
01708 348330

TREASURER

Peter Decort
0772 666 4671

SECRETARY

Richard Wilson
Mitchells Farm
London Road
Stapleford Tawney
RM4 1SP
07852 959447

SHOW SECRETARY

George Philpot
0208 805 8179

Committee Members 2021 (subject to change)

President	PETER DECORT
Vice President	Vacancy
Chairman	BARRY JOHNSON
Vice Chairman	Vacancy
Secretary	RICHARD WILSON
Asst. Secretary	Vacancy
Treasurer	PETER DECORT
Publicity & Raffle	BARRY & VAL
Newsletter	BARRY & VAL
Show Manager	STEVE WALLIS
Asst. Show Manager	LES RIX
Show Secretary	GEORGE PHILPOT
Asst. Show Secretary	Vacancy
Trophy Secretary	LES RIX
Canteen	FRAN, VAL & BARRY

Committee:

Dick Lathleiff, Mick Pegram and Ted Papandreas

Meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month at 10am to 12pm at Wantz Hall – Rainham Road North – Dagenham – Essex RM10 7DX

Committee Members' meetings

Would Officers and Committee Members please attend these monthly meetings starting from 10am on every meeting day?

SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Single	£15.00
Partnerships:	£20.00
Juniors (to 16):	FREE

If anyone would like to contribute an article to the Newsletter about their birds or their showing – or anything else – please speak to Barry or Val at any of the meetings.

Forthcoming Meeting dates

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID 19

NB: As you all know, the Meetings would have been arranged at the AGM. The following are the dates when the Meetings would have been held this year and show the same details as last year. They are of course all subject to change and / or cancellation.

2021

Sat 20 th Feb	Cancelled
Sat 20 th Mar	TBC
Sat 17 th Apr	TBC – Possibly AGM
Sat 15 th May	Song Bird Competition
Sat 19 th June	TBC
Sat 17 th July	TBC
Sat 21 st Aug	Open Show Preparation
Sat 18 th Sep	TBC
Sat 16 th Oct	Club Show League – Second Round – Hen Bird Show
Sat 20 th Nov	Young Stock Show (10am to 2pm)
Fri 10 th Dec	Staging for Open Show followed by Christmas Raffle Draw and Buffet (8pm to 10pm)
Sat 11 th Dec	Open Show (all day)

2022

Sat 15 th Jan	AGM
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The President's Comments and chit chat

I start to write this section of the Newsletter with great sadness because I have to let those that have not heard the sad news know that Fred Thorn has passed away due to the horrible disease Covid 19.

Fred had been a very good Member of the Club for some years. He will be sadly missed by all.

Some of our Members wanted to go to the funeral but because of the restrictions will be unable to. However, the Club and some Members sent cards to his wife, and the Club is also arranging to send flowers for the funeral.

Sleep well Fred.

By the time you all read this, quite a few of us older Members will have had their first job and be waiting to have the second one. Let's hope we all

have the jabs before too long and hopefully will be immune to this horrible disease.

Once again I would like to thank Les Rix and Brenda Kettle for their articles in last month's Newsletter. These articles I think give Barry and Val something to work with to make the Newsletter more interesting and give is something to read. More please.

I was looking through some back dated Cage & Aviary Magazines and in one was a piece about Ken Grigg and the first time breeding of a Siskin x Bullfinch. I got to wondering – it would be nice if Ken would write a piece about this for the Newsletter.

Barry and myself over many months have been looking for some Gouldians and a few other Australian Finches. We realise the pandemic has put a dent in people selling off their spare birds, but if anyone has any or knows of anyone with birds for sale, please ring Barry or me.

Pete

The Club Secretary's Comments

The passing of Fred Thorn was a shock to all of us. Fred was an active member of the club throughout his membership, supporting the club by always putting out a good show of birds in all the club shows in many different sections, Canaries, British and Parrotlike, and was often the winner of these classes. He was also a very generous man, regularly donating raffle prizes to raise money for the club.

Our deepest condolences go to Fred's wife & family. Fred will be missed by us all. RIP Fred.

Richard

Open Show

The club has been approached by The Southern Norwich Plainhead Canary Club for them to hold their show as part of our Open Show on Saturday 11th December 2021 (Covid19 permitting). Discussions with their secretary, Geoff Louth, about the finer details are ongoing, but the Dagenham CBS committee are happy and agreed with the general proposal and believe it will enhance the overall show and could increase the total of birds shown by 200+. Further details in next month's newsletter.

Richard

Staging Fund

Here is a list of donations towards the new show staging (same as last month) –

Mark and Sally Logan donated cash = £500.00
Les Rix donated a Yellow Hammer = £50.00
Dave Mason donated a Pair of Redpolls = £60.00
Richard Wilson donated a Canary x Bullfinch = £210.00
Mick Pegram donated a Hospital Cage = £40.00
Lawson & Wells Partnership donated a Light Greenfinch Mule = £160.00
Fergus McCarthy donated cash = £200.00
Steve & Bill Wallis donated cash = £200.00
Steve & Bill Wallis donated a Goldfinch Mule = £145.00
Lawson & Wells Partnership donated a Cock Greenfinch = £40.00
Les Rix donated cash = £120.00
Richard Wilson donated Bullfinches = £120.00
John Young donated cash = £50.00
Nigel Breese donated a Pair of Goldfinches = £80.00
Barry and Fran Johnson donated cash = £100.00
Valerie Holmes donated cash = £100.00
Phil Perkins donated cash = £50.00
Mr & Mrs Ken Grigg donated cash = £75.00

TOTAL = £2,300.00

If you or someone you know would like to help with a donation please get in touch with Richard. Every little bit helps.

Update on New Staging

I sent an email to the manufacturers in Portugal but have had no reply. As you may know Portugal are behind us in terms of coming out of lockdown, but I anticipate them making contact when they are back to work.

Richard

Useful Numbers and Contacts

Rings

IOA (International Ornithological Association) Website – www.ioa-com-uk.org

For all rings call Richard Lumley on 01653 697565

Email - ruby@lordlumley.plus.com

Richard is very helpful and provides a great service. The IOA are also sponsors of Dagenham CBS.

For closed or split rings email or call Hans Herr in Germany. Contact Melanie Siegel she speaks very good English, is very helpful and quick, I ordered & paid for rings on a Wednesday and I received them on the Monday. The quality of the rings is excellent.

Website – www.vogelringe.de

Phone: 0049-721-686023

Fax: 0049-721-683029 -

E-Mail: ma.herr@vogelringe.de

Members' Outlets

Bavister's Pet Centre

James Bavister

Telephone – 01268 544 336

Website - www.bavisterspetcentre.com

e-mail – info@bavisterspetcentre.com

Essex Bird Fancier

Mark Smithson

Telephone – 07983 108 383

Facebook and Ebay

e-mail – essexbirdfancier@gmail.com

If there are any other Club Members with similar outlets who would like a mention in this section of the Newsletter please send the relevant information to Val (valkenh@btinternet.com) or Barry (lukeira@btinternet.com).

Items for Sale

Paul Jupe has **four normal coloured 2020 Cock Greenfinches** for sale. They are split for pied but do not show pied other than the odd feather. They are of good size and type. They have characteristic white toes and could be useful out crosses in an existing strain or for mule or hybrid production. **£15 each with the proceeds going to the staging fund.** If you are interested please contact Paul on **07891 517 797.**

Mick Pegram has a **winnower** for sale (see photo on next page). This was given to him by a non Member and the **proceeds will go to the staging fund.** If anyone is interested and would like to make an offer please contact Mick on **07709 076 594**

If you have any birds or equipment for sale please bring them to the Club or let Barry or Val know and they will add it to the next Newsletter.



Items wanted

If there are any birds or equipment you want please let Barry or Val know what you are looking for so that it can be added to the next Newsletter.

Please note, adverts in the “For Sale” and “Items Wanted” sections will only be included in two Newsletters. If you want your advert in after the two months please let Barry or Val know. Thank you.

New Members

We had two new Members last month so welcome to
John Welch & Shane Evans

The Club’s Website, etc

The Club’s **website** is www.dagenhamcbs.com. You can find out all about our Club right back to 1935. Newsletters, Shows, history and much more.

The Club can also be contacted by **e-mail** – info@dagenhamcbs.com – or via our **Facebook** page.

Dagenham CBS Facebook and Group Page: We now have 140 members on the Group Page. Please give it a look and join in the banter and the up to date news from the members.

Don’t forget to keep checking the Website and Facebook for Richard’s updates

Members' Info.

Mick Pegram is still leading the charge on our FaceBook page and Richard has received contact details from a few Members to put onto the website page. This will allow members to stay in touch and give advice and help to other members who keep the same species or share the same problems.

"How I got started" by Les Rix

I read with interest Barry and Brenda's articles about how they got into keeping birds. After you read this some of you may not like me anymore but I have decided to go on with this telling the God's honest truth. Some may like it and some may not but it's a part of my life that I cannot change

I did things that I am not particularly proud of today and some things I did I shouldn't be proud of but I am, so there will be a mixture of opinions between you all but I can live with that.

Right, as a young boy the garden birds always fascinated me. I would sit and watch them for hours feeding them on table scraps, cake crumbs, stale bread and such like, till one day the thought went through my head to try and catch one so, much to my mum's dismay, I repurposed her laundry basket into a bird trap along with a length of string and a stick. I was perched on the toilet (cos in them days the loo was outside) so, placing the usual scraps under the basket and placing the stick in just the right position, I held the string between my fingers, still perched on the toilet, and caught myself a Hen Blackbird. After close inspection I released her, none the worse for wear, and with the thought in my head of how surprisingly easy it was to capture her anyway. I met a friend (I suppose I was around 11 or 12 years old) who showed me his amazing collection of birds eggs. From that moment I was hooked and after a year I had the most amazing collection of birds' eggs known to man. It was my most prized possession. I really don't deserve to be here, as I have scaled to the top of electricity pylons for Kestrel eggs, combed railway lines for ground nesting birds ie Wagtails. Pipits etc. and I have climbed the highest trees at Passingford Bridge in Ongar for Crows eggs (God when I think about it!!).

One day I was introduced to a man called Tony Shoesmith who some of you may remember but, say what you like about Tony, he became my mentor for years introducing me to the likes of Terry Bedelle and Paul Joy and an array of other like minded people. In the meantime one of my neighbour's gave me some Budgies which I kept in my room slowly they

died one by one. Anyway Tony gave me a Cock Greenfinch which I dearly loved and I had him for about 4 years.

At the age of 18 I found myself a father and married (you know the usual s**t that never works out) but I now have a partner of 38 years who understands why I do what I do (or maybe she's just fed up with moaning at me). When we had two small children I found myself out of work and no money and no way to support my family.. There is no worse feeling ever. Then I met a man who to this day I dearly love, Mr Ronnie Jones. Some know him as "Deafy" or "Ron the cage maker". He showed me everything I needed to know about catching birds, thus giving me the means to feed my family and clothe them. I reckon that me and Ronnie are probably responsible for a good percentage of Goldies and Linnets in aviculture today (at least I like to think so). Now before I get judged or gunned down, I'm not ashamed of what I did and if necessary would do it again. Needs must when children are involved. We would go to the bird house with our catches and come home with cash on the hip thus being able to provide for my family. I don't care who you are you would do the same were you in my position.

While we were at the bird house I was drawn by the stories told by the old-school bird men. I would listen with baited breath. One such person being Johnny Scott others being Dougie Priest and Lofty Bill, etc, etc. It was then that I decided to keep birds on a serious level which is why had it not been for those old-school bird men I wouldn't know what I know today. There are people that I owe so much to. Too many to mention. I loved and still love them today and cherish the memories we shared. Sadly some are no longer with us and I believe that they deserve a mention. Paul Joy, Johnny Scott, Dougie Priest, Tony Shoesmith, Stan Edwards, Grosvenor Ridgeway, John Broadbent and Jim Rutter – sleep well and God bless you all. R.I.P to you all. The ones still here you know who you are. So there it is, like it or not, but it's the God's honest truth in how I started (God I've found writing this quite emotional). Thanks.

PS If anyone starts panicking about what I've written here regarding the Wildlife and Countryside Act, I have been charged for the so called crimes that I committed and I have paid my dues and in Great Britain (well Britain anyway) the law cannot be applied retrospectively. Did I commit a crime or was I just looking out for my family? I'll leave that with you.

If I have upset or offended anyone writing this I'm truly sorry. Well enough waffling and I can assure you that after I edited this you will

end up reading only half of what I originally wrote. So stay safe all of you. All the best hope to see you all again soon

Les Rix

Budgies and My Dad" by Brenda Kettle

When I was a kid growing up in the 1950's, life was quite hard. My dad, plus our neighbours, Reg, at number 17, and Peter, at number 25, all kept Budgerigars at home in garden aviaries, before cars became our normal part of life. Peter was the owner/manager of a pet shop in Wood Green, North London which helped to lead to the 'Budgie' population in our road.

All 3 aviaries were not much different in size, but, I remember, as a kid, keeping new born chicks warm in sterile cloths! Probably quite different to today's standards!

My dad had Budgies of every colour you could think of. One day a white budgie decided to make an escape for its freedom. Noooo! It was the only one he had, and he was determined to try and get it back. Well, there was dad, running to the top of our road, then out onto the main road towards Wood Green. All the local kids shouting "What you running for mister?". "My white Budgie", dad answered. There was dad and all the local kids running down the main road looking for this white budgie. Thankfully, the bird was retrieved from a tree in the main road, which had crossed over the local railway line, and finished up somewhat rather blackened, tired and dirty from its experience as it was only a youngster!!

My dad's budgies that he had then are obviously nowhere near the standard of Show Budgies bred today.

I often reminisce back to those days when all the local kids were running with my dad to catch that bird!

Brenda Kettle

Mick Pegram's "Spot the Member" give-away

The winner from the March 2020 Newsletter was DAVID DAWKINS so this is still being held over until the Club re-opens to give David a chance to claim his winnings.

Obituary – Fred Thorn



January has been a very difficult month for us all and many of you will already be aware of the sad and sudden passing of our friend and club member Fred Thorn. We extend our sympathy to Fred's wife Irene and to the family. Fred had an eclectic collection of birds in his aviary and shed including Fifes, Scotch Fancy, Raza's some small parrot like species, British Finches and a few Foreign Finches. Fred was always competitive. I remember well at one club points show when Fred didn't rate his chances and said to me under his breath "you don't stand a chance of winning at this club unless you show British" and promptly came second out of around 70 birds. Fred was a family man and well into retirement still did some work for his sons. Irene, his wife, would often join him at lifting time and take an interest in the other exhibits at shows and help him collect his birds and rosettes. Fred also enjoyed meeting bird keepers from other clubs and was eager to visit their bird rooms. He always enjoyed buying and selling surplus stock and had a keen eye for quality. Fred will be greatly missed throughout the local bird scene.

2021 Membership Subscriptions

The Club's year runs from January to December

2020 Subscriptions

Single - £15.00

Partnerships - £20.00

Juniors (to 16) – Free

As mentioned by Richard in the October Newsletter, all 2020 paid up Members will get their 2021 Membership free of charge

If you have already paid your 2021 Membership Fee it will be carried over to 2022

New Club Sponsor

Direct Bird Products is this year's new club sponsor and are suppliers of seed and equipment. They are happy to post members' orders to them or deliver to the hall on meeting days.

They also plan to have a sales table at every meeting.

Members can contact them by calling Shane Evans on 07376 669 333 or message on Facebook Direct Bird Products.

