

Butterfly Conservation
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch – Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting
Sunday 7th November 2021
Held online via Zoom

The AGM started at 12.00pm. Andy Barker, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Attendance: c.40

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mary Parker and Clive Wood.

2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were unanimously confirmed as an accurate record.

Proposed: Andy Barker. **Seconded:** Francis Plowman

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation of Accounts

Andy Barker presented the accounts for 2020/21. The accounts are available on the Branch website. As all Branch accounts are now managed by BC Head Office, there is no longer any legal requirement for Branches to present their accounts to Members for approval. The accounts, therefore, were presented for information only.

The opening balance for the year was £55,176.90 and the closing balance was £62,592.59.

The main source of income is membership subscriptions, which totals £9,972. The Branch received £1,690 in donations. Andy thanked John Vetterlein who contributed the majority of this from the proceeds of the sales of his calendar. The branch also received £2,520 from the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for allowing access to butterfly data, which is used in the decision making process for planning applications.

The main sources of expenditure was £5,772.01 for the part time Volunteer Development and Education Officer role from April – December 2020. The other main source of expenditure was £3,268.58 for newsletters.

5. Chairman's Report

At last year's AGM, there had been a change of committee and the Covid situation was looking very serious, but our membership numbers have held up well. Current membership stands at 1682 households (2286 individuals). This looks like a reduction in numbers from 2020 but is mainly due to some housekeeping which took place on the data at Head Office. Andy thanked Sharron Broadway who has been Membership Secretary since 2016 and is now standing down. Suzie Brown will stand for election as Membership Secretary.

Andy also thanked several other volunteers who play key roles within the branch, such as Ashley Whitlock (who leads our walks programme), Steve Luckett, (Volunteer Reserves Officer at Bentley Station Meadow), Bob Annell (County Butterfly Recorder & Report Editor) and Jim Baldwin (IoW Moth Recorder).

The Branch issued two newsletters this year. The newsletter can be received electronically if desired. Andy asked members to contact Head Office if they no longer want to receive a printed newsletter and save on paper and postage. Andy also highlighted the recently published 2020 Moth Report, which has been produced thanks to Mike Wall, and can be viewed on the HantsMoths website. The Branch E-Newsletter is now being produced on a regular basis, with the next issue due in December. If you have any content to contribute to the next e-newsletter, please contact Jon Holden-Dye (details on the branch website - <http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/committee.php>)

Andy thanked Ashley Whitlock, Kay Shaw and Jim Baldwin for running a full field trips programme this summer, despite Covid restrictions. He also highlighted the importance of social media for the branch and asked members to help provide content for this.

Andy thanked everyone who has participated in recording butterflies. This provides vital information on species distribution and abundance, allowing us to take action.

Fiona Scully joined Butterfly Conservation as South Downs Landscape Officer in December 2020 and has settled into the role well. Steve Lockett has also begun volunteering on Bentley Station Meadow, working with Steve Wheatley (Regional Conservation Manager) to manage the site.

The Branch is currently developing two landscape projects; Heart of Hampshire Fritillaries (based in central Hampshire) and another with Compton County Farm Estates, near Yew Hill.

Marsh Fritillary are doing well at the reintroduction site. The project was awarded Highly Commended (second place) in the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Category at the MOD Sanctuary Awards 2021. This was a fantastic achievement for a largely volunteer-led initiative, and thanks to a strong partnership between Butterfly Conservation and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Kate Barrett ran 8-10 school visits on Magdalen Hill Down this year. She has now moved into a different role and the Branch are unable to recruit to fill the vacancy as Head Office now require the Branch to cover all costs of the project which makes it prohibitively expensive. The Branch are looking at options to deliver school visits using a contractor in 2022.

Several virtual talks took place during lockdown. The Branch decided not to attend any shows and events this year due to the risk of Covid, excepting some events run by Bob & Jean Ansell and Kay Shaw and Jim Baldwin on the Isle of Wight. There is a vacancy for a volunteer Events Co-Ordinator in the branch which needs to be filled if the Branch are to attend any events in 2022. Please contact Andy Barker if you think you can help with this.

The 2021 season started with cold weather which led to a slow start. The weather from May to July was wetter than normal, with heavy downpours and sunny spells, leading to strong grass growth. Chalkhill Blue had a good year, as did the Dark Green Fritillary and Red Admiral. Clouded Yellow, White Admiral and Gatekeeper all had a poor season.

Andy talked through the goals of the new Butterfly Conservation 2026 Strategy. Hampshire is rich in butterfly and moth fauna and many important landscapes fall within the county. The Branch can therefore make a strong contribution to the goals.

6. Election of Main Committee members

Andy Barker reported that **Suzie Brown** and **Sarah Crawford** seek election to Main Committee.

Election of Suzie Brown

Proposed: Andy Barker. **Seconded:** Rupert Broadway. Approved unanimously.

Election of Sarah Crawford

Proposed: Andy Barker. **Seconded:** Nick Radford. Approved unanimously.

7. Health and Safety Matters

None.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Close of AGM

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.