

VETERINARY HISTORY SOCIETY

Meeting Wednesday April 30th 2014

Natural History Museum Akeman Street, Tring HP23 6AP

This Tring Museum, an Victorian extension of the London Natural History Museum, was set up by Walter, Baron Rothschild, who was a great collector of animals - an enthusiast who had the wherewithal to capture or buy species from anywhere in the world and ship them home. The taxidermy is excellent (apart from some odd facial expressions!) and one can see these hoards of animals close up – some huge to some minute.

On the same site is the NHM's Bird Group, its collection being one of the largest in the world. We will find specimens – mounted, in spirit, skins – of birds from all over the world, eggs, nests, skeletons – and be shown areas of research such as classification and migration routes using ring recovery, as well as the wonderful library.

There is a maximum of 24 visitors at this meeting

Free parking in the Museum car-park

- 10.20am. Coffee
- 11.00am. Tour of the Bird Group Collections and Library
- 1.00pm. Lunch at the Akeman, Akeman Street. The restaurant is a few hundred yards from the Museum, and a two-course lunch can be served within the hour if prebooked. Those attending will be sent a menu beforehand, and will each pay for their own lunch at the time.
- 2.15pm. Bob Michell – the ex RCVS Council member known for his comparative medical research and healthcare concerns - *Tablets of Stone*
- 3.00pm The Tring Natural History Collection: short introduction and tour