

**Butterfly Conservation**  
**Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch - 2015 Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 18 October 2015**  
**Littleton Memorial Hall**

Mike Wall, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Pat Turner, Robin Turner, Bob Annell, Jean Annell, Chris Cobb, Abby Sullivan, Chris Piatkiewicz, Ken Plumridge, Graeme Davis and Janet Jones.

**2. Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting were unanimously confirmed as an accurate record.  
**Proposed:** Andy Barker. **Seconded:** Clive Wood.

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Presentation of Accounts**

Arthur Greenwood, Branch Financial Adviser, began by informing the meeting that Nick Radford had resigned as Branch Treasurer and the role has now been taken on by Bridget Grande. He thanked Nick for his contribution and welcomed Bridget to the role.

Arthur Greenwood went on to present the accounts for 2014/2015. Summary sheets were available at the meeting. The accounts had been independently audited and approved by BC Head Office.

Total income was £49,643 which was £8,070 lower than in 2013/2014. This was due to a rescheduling in the timing of grant payments and a one-off grant received in 2013/14. Total expenditure exceeded income by £8,834, of which £5,167 was on account of the timing of VAT receipts. Income from subscriptions, grants and dividends was consistent with 2013/14.

Total expenditure was £58,477 (excluding Restricted Funds). This is £12,532 more than in 2013/14. The cost of managing the reserves was £8,739 higher than in the previous year, mainly due to the increased costs of employing the Reserves Officer on a full-time basis. Contractor costs were lower by £1,880. Other costs were consistent year on year.

Designated Fund balances are: Major Projects Zero (balance transferred to Reserves Management Designated Fund); Reserves Management £43,466; June Bailey Education Fund £5,000. Expenditure against the Reserves Management Fund was £9,523 for Magdalen Hill Down (MHD) fencing replacement and repairs. Expenditure against the Education Fund was £6,110 to fund the part-time Education Officer role.

Investments were valued at £150,061 on 31 March 2015, representing an unrealised gain of £30,490. Note that if these investments were sold they would be re-valued on the date of their sale. £10,000 of the Branch investments was sold in the year.

Ongoing income and expenditure levels are expected to be similar in 2015/16. Further expenditure of the Reserves Designated Fund is planned for the replacement of fencing and footpath repairs at MHD. The remaining amount of the June Bailey Education Fund will be used to pay for the Branch Education Officer.

It was proposed that the accounts be formally accepted, and this was carried unanimously.

**Proposed:** Sue Lambert. **Seconded:** Juliet Bloss.

**5. Reports for Conservation, Information and Reserves Subcommittees**

**a) Reserves Subcommittee**

Penny Jeffreys (member of the Reserves Subcommittee) presented the report on behalf of Jenny Mallett (Chair).

On transect at MHD Small Tortoiseshell numbers were down by two thirds on last year. Chalkhill Blue numbers were similar to last year but are still 60% lower than 2013. Small Blues had an excellent year on all four MHD transects, benefiting from the thriving kidney vetch as a result of successful

grazing management – this is evidently not as sedentary a species as we are led to believe. Brown Argus also had an excellent year, enjoying the short, warm turf – numbers were twice those of last year. Although there were no Adonis Blue recorded on transect there were a few confirmed sightings so we keep our fingers crossed they may put in more of an appearance next year.

At Yew Hill, Chalkhill Blue numbers were again down (to 10% of the 2013 numbers). However Yew Hill total transect numbers for all species were similar to last year. Bentley Station Meadow is now very much a meadow rather than woodland glade. Silver washed fritillary numbers had a good year.

Thanks were extended to the large number of volunteers (scrub bashers, transect walkers, livestock "lookers") who help manage and monitor the reserves of which we are rightfully proud. Thelma Smalley (Bentley Station Meadow Transect Co-ordinator) is standing down from the role next year and was thanked for her contribution of many years.

In 2015 there were many pre-booked walks and lots of repeat bookings. They were well attended and positive feedback was received from all age groups. A successful Big Butterfly Count open day and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was hosted at MHD and was very well attended, despite the inclement weather.

### **b) Conservation Subcommittee**

Penny Jeffreys, the new Chairman of the Conservation Subcommittee, reported on the key activities of the Subcommittee during 2014. She began by thanking Andy Barker for his contribution as previous chairman for over 20 years.

The Subcommittee of 10 members brings together a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience across the Branch area, including people working at South Downs National Park and Hampshire County Council.

The role of the Subcommittee is to reflect and implement BC's conservation objectives and policies and guide the Branch's conservation work, working with Jayne Chapman (Branch Reserves Officer) to determine and implement conservation initiatives on the Reserves and with Steve Wheatley (SE Senior Regional Officer) to determine and implement priorities at Branch and Regional level, in partnership with other organisations.

The current focus is

Working with Steve Wheatley to update the Regional Action Plan – butterflies, moths and priority habitats / landscapes. This will allow us to focus our efforts and identify key landscapes for future major projects.

Progressing the Marsh Fritillary reintroduction project in north east Hampshire.

Working with partner organisations, eg through the Nature Improvement Area initiative, to engage with landowners to introduce management regimes to benefit lepidoptera and other species.

### **c) Information Subcommittee**

Clive Wood, Chairman of the Information Subcommittee, presented the report.

Branch Membership (meaning active households) stood at just under 1400, representing an increase of 25% over last 4 years. The main reason is the Head Office marketing campaigns on the back of Big Butterfly Count counts. The current Branch membership represents about 1,800 individuals.

The newsletter, edited by Kevin Freeborn continues to be well received. The total costs of printing the newsletters and annual report have been renegotiated and now costs £4 per member per annum to print and post rather than £6.

An E-newsletter has been introduced, edited by Juliet Bloss. Members are asked to check their settings on the member area of the website to ensure they receive these (if they wish to).

The Field Meetings programme organised by Ashley Whitlock has been very successful. It would be very helpful to have more people volunteering to lead the walks.

We got very good publicity marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Reserves at MHD and Yew Hill (thank you to Richard Lemon)

The Family Fun day at MHD in July was very well received

There was an active programme of summer events, some small some large. All of these were a success thanks to the willingness of our able volunteers to man the stands, for which many thanks.

A Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly Walks book (written by Kevin Freeborn and Ashley Whitlock) is due to be published at Easter 2016.

Volunteers are required to help run the website, to take on the role of Membership Secretary and to organise events

Clive Wood thanked all the members of the Subcommittee for their hard work during the year.

#### **b) Records Subcommittee**

Mike Wall reported that he has taken on the role of County Moth Recorder and that Bob Annell is the new County Butterfly Recorder.

He apologised for the lateness of the Annual Report this year. This was due to fewer people being available to complete the Moth aspects of the report, particularly the time taken to verify the 110,000 moth records. Sincere thanks were extended to Bob Annell (and to Andy Barker) for the work in putting the report together. Next year the annual report may be issued in 2 parts at different times of the year.

Volunteers are needed to help with record submission, database management and correspondence.

The February Moth Conference was attended by over 70 people

The subcommittee reports were accepted by members en bloc unanimously.

**Proposed:** Pete Eeles. **Seconded:** Phil Budd.

#### **6. Chairman's Report**

Mike Wall thanked those who do the real work (the rest of the committee, volunteers and staff) and expressed his gratitude for the time and dedication that is shown to the cause of conserving lepidoptera in Hampshire and Isle of Wight, and for the support shown to the branch by head office in Lulworth. He said that the Branch's crown jewels are its reserves, which continue to flourish (despite the vagaries of the climate) under the guiding hand of Jayne Chapman, the Reserves Officer.

The year has seen some events that have had significant effects in the medium term. As Arthur Greenwood described in the financial review, the need to keep the branch on a sound financial footing is an ongoing challenge. Also the abrupt departure of Tim Norriss as county moth recorder, on top of the loss of Paul Brock as butterfly recorder created delays in getting the annual report produced.

Thanks were extended for the contributions made by Pete Eeles and Nick Radford who are both standing down from Main Committee.

#### **7. Election of Main Committee members**

Mike Wall reported that:

**Nick Radford** had resigned from the role of Treasurer and will be replaced by **Bridget Grande**.

**Pete Eeles** had resigned and will not be standing for re-election

**Clive Wood** is standing down from the Main Committee, but is seeking re-election in accordance with BC's rules:

It was agreed to vote on the above election and re-election en-bloc. This was passed unanimously.

**Proposed:** Brian Fletcher. **Seconded:** Ken Bailey.

#### **8. Health and Safety Matters**

Jayne Chapman, the Branch Health and Safety Officer has ensured that the lone working policy has been explained and communicated as appropriate within the Branch and has also ensured Health and Safety policies have been communicated to the Isle of Wight group.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2.00pm.