

DIARY OF EVENTS

- Friday 7 January** **Work Party, Magdalen Hill Down**
Time: 10am to 4pm. Park at top of track by Magdalen Hill cemetery and Blackwell & Moody Stonemasons on Alresford Rd (B3404) Winchester. SU512 295.
- Wednesday 12 January** **Work Party, Bentley Station Meadow**
Time: 10am to 2.30pm. Find us in the meadow after using **very** limited spaces in Station Road or contact Lynn Fomison re alternative parking (01962 772251).
- Saturday 15 January** **Hampshire Moth Conference**
Time: 12.30 for a 1.00pm start at Littleton Memorial Hall, The Hall Way, Littleton, Winchester SO22 6QL. See p.9.
- Friday 21 January** **Work Party, Yew Hill**
Time: 10.00am to 4.00pm. Park at roadside in Old Kennels Lane near junction of Port Lane and Millers Lane. SU451 269.
- Monday 31 January** **Illustrated Talk, joint meeting with HWT**
Brian Fletcher will be giving a talk entitled "Wings over a Winchester garden" featuring a good number of slides from the collection of renowned photographer and naturalist, the late John Taverner.
Time: doors open 7.00 for 7.30 at St Barnabas Church Hall, Weeke, Winchester. There will be refreshments and a raffle. **Contact:** Brian Fletcher (01962 882746).
- Friday 28 January** **Work Party, Magdalen Hill Down**
See 7 January.
- Friday 4 February** **Work Party, Magdalen Hill Down**
See 7 January.
- Friday 11 February** **Work Party, Magdalen Hill Down**
See 7 January.
- Saturday 26 February** **Pre-season Social and Photographic afternoon**
Time: 2.00pm at St Barnabas Church Hall, Weeke, Winchester. See p.10.
- Sunday 20 March** **HOS AGM, Stripe Theatre, University of Winchester**
Time: 12.00-6.00pm
- Saturday 30 April** **Photography Workshop**
See p.11.
- Saturday 22 October** **AGM and Members' Day**
Full details in September Newsletter.

Main Committee meetings: Wednesdays 2 Feb, 4 May, 14 September

Work Parties

Wear suitable clothes and footwear. Bring gloves and food. Contact Lynn Fomison for additional information if it is your first time. **If the weather is poor please check with Lynn that the work party is taking place. Tel: 01962 772251.**

Chairman's Report

As the new Branch Chair, I'd like to reiterate the thanks I offered at the 2010 AGM to my predecessor, Roger Buchanan, for his contribution to the Branch over the last three years. Roger is the epitome of efficiency and, most importantly, he is forward-thinking as well. Apart from his local initiatives, several of Roger's suggestions have been taken up at the national level, for which he rightly deserves our thanks. At the AGM, Roger was presented with an original watercolour painting of Small Blue by Rosemary Powell; I'm very pleased that he will remain on the Main Committee.

I'm conscious that holding the post of Chairman is both a privilege and a responsibility and I intend to treat it as such. Having been closely involved in Branch activity and the Main Committee for several years, I feel that I've served my apprenticeship and I will endeavour to ensure that the largest BC branch continues to be held in high regard and, more importantly, delivers concrete results in terms of conserving our butterflies and moths – a mission I'm particularly passionate about.

I'd also like to acknowledge the contribution of Janet Jones, Publicity and Membership Secretary, who is moving out of the area and stood down from the Main Committee at the AGM. Janet has been a tower of strength; our thanks go to her for her unwavering support and we wish her well in her move. I'd like to welcome Pat Turner as our new Membership Secretary, while the duties of Publicity Secretary will be carried out by Roger Buchanan, Lynn Fomison and myself as an interim measure. Will any member who has particular skills in publicity or marketing and would be able to take on this role please contact me. I'd also like to thank Thelma Smalley, our Minutes Secretary, who also stood down at the AGM.

I would also like to welcome those new members of the Main Committee elected at the AGM – Andrew Bolton and Gary Richardson. Andrew has been very active in his local area, contacting landowners and setting up a new transect in the Ashford Hill area. Gary is equally active and, along with his wife Lisa, not only walks the transect at Danebury Hill but also organises the annual photography workshop and produces (and sells) the UK Butterflies calendar, prints and others items each year, with all profits going to Butterfly Conservation.

The AGM and Members' Day was, as usual, well attended. Unfortunately, one of our speakers was unable to make it, and so I stepped in with a presentation on "Variation in British Butterflies", followed by our guest speaker and author, Chris Manley, who gave a wonderful presentation on "Photography as an ID and Reference Collection". The Photography Competition attracted many high-quality entries; the overall winner was Ashley Whitlock for his photo of

Black-veined White. Details of all of the winners can be found later in this Newsletter.

Still on the subject of the AGM and environmental friendliness, it was agreed at a recent Main Committee meeting that the minutes of the previous AGM will **not** be handed out at the AGM (but will be available on the Branch website beforehand). A small number of paper copies will be printed for those who need them. Hard copies of the minutes will also be made available to any member requesting them beforehand (please contact me). It was also agreed that there will be no AGM summary included in the Newsletter, again in the name of environmental friendliness.

At that same Committee meeting Tim Norriss was confirmed as Chair of the Records Subcommittee, taking over from Dave Green. I would like to thank Dave for his incredible leadership of the Subcommittee over many years; the sheer number of records logged and the highly regarded annual reports are a testament to Dave's leadership and direct contribution. I'm very pleased that Dave will remain on the Records Subcommittee to provide advice and guidance.

Final thanks go to Ivan Arnold for his long and dedicated service in helping with various aspects of publicity at our Yew Hill Reserve and as a member of the Reserves Subcommittee. I'm pleased to say that Ivan will remain a member of the Yew Hill management group.

At this juncture I should reiterate a plea I made at the Branch AGM. The success of the Branch is wholly dependent on its members, and any contribution you can make, no matter how small, is most welcome, be it helping to send out newsletters or scrub bashing or sitting on one of our four subcommittees (Conservation, Information, Records and Reserves). Please contact the appropriate subcommittee chair (listed at the end of this Newsletter) or me if you'd like to discuss how you can get more involved with Branch activities.

Those able to attend the national AGM in Cambridge will have seen local hero Colin Matthews win an Outstanding Volunteer award. Not only did Colin act as voluntary Reserve Manager for our Yew Hill Reserve, but he has also applied his profound knowledge of botany and habitat management to our reserve at Magdalen Hill Down to great effect. Colin is a deserving winner and an example to follow. Well done Colin! (See p.6 for more on Colin's award.)

In this Newsletter you'll find reports from our two area groups – South East Hampshire and the Isle of Wight – both of which provide a much-appreciated local presence in their respective areas. I'd like to single out the contribution of Andrew Brookes through his long-standing leadership of our South East Area

Group and his superb study of disease-resistant elms, which are much needed by our diminishing White-letter Hairstreak population.

With the New Year now underway I should conclude by mentioning some of the events at which you can get involved and meet other members. (They are all mentioned on the Branch website and in this Newsletter). The season kicks off with our annual Moth Conference on 15 January, followed by the Branch photographic and social event on 26 February and the annual photography workshop, hosted by UK Butterflies, on 30 April. I hope to see you at one of these key events of our season. Have a great 2011!

Peter Eeles, Chairman

Changes to Newsletter

Big changes are shortly to be made to the Newsletter. The Committee has decided to reduce publication from three to two issues a year. This is the norm for most branches and will save on printing and postage costs, which are quite considerable with a mailing list of over 1,000. We expect our income from grants to be reduced because of budget cuts, and this change will cut our expenditure without serious inconvenience. As an environmental charity, we are also keen to reduce our 'carbon footprint'; this is another (albeit small) step we can take in this direction.

From April 2011 there will be two ways of accessing the Newsletter. A (redesigned) paper copy will be sent out as usual but another version will be available on the website (in the members' pages). The website version will have enhancements such as colour photos and access to additional information, though the text will be identical to that of the paper version.

Members who prefer not to receive a paper copy but to rely solely on the website are requested to inform the Membership Secretary. To facilitate this, a reply slip will be included in the April and September 2011 Newsletters. The reply slip will also ask members if they wish to receive the annual *Butterfly and Moth Report* in printed form (this work will also be available in the Members' section of the Branch website). Those opting out will be removed from the mailing list, thereby giving rise to more savings.

Some of you may prefer to wait and see the website version before deciding to opt out of future mailings, but you can at any time request to be removed from the mailing list.

In future, Newsletters will be sent out in **April and September** but not in January. The website will carry up-to-date information on any events, work parties, etc., which may be organised after the deadlines.

Juliet Bloss, Editor

Main Committee changes

Standing down:	Janet Jones (Membership Secretary and Publicity) Thelma Smalley (Minutes Secretary)
New members:	Pat Turner (Membership) Andrew Bolton Gary Richardson
Replacement	Tim Norriss replaces Dave Green as Chairman of the Records Subcommittee

AWARDS

Colin Matthews: Outstanding Volunteer award

Branch member Colin Matthews received a well-deserved Outstanding Volunteer award at the national AGM on 20 November. Colin is well-known in the Branch for the work he did as Voluntary Reserve Manager on Yew Hill, where he organised work parties, led walks and generally oversaw the management of the habitat.

Colin's botanical knowledge was put to invaluable use in the 1990s when identifying and listing the plants on Yew Hill and Magdalen Hill Down, a vital step in forming the management plans for the two sites. He was also in the forefront of the work when in 1997 the 32 acres of the MHD Extension were sown with native grasses and wildflowers to convert what had been used as an arable field back to downland. This scheme, as anyone will know who has visited the area, has been amazingly successful, with orchids appearing in addition to the thriving sown species.

Colin has been a member of Butterfly Conservation for over 20 years and his skills and experience have contributed greatly to the success of the Branch's reserves.

Frank Banyard

Frank Banyard, Chairman of Upper Thames Branch for many years as well as a member of Hants Branch, also received an award for his work with Upper Thames, especially in respect of running Hotspur Bottom Reserve.

Congratulations to them both.

Legacies

Legacies are an important source of revenue for any charity. The Branch has been most fortunate in being the recent recipient of two generous legacies. June Bailey's legacy will be used to seed an education initiative, details of which will follow in due course. More recently a legacy of £20,000 was bequeathed to the Branch by Mr. Henry Aldris. The Committee is considering how best to use this most welcome gift and will report on its decision.

Such legacies are doubly welcome in these days of severe budget cuts; they will go some way to compensate for the reduction in funds from other sources and enable the Branch to continue with its conservation projects. We are most truly grateful to those who choose to help in this way.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined since the publication of the last Newsletter. We hope to see lots of you at our pre-season social afternoon on Saturday 26 February.

Mr AR & Mrs MG Abbott, Soberton; Mrs SD Constable, Farnham, Surrey; Mrs SR Gardam, Brockenhurst; Mrs K & Ms F Greig, Fordingbridge; Mr V Hewitt, Andover; Mr PA & Mrs J Hooper, Petersfield; Mr & Mrs D Jackson, Basingstoke; Mrs S Lambert, Basingstoke; Mr MJ & Mrs A Lyman & Family, Awbridge; Mrs SM Manktelow, Waterlooville; Ms A Martin, Lordswood; Mrs CE Nisbet, Winsor; Mr DK & Mrs C Richards, Hook; Ms A Thompson & Mr G Hayden, New Milton; Mr RG & Mrs JH Wilkins, New Milton; Mr F & Mrs S Woodworth, Ventnor, IOW.

Latest sightings in 2010

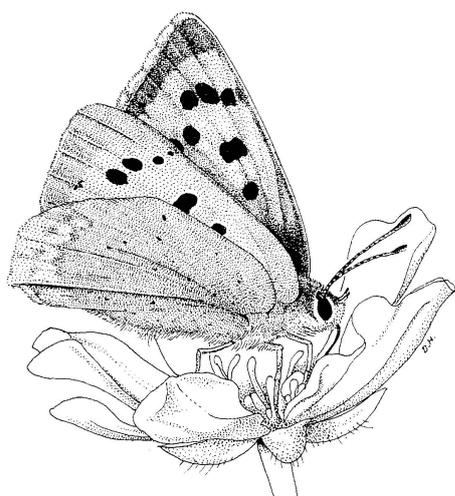
My own latest sighting was a single Red Admiral on 22 October, but along the coast, near Gosport, Ann McCue, David Tinling and others reported Red Admirals on several days in November up to the 22nd, and on that day the last Brimstone as well. Then the cold spell began and by 2 December there was up to eight inches of snow covering nearly all of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, bringing the butterfly season to an early end.

November sightings of other species were as follows: on the 1st in Gosport four Small Coppers and a Painted Lady were seen; on the 3rd Mark Swann saw a Holly Blue at Lower Test; on the 6th David Tinling reported a Speckled Wood; on the 8th in Brian Fletcher's Winchester Garden there were three Brimstones, two Peacocks and one Small White, and on the 16th a Small Tortoiseshell was reported by Peter Hutchins at Overton.

Jenny Mallett, Branch Organiser

FIELD TRIPS IN 2011

The field trip schedule will appear as usual with the April Newsletter and will also be published on line for those opting out of receiving a paper copy (see p.5).



In the meantime, some of you will have noticed that the Kingcombe Centre in west Dorset has now become part of the Dorset Wildlife Trust and will be managed in conjunction with the wonderful nature reserves which surround it. Together with the Upper Thames Branch we are

considering arranging a weekend field excursion, staying at the Centre as we did some years ago and possibly taking in a visit to a Large Blue site in Somerset on the way there or back. This would probably be in 2012, but before I take any action I would like to judge what level of interest there might be. Could you let me know by mid-February 2011 if the idea appeals to you (no commitment required at present). There would, of course, be a charge for the residential facilities. My contact details are at the back of the Newsletter.

Alison Harper, Branch Field Trips Organiser

Moth Quiz

Graham Wenman, a keen supporter of Moths Count, has created a terrific Christmas "Leps Quiz", which is available on the Amateur Entomologists' Society website. Graham has also created a **Just Giving** page for participants wishing to donate to Moths Count. Links are below.

Please circulate these links to anyone you think will be interested in taking part and have a go yourself. The 100 questions are guaranteed to keep you puzzled over the holidays and beyond.

A big thank you from Moths Count and Butterfly Conservation to Graham for this creative way of supporting us.

<http://www.amentsoc.org/about/news/0150/>

<http://www.justgiving.com/Graham-Wenman-Butterfly-conservation>

**Moth Conference 2011
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch**

**Millennium Memorial Hall, The Hall Way, Littleton
SO22 6QL**

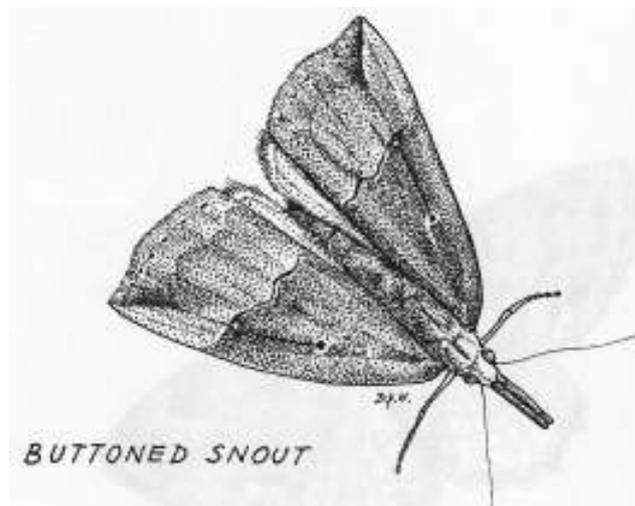
Saturday 15 January 2011

12.30	Doors open	
13.00	Welcome & Introduction	Dr Dan Hoare
13.10	Review of the Year	Tim Norriss
13.45	Small is Beautiful – Micros made Easier!	Mike Wall
14.20	Refreshments	
15.10	A Year in the Life of...	Tony Davis
15.45	Gardens for Moths	Dave Green
16.20	Members' Images (max of six per person)	
17.00	Closing Remarks	Dr Dan Hoare
17.15	Close	

Anyone wishing to show some of the highlights of their mothing year (maximum of six per person) please either email them beforehand to Tim Norriss or Mike Wall, or bring them on a memory stick on the day. Digital images only.

Whether you are an expert or beginner or even only thinking about taking the plunge into the world of moths you will be very welcome. There is no charge, but a contribution for refreshments would be appreciated.

Tim Norriss, County Macro Recorder



**PRE-SEASON SOCIAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC
AFTERNOON**

Saturday 26 February 2011

2.00 pm at St. Barnabas Church Hall, Weeke, Winchester.

Everyone is welcome at this social event, which offers an opportunity to catch up with friends and see some stunning photographs at the same time. If you wish, bring along six butterfly or moth images (prints, 35mm slides or digital), preferably themed: e.g. Woodland Butterflies, Hawkmoths, Butterflies of Greece, etc.

Digital images

Members showing digital images: please arrange with Peter Eeles **to send your pictures on a CD prior to the meeting or arrive with your CD as doors open at 2.00 pm**. As you will appreciate, it takes a little while to load the data projector, so that we need the CDs in advance to ensure the meeting starts on time.

Photographs and slides

To help with the planning of the event it would also be appreciated if members showing slides or bringing photographs could contact Roger Buchanan before the meeting (Tel: 023 8025 2963. email: roger@roger-jane.co.uk) .

Programme

- 2.00 Doors open
- 2.30 UK butterflies
- 3.00 UK moths
- 3.30 Refreshments
- 4.00 Butterflies and moths from Europe and further afield
- 4.30 Close of meeting

Contact details

Peter Eeles

6 Cholsey Road, Thatcham, Berkshire, RG19 4GH

Tel: 07796 331061. email: pete@ukbutterflies.co.uk

Photography Workshop

Saturday 30 April 2011 from 10am to 5pm
Easton Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Easton, Winchester SO21 1EG
Cost: £10.00 per head

2011 sees the return of the UK Butterflies photography workshop, in association with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch of Butterfly Conservation. The purpose of the workshop is to gather together enthusiasts to share their photographic experiences, with an emphasis on Lepidoptera.

The £10 charge, payable on the day, is to cover the cost of the hall and any other expenses incurred in running the event. All profits will be donated directly to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch. The hall is close to the Butterfly Conservation reserve at Magdalen Hill Down, which we'll be visiting for the practical session.

Please bring your own lunch (coffee and tea will be available in the hall). Detailed directions and instructions will be provided in due course.

Agenda

The workshop content is still under discussion, but it will be a day of presentations mixed in with some practical work. We expect to cover at least the following topics:

- **Photography basics** (parameters such as shutter speed, aperture and depth of field)
- **Trade-offs** (film v digital, tripod v handheld, flash v natural light, etc.)
- **Macro photography** (challenges specific to macro photography and the different types of equipment to use)
- **Digital photography** (the assumption is that most people will be using digital; this section includes a discussion of the different types of digital camera, setting up the camera, and RAW v JPEG)
- **The "digital darkroom"** (post-processing, including image manipulation)
- **Composition**

Registering for the event

Please contact Pete Eeles by email at pete@ukbutterflies.co.uk or by phone on 07796 331061. You will receive confirmation by reply. We look forward to seeing you!

Pete Eeles, UK Butterflies

**Results
of
Photographic Competition
held on
Members' Day 2010**

Category	Position	Competitor	Subject
UK Butterflies	1	Maurice Pugh	Green Hairstreak
	2	John Bogle	Silver-studded Blue
	3	Roger Pendell	Swallowtail
UK Moths	1	Mike Gibbons	Hornet Clearwing
	2	Maurice Pugh	Elephant Hawkmoth
	3	Tony Rackham	Hummingbird Hawkmoth
Behaviour	1	Maurice Pugh	Mating Silver-studded Blues
	2	Steve Goodwin	Essex Skipper
	3	Mick Langridge	Oviposting valesina Silver-washed Fritillary
Immature Stages	1	Tony Rackham	Orange-tip larva
	2	Paul Brock	Goat moth larva
	3	Ashley Whitlock	Mating Orange-tip
Overseas	1	Ken Bailey	Reverdin's Blue
	2	Ashley Whitlock	Black-veined White
	3	Ken Bailey	Spanish Festoon
Overall	1	Ashley Whitlock	Black-veined White
	2	John Bogle	Marbled White
	3	Maurice Pugh	Green Hairstreak

Congratulations to all the winners!

Reserves News

The 2010 annual *Butterfly and Moth Report* will carry details of what a splendid year it was for the majority of species on our reserves and I will not pre-empt it. However, be amazed by our transect figures: at MHD Extension the Common Blue has increased 30-fold from 50 in 1996 to 1,507 in 2010; less spectacular in percentage terms but providing a stunning spectacle, the Chalkhill Blues on MHD Original have increased from 437 in 1990 to 3,923 in 2010. The hillside really does shimmer on a good day.

Long-standing members will remember that for a number of years the Large Blue was the emblem of Butterfly Conservation. I think we should have kept it! And my belief is all the stronger having just read about this species in *The Butterfly Isles* by Patrick Barkham (see review on page 22). The story of the reintroduction of the Large Blue is an amazing one, but there were two very pertinent comments reported from Patrick Barkham's meetings with Jeremy Thomas. One was that we can only save an insect if we truly understand its ecology, the way it reacts with other species and what it needs. The second was that the revival of the Large Blue actually stimulated recovery of a type of habitat lost to much of Europe. The realization of the importance of traditional well-grazed and unfertilised grassland helped a suite of rare species, not just butterflies but plants too. The reintroduction began in 1983 and was judged to be successful in 1987.

Undoubtedly those developments influenced our Branch in acquiring and deciding how to manage MHD Original in 1989. Individuals in the Branch had a strong belief that, once cleared of scrub and grazed in the sensitive manner that butterflies require, the downland could be restored to its former glory. It is therefore pleasing that in the 21st anniversary year of its acquisition a total of 8,106 butterflies were recorded on the MHD transect in comparison with 3,470 in 1990. And some species are still giving us surprises. Prior to 2005 the Grizzled Skipper had not been recorded in 11 of the years since 1990 and only in ones or twos in other years. Natural colonisation by this species started in 2005, with 17 individuals seen, and increased to its highest count of 51 in 2010.

Butterfly Conservation works: I hope it gives you great joy to be part of it.

Lynn Fomison, Reserves Officer

Full details of what has been happening on the reserves can be found on our website or by ringing Lynn on 01962 772251.

South East Area Group – Annual Report 2010

The Group enjoyed a quiet but rewarding year. The Priority Species monitoring schedule was fulfilled, and above-average numbers of priority species were discovered. A report of a Brown Hairstreak in the vicinity of Southwick was also received.

The Group has been involved in work at the Ports Down natural downland area, Bedenham Grasslands in Gosport, and Horsea Island.

The elm trials, now in their 10th year, have progressed well. 2010 saw the completion of the trials acquisitions, with the arrival of the three latest American cultivars. In May, the Great Fontley plantation was visited by an international delegation of elm experts on a tour of southern England.

Following the publication of the 2010 trials report, several journals featured the recommended trees, and the Great Fontley site appeared briefly on ITV Meridian. Andrew Brookes has been invited to join the committee overseeing the *Ulmus londinium* project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Moreover, as a consequence of the report's publication increasing numbers of requests for planting advice have been received, notably from other BC branches.

Andrew Brookes, Leader SE Area Group



Isle of Wight Area Group - Annual Report 2010

2010 has proved to be a busy, eventful and successful first year for the IOW Area Group. Publicity for the Group was generated via a series of written articles in several key newspapers and magazines. A colourful butterfly exhibition in Ventnor Library was arranged to coincide with the Group's inaugural field event, held in Ventnor on 22 April. This event was very well received by both the public and the media, with coverage from various news outlets, including BBC Hampshire.

Subsequent field events proved equally popular and well attended, and a quite remarkable (some might say miraculous!) 100% target-species success rate was almost maintained, marred only by the final event in August (well, it was the elusive Brown Hairstreak!).

Thanks must go to the many enthusiastic people who gave their support, especially Caroline Dudley (for sterling secretarial work), Dr. David Biggs and Peter Hunt.

The purchase of an actinic moth trap enabled the Group to obtain some spectacular moth sightings during the course of the year. Ventnor Botanic Garden was chosen as the venue for National Moth Night on 15 May, yielding a Portland Ribbon Wave on a very early date for this species. This sparked off further investigations, resulting in the distinct possibility that a hitherto unknown Portland Ribbon Wave colony exists at this site (see article on p19). Another important discovery was the micro-moth, *Sclerocona acutellus*, at a wetland site in West Wight; the significant number of adults observed indicates that there may be a breeding colony here. It is hoped that a search for the larvae in 2011 will confirm this and thus establish the site as Britain's very first breeding colony of this species. Thanks to the efforts of fellow moth-ers James Halsey and Elaine Rice.

Events staged in addition to those on the programme included a butterfly and wildflower walk over Bonchurch Down in May (arranged as part of the Isle of Wight Walking Festival) and a highly successful Butterfly Benefit Concert in Ventnor, which attracted 130 people over the course of two successive evenings in September. The Group also participated in two separate biodiversity events on the Island.

Many of the above events produced considerable publicity, not only for the Area Group but also for butterflies and moths in general, culminating in a healthy increase of new memberships of Butterfly Conservation.

Last but not least, the Ventnor 'Butterfly Town' project continues to attract a great deal of interest, with many positive spin-offs and possibilities, too numerous, however, to mention here. Field-work and monitoring have revealed the existence of two previously unknown colonies of Small Blue. Funding has been secured for the printing of leaflets to enable people to follow a Butterfly Walking Trail, scheduled to open in April 2011. The Group is currently seeking further funding for a series of information boards along the Walking Trail.

Rob Wilson, Leader Isle of Wight Area Group

Hungarian Venture

I was attracted by an announcement in the 2009 autumn issue of *Butterfly* of a tour, during July 2010, to the Örség National Park of Hungary to see all four of the large blue butterflies: the ‘normal’ Large Blue (*Maculinea arion*), Scarce Large Blue (*M. telejus*), Dusky Large Blue (*M. nausithous*), and Alcon Blue (*M. alcon*). Since I had only ever seen the first of these blues before, I just had to join in. Hungary? That’s where the well known Farm Lator is, and I had long wanted to go there too. A few more thought processes and a plan evolved: I would drive my own car, first to Farm Lator, then to Örség, and back home via the Austrian Alps.

Farm Lator is in eastern Hungary on the southern edge of the Bükk Hills, not that far from the Ukrainian border. I arrived on 10 July to be welcomed by Rob and Barbara DeJong. First question from Rob was, “What are your target species here?” “Common Glider and Pallas’ Fritillary” came immediately to mind. Like a magician, he produced a folder containing data on the Farm and the local area, and a set of maps of varying scale. These maps were then marked up to show the best places to seek my targets.

I’ve heard it said that some go to Farm Lator for the food, and I shall long keep fond memories of eating out in the garden, with Barbara explaining what was in each succeeding dish as it was brought out. The wine was nice too.

Within a couple of days of my arrival the Farm was bursting at the seams with visitors; the house and the orchard cottage were full, and the camp site was packed with tents and caravans. Apart from me and one other lone Brit, all the visitors were from Belgium or The Netherlands. Most of them spoke English, and were jolly company: I did say that the wine was nice!



Oh yes, the butterflies! In the event, the Farm’s garden and surrounding tracks provided almost all I needed, including shady trees as protection from temperatures up in the high 30s, with humidity to match. The garden provided a resident Scarce Swallowtail, Heath and Duke of Burgundy

Common Glider (Pete Eeles)

Fritillaries, Eastern Short-tailed Blues and Eastern Wood Whites; then, one day, a Common Glider appeared. Rob raised the alarm, but the darned thing did not

stay for photos. Not to worry, on succeeding days more were seen on the local tracks, often well disposed to pose for pictures. The local area also produced: Woodland and Great Banded Graylings; Nickerl's, Knapweed, Queen of Spain, and Lesser Marbled Fritillaries; Large Copper; Large Tortoiseshell (also kindly posing); Large Blue; Map Butterfly (in fair numbers); and numerous species that Hungary shares with the UK. Rob said that the Large Blue was a sub-species.

So, what of my second target, the elusive Pallas' Fritillary? Following Rob's instructions, the other Brit (John) and I drove to a spot about 10 miles north of the farm and set up our search; the result was one tatty specimen, which flew off immediately. A couple of days later we tried again, and after much effort John spotted a nice fresh individual, which fortunately stayed long enough for us both to photograph it. A real bonus from this trip was a mud-puddling Camberwell Beauty.

Farm Lator is also well set for mothing, and John put a trap out most nights. But that's another story, as was the time we spent in the early darkness watching Dormice in the apple trees. The Bükk Hills contain many more exciting butterfly species, which I shall look forward to seeking out on my next visit.

Meanwhile, on 17 July it was time to mount up and drive to the western end of the country to meet up with Szabolcs Sáfián (known universally as Safi) and Ágnes Horváth, who were our hosts and guides for the next week.

Our base for the first five days was in the village of Kercaszomor, which is on the edge of the Örség National Park and is the centre of activity for the Hungarian Natural Heritage Trust. This is not the time for detail about the Trust, but a few words are essential. The Trust was set up by Safi, Agnes, Paul Butter and Peter Davey to conserve a range of threatened butterfly species, in particular the four large blues, which, amazingly, are all found in and around the village. The problem is that locals are leaving the village and abandoning the fields on which the butterflies rely. So the Trust's aim is to apply traditional management techniques to as many of the best areas as possible, either by coming to an agreement with owners or by buying sections and managing them. Much depends on volunteers and paying visitors.

On the first full day we saw three of the large blue species in fair numbers around the village. It took Safi another half day to produce the fourth one (the 'normal' Large Blue), a little way into the National Park. For this alone the area must be pretty unique. After such a start, the rest of the holiday could have been an anticlimax, but things built up nicely, and our best day, Tuesday 20th, produced an astounding 58 species. Highlights for me were Dryad (lots), Eastern Baton and Short-tailed Blues, Scarce and Sooty Coppers, Pale Clouded

Yellow, Large Chequered Skipper (also lots), Sloe Hairstreak, and three of the four large blue species.

An interesting diversion occurred when we met up with a National Park Warden to help her survey a very rough area for signs of Marsh Gentian (food plant of the Alcon Blue). Good numbers of the plant having been found, Safi went into persuasion mode to propose a management regime that the Park authorities should follow to encourage the Alcon Blue.

For our last two days we moved to the town of Sumeg to investigate the Balaton uplands. A very different environment here - dry and scrubby - produced a different range of butterflies, including Reverdin's, Meleager's, Turquoise, Zephyr, Chalkhill and Idas Blues, Hungarian Skipper, Lesser Spotted Fritillary, and the highlight, the Lesser Clouded Yellow.

I left Hungary on Saturday 24th, and put the next part of the plan into effect: spending my birthday up on the highest mountain in Austria, the Grossglockner. Since I was going up this mountain, I had been asked by Elizabeth Warren to survey Brassy Ringlets for a project she is working on. However, after nearly three weeks of hot, dry weather the gods decreed that my birthday would be different: temperature 10° C, wind 25 knots, and sleet! By now I was feeling 'butterflied-out' anyway, so I headed for home.

Ken Bailey



Alcon Blue (Pete Eeles)

The Portland Ribbon Wave

A colony in Ventnor?

On Saturday 15 May the newly-formed Isle of Wight Area Group held its first moth event in Ventnor Botanic Garden as part of National Moth Night.

An assortment of moth-attracting contraptions was set up at various points around the site, and I surmised that the Herb Garden might be a suitable spot for the placement of an actinic device. As a relative newcomer to the world of mothing I was quite happy to keep my focus on one single trap, so I decided to man the Herb Garden actinic with due diligence. I was able to identify the first few moths which entered the trap, but then one appeared that I didn't recognise. It seemed to match the picture of a Portland Ribbon Wave in the book by Waring, Townsend & Lewington, but I immediately queried this as the book describes the flying season for this species as mid-June to mid-July, a discrepancy of a whole month.

I gathered the specimen into a container and went in search of the others. Fortunately, James Halsey, with 40 years mothing experience, was on hand to confirm that it was indeed a Portland Ribbon Wave. This caused quite a stir as only a handful of sightings of this species have been made on the Island in over a hundred years, and never one so early in the year.

It was decided that we should re-visit Ventnor Botanic Garden later in the year. On the evening of Tuesday 31 August I set up the actinic in exactly the same place as previously. Within seven minutes of switching on the light, what should appear but a Portland Ribbon Wave, to be followed, another seven minutes later, by a second specimen! And so two Portland Ribbon Waves had been recorded in the first quarter of an hour of mothing. (James later found a third specimen in another part of the Garden.)

Every week from June to October I had been setting up the same actinic moth trap in the garden of Hillside, a hotel opposite my home in Mitchell Avenue, Ventnor. Hillside is situated on the lower southern slopes of St. Boniface Down, approximately two kilometres east of the Botanic Garden. Two further sightings of Portland Ribbon Wave were recorded at Hillside on 2 and 22 September, increasing my personal 2010 tally to five for this species.

I find it difficult to accept that all of these sightings were immigrants. Could it be that Ventnor has a previously unknown colony of Portland Ribbon Wave? At the very least, this species needs to be re-evaluated, especially with regard to its flight season, status and distribution.

We hope to search for larvae during the summer and thus confirm that there is a breeding colony for this species here, which I've renamed the "Ventnor Ribbon Wave"!

Rob Wilson, Organiser, IoW Group

Portland Ribbon Wave has been a resident of Dorset for a long time, known from the east coast of Portland and also St Albans Head and Winspit on Purbeck. In the past it was also known to be resident on the south coast of Devon for a while. It needs xerothermic conditions in which to breed and no doubt finds the Isle of Wight undercliff to its liking. The number of records in Hampshire has also been increasing in the last few years, mainly to the west of Southampton, but note the record at Titchfield Haven NNR in July 2009 and also the two inland records at Sway in September 2010.

As an aside, and I know that Rob's final comment above is in jest, I am thoroughly against the increasing predilection for giving new vernacular names to species new to Britain containing the name of the place where they were first seen. Surely we can be more creative than this? It also must send a rather arrogant and parochial message to European lepidopterists.

Tim Norriss, Moth Officer

Portland Ribbon Wave



A Hazard of Mothing in Ethiopia

Greeneye Ecotours promised that the trip to Ethiopia which Tim Norriss and I were joining would be a Butterfly Adventure. The purpose was to ascertain the presence or absence of butterfly species in a number of locations with a view to Torben Larsen and Sáfían Szabolcs compiling a comprehensive check list. The list is not yet finalised but now stands at around 200 species, with more being added as new species are identified from the many photographs taken.

In preparation, Torben sent the eleven participants an extract from *Hazards of Butterfly Collecting*, about an experience at the Hotel Ghion in Addis Ababa many years earlier. I was sufficiently impressed by this quirky tale to invest in a copy of the book and I read most of it before setting off. The scrapes and indeed life-threatening situations that Torben had survived could have been rather off-putting! But happily all went well.

On several occasions the sheer variety of species – 93 on one morning alone – was a real spectacle and problems were few, if you discount the bad roads we endured. However, mothing was to yield an interesting hazard.

Wondo Genet is a well known destination for bird watchers, and we spent a couple of nights at the hotel there. It has lovely grounds well populated with birds, butterflies and, as we found by running a light, a number of moths. Not as many as we expected though. The possible reason for this was...

Well, here's what happened: at dawn the moths had been potted up for examination at a more reasonable hour and for photographing once it was properly light. However, the process of identification was rudely interrupted when one of a small tribe of Vervet monkeys grabbed some of the pots with moths in and ran off with them. All but one were safely retrieved, but worse was to follow. Beautiful moths (and that is NOT a contradiction in terms!) had just been placed photogenically on tree trunks with three or four cameras pointed at them, when the monkeys mounted a swift attack. In what seemed like one bound from bush to tree trunk they grabbed two moths from under the camera lenses. Moths were obviously a favoured source of protein, and the monkeys seemed well accustomed to finding them on tree trunks despite their cryptic camouflage. The monkeys, as well as the many bird species that were found in the gardens, are presumably a significant controlling factor of Lepidoptera abundance.

Lynn Fomison and Tim Norriss

Book Reviews

Collins *Flower Guide* by David Streeter, illustrated by C. Hart-Davies, A. Hardcastle, F. Cole and L. Harper.

ISBN 978-0-00-710621-9. Collins, London. Price: £30.

Not another flower book? Well, yes, but one with a very different scope, claiming to be 'the most complete guide to the flowers of Britain and Europe'. For 'flower' read 'reproductive bit', not 'small plant'. This 704-page oracle describes and illustrates the flower of almost every plant native to or naturalized in Europe, from aquatics to yews; a total of over 1,900 species. The plates, all hand-painted (a task which occupied no fewer than four artists), also feature the leaves and fruits. Very usefully, the annotated text on each genus is prefaced with an identification key.

Of only A5 dimensions, the book is inevitably rather thick (5cm or 2") and weighs in at 1.4 kg (3 lb); hardly a pocketbook, but it could be accommodated in most rucksacks. In summary, *Flower Guide* should be an ideal first for the nascent naturalist, but otherwise it must surely duplicate the contents of most bookshelves.

Andrew Brookes

The Butterfly Isles: A Summer in Search of Our Emperors and Admirals by Patrick Barkham. Price: £20 (but check out Amazon). ISBN 978-1-27-8.

I can think of no words to pay enough tribute to this work: it's just the perfect book - easy to read in small chunks but at the same time hard to put down! Patrick Barkham's account of his attempt to see all 59 species of British butterfly in 2009 really does have something for everyone. Inspiring to those new to butterflies and vastly informative to those of us who have been butterfly enthusiasts for years, it is both humorous and a piece of writing which truly conveys the magic of nature.

Eight of the nine reviews on Amazon give 5 stars and one 4 stars. Here is an excerpt from one review:

"This book is more than just nature writing, though: it's travelogue, journalism, history (of the Aurelian movement, those eccentric old Victorian lepidopterists) and also social geography: the story of Britain's butterflies is bound up with the story of Britain's changing urban and rural spaces over the last century. It's also an examination of the obsessive behaviour of collectors, a touching tribute to a father-son relationship, and there's a cracking narrative binding it all together, too. An utterly lovely read. "

A five-star book! Buy yourself a copy and buy one for a non-butterflying friend. I have a notion it could make a few converts.

Lynn Fomison, Reserves Officer 01962 772251

Membership Secretary: Pat Turner, Bridles, Waggoners Way, Grayshott, Surrey GU26 6DX. Tel: (01428) 605831. email: pat@turner.me.uk

Librarian: Brian Fletcher, 1 Abbotts Ann Road, Harestock, Winchester SO22 6ND. Tel: (01962) 882746. email: brandm@talktalk.net

Leader SE Area Group: Andrew Brookes, 126 Castle Street, Fareham PO16 9QH. Tel: (07780) 606556. email: andrew.brookes@port.ac.uk

Reserves Officer and Health and Safety: Lynn Fomison, Mount Pleasant, Parkstone Road, Ropley SO24 0EW. Tel: (01962) 772251. email: Lfomison@madasafish.com

Reserves Warden: Patrick Fleet, 31 Vivaldi Close, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke, RG22 4YP. Tel: (01256) 465140.

Financial Adviser: Arthur Greenwood, 23 Kingswood Firs, Grayshott, GU26 6ET. Tel: 01428 604730. email: greenwoodarthur@hotmail.com

Field Meetings Organiser: Alison Harper, 6 North Drive, Littleton, Winchester SO22 6QA. Tel: (01962) 882261. email: alison.harper@hotmail.co.uk

Isle of Wight Group: Leader: Rob Wilson, Flat 10, Boniface Court, 84 Mitchell Avenue, Ventnor. Tel: 07766 906718 (please don't leave a message). e-mail: cider.rob@gmail.com
Contact: Caroline Dudley, Tel: 01983 754 935. email: caroline_dudley@btopenworld.com

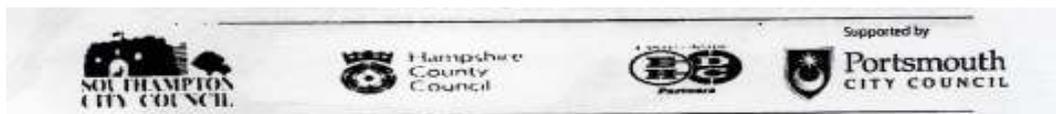
Acknowledgement

Thanks to Brian Fletcher, Dave Thelwell and Doug Hammersley for the black and white illustrations used in this Newsletter and to Pete Eeles for his photographs.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Many thanks to all contributors for their articles. The deadline for the April 2011 Newsletter is 25 March.

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of Hampshire and IoW Branch.



Chairman: Peter Eeles, 6 Cholsey Road, Thatcham, Berks RG19 4GH. Tel: 07796 331061. email: pete@ukbutterflies.co.uk

Vice-Chairman (joint): Tim Norriss, 40 Taskers Drive, Anna Valley, Andover, Hants SP11 7SA. Tel: (01264) 354944. mob: 0771 325 4901. email: tim@kitsmail.com

Vice-Chairman (joint): Dave Green, Old Mill Cottage, Weston Down Lane, Weston Colley, SO21 3AG. email: alpium@clara.co.uk

Branch Organiser: Jenny Mallett, Great Fontley Farm, Fareham, PO15 6EA. Tel:(01329) 832177. email: jennifer@mallett2.orangehome.co.uk

Treasurer: Tessa Newell, 4 Stoke Charity Road, Kings Worthy, Winchester SO23 7LS. Tel: (01962) 885296. email: tessa.newell@btinternet.com

Secretary: Cressida Wheelright, Manor Farmhouse, Moundsmere, Basingstoke, RG25 2HE. Tel: (01256) 389536. email: cressida.w@btopenworld.com

Butterfly Recorder: Linda Barker, 13 Ashdown Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 5QF. Tel: (023) 8027 0042. email: lindabarker4@btinternet.com

Moth Officer & Report Editor (moths): Tim Norriss, 40 Taskers Drive, Anna Valley, Andover, Hants SP11 7SA. Tel: (01264) 354944. mob: 0771 325 4901. email: tim@kitsmail.com

Chairman Conservation Subcommittee: Andy Barker, 13 Ashdown Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 5QF. Tel: (023) 8027 0042. email: aj3barker@btinternet.com

Chairman Records Subcommittee: Tim Norriss, 40 Taskers Drive, Anna Valley, Andover, Hants SP11 7SA. Tel: (01264) 354944. mob: 0771 325 4901. email: tim@kitsmail.com

Chairman Information Subcommittee: Brian Fletcher, 1 Abbots Ann Road, Harestock, Winchester SO22 6ND. Tel: (01962) 882746. email: brandm@talktalk.net

Chairman Reserves Subcommittee: Jenny Mallett, Great Fontley Farm, Fareham, PO15 6EA. Tel: (01329) 832177. email: jennifer@mallett2.orangehome.co.uk

Web-site: www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Webmaster: Robin Turner, Bridles, Waggoners Way, Grayshott, Surrey GU26 6DX. Tel: (01428) 605831. email: webmaster@hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Juliet Bloss, 7 Forest Meadow, Hythe, Southampton SO45 3RH. Tel: (023) 8084 8085. email: sevenmeads@aol.com

Butterfly Conservation is a charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268).
Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP. Vat. No. 565 9070 16.