

# Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch



Newsletter 97



Butterfly  
Conservation

October 2014



# Events and Work Parties

[www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk)

## **Saturday 25 October: Branch AGM & Members' Day**

Millennium Hall, Littleton, Winchester.

## **Saturday 14 November: National AGM**

Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. *See website for details.*

## **Saturday 21 February 2015: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Moth Conference**

Millennium Hall, Littleton, Winchester.

## **Magdalen Hill Down Work Parties – October 2014 to February 2015**

Tuesday 21st October	Tuesday 25th November	Tuesday 27th January
Tuesday 28th October	Tuesday 2nd December	Tuesday 3rd February
Tuesday 11th November	Tuesday 16th December	Tuesday 24th February
Tuesday 18th November	Tuesday 6th January	

**Meet:** 10am-4pm at the top of the track between the Stonemason's yard and Morn Hill Cemetery at 10am (SU 512,295).

## **Yew Hill Work Parties – October 2014 to February 2015**

Tuesday 7th October	Tuesday 13th January	Tuesday 10th February
Tuesday 4th November	*Saturday 17th January	

\*Hampshire Conservation Volunteers – cutting and raking the Reservoir front

**Meet:** 10am-4pm. Park at the end of Old Kennels Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU 451,269). Please come and find us on the Reserve.

## **Bentley Station Meadow Work Parties – October 2014 to February 2015**

Wednesday 22nd October	Wednesday 5th November	**Saturday 31st January
*Saturday 1st November	Wednesday 3rd December	Wednesday 4th February
*Sunday 2nd November	Wednesday 7th January	

\*Hampshire Conservation Volunteers – clearing wind-blown trees

\*\*Hampshire Conservation Volunteers – cutting and raking, Oak Copse

**Meet:** 10am-3pm. Park in the pay & display Station car park, and walk across the railway track to the meadow, (SU 792,432). OR park in the free, Forestry Commission car park off Gravel Hill Road (SU 802,433) and walk through the FC to the reserve.

Any help at all is always very much appreciated. If you cannot get to the meet points at 10am, please come and find us on the Reserves. Bring a friend, too!  
PLEASE CALL ME IF THE WEATHER IS BAD TO CHECK THAT THE WORK PARTY WILL GO AHEAD.

*Jayne Chapman, Reserves Officer. Tel. 07909 968 657*



# Chairman's Message

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Newsletter, the first edition under the charge of the new editor Kevin Freeborn. Juliet has stood at the helm for more years than I've been involved with Butterfly Conservation and steered the publication in its growth from humble monochrome beginnings to the all-colour, digitally-produced quality publication that it now is. Juliet also feels it is time to step down from main committee at the up-coming AGM. I'd like to offer the thanks and appreciation of both myself and the branch for her dedication and unfailing good humour throughout.

The AGM will also see the stepping down of two more long-standing committee members, to whom we offer our very grateful thanks. Firstly to Robin Turner who has been our Webmaster for nearly ten years. The laborious process of not just maintaining the website but also vetting and copying all your postings onto the Sightings page during that time, and of downloading all those records at the end of the season so that they can be imported into our records database, has been a labour of love. I'd like also to thank Pete Eeles for taking over the reins to allow a smooth handover from Robin.

Secondly to Paul Brock who has been our Butterfly Recorder for the last two years. Paul has carried out the role whilst also writing his own recently-published and critically acclaimed book *A Comprehensive Guide to Insects of Britain & Ireland* and doing much other writing and survey work. Paul is now standing down so that he can catch up on his many other commitments that have, of necessity, been on hold whilst he completed what Peter Marren describes as a 'quiet masterpiece'.

This does leave us in a position of deciding where to take the role of Butterfly Recorder. Tim Norriss is for the time being taking on the role of vetting the records received, as he does for the macro-moths, and he will be ably assisted by Kevin in the substantial work associated with the production of the annual report.

The AGM itself is coming up very soon, on 25th October at Littleton, near Winchester. As a slight diversion from the usual practice, this year we are jointly hosting the event with Butterfly Conservation's European Interest Group (EIG), so please come along to what should be a varied and interesting programme. You will find the agenda and relevant details on pages 3 and 4.

I had the pleasure of chairing my first New Members' Day recently, which was warmly received by all those who attended despite being later than advertised. Dr Dan Hoare presented on the conservation work Butterfly

Conservation is actively engaged with in the south of England, Penny Jeffreys gave an overview of our reserves and how they are managed, Clive Wood enthused the attendees on the virtues of volunteering (signing up four new recruits in the process) before handing over to Tim Norriss to present on how to record and report sightings, and a few highlights of the year to date. A gentle amble followed on Magdalen Hill Down, where all present were lucky enough to see a pristine second-generation male Adonis Blue. A fitting highlight to end the day – thanks to Andy Barker for taking the lead on the walks, and to all speakers and volunteers who assisted with the day.

This year has seen the Branch move forward in many areas. We continue to be one of, if not the, largest branch by membership in the country, and as such we have been at the forefront in developing a partnership approach with Head Office in Lulworth which will benefit the organisation as a whole in years to come. Finances, while always a challenge, are well-managed under the watchful eye of Arthur Greenwood and Nick Radford. We have been able to develop a new role, unique amongst any branch in the county, to fund an Education Officer role, a fitting and tangible use for the legacy left to the branch by June Bailey. We have recruited Abby Sullivan under an initial six-month contract and have recently agreed to extend this for another year. This is an exciting venture for the branch and BC as a whole which is already delivering results under Abby's enthusiastic drive, and can only go from strength to strength.

I hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy what I feel has been a reasonable, if not exceptional, summer for lepidoptera. One of my abiding memories of this year will be the sheer numbers of Marbled White on Magdalen Hill Down while doing the transect on the Original reserve; a sign that grass growth this year was remarkable, a product of the wet and mild winter and warm summer. Thank you for your continued support of Butterfly Conservation: visit and enjoy our reserves, see the good work that is being done and if you feel that you have some free time and skills to be able to assist in any way then do please get in touch!

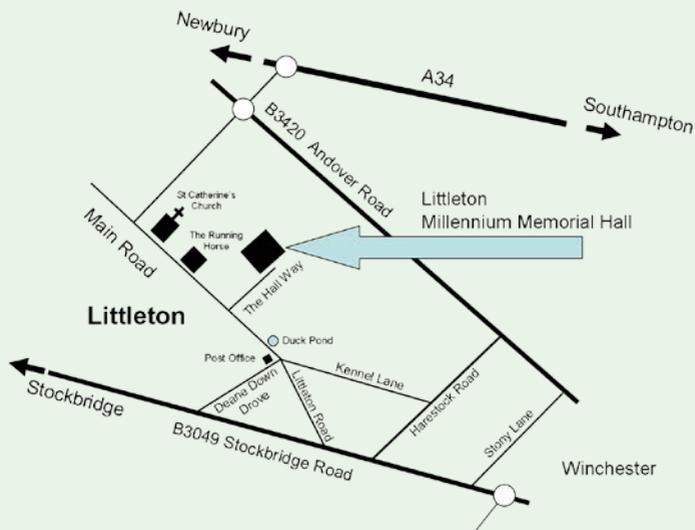
***Mike Wall, Branch Chair***



# Members' Day and Annual General Meeting

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch  
Saturday 25 October 2014

Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall, The Hall Way,  
Littleton, Winchester, SO22 6QL  
Grid ref: SU 455,324



## PROGRAMME

- 1.00-1.45pm Branch AGM and EIG AGM running in parallel
- 1.45-2.00pm Mingling
- 2.00-3.00pm Butterfly Conservation Europe: 10 years of progress (Martin Warren)
- 3.00-3.45pm Refreshments, mingling and photographic competition
- 3.45-4.15pm Butterflies of Bulgaria (Nick Greatorex Davies)
- 4.15-4.30pm Dukes on the Edge (Dan Hoare)
- 4.30-5.00pm Results of photographic competition

# Annual General Meeting 2014

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Presentation of accounts.
5. Reports of Conservation, Information, Records and Reserves Subcommittees.
6. Chairman's report.
7. Election of Committee members.

*The following are standing down by rotation and seeking re-election:  
**Peter Eeles, Arthur Greenwood, Jenny Mallet, Mike Wall.***

***Juliet Bloss** is standing down and is not seeking re-election.*

8. Health and safety matters.
9. AOB. Any other business: items should be notified to the Chairman or Secretary by 20 October 2014.

## Members' Day – Photographic Competition

All images must be prints not exceeding an image size equivalent to A4 (297x210mm) in landscape or portrait format.

**Entries are limited to a total of three prints.**

Prints will be displayed and judged in the following categories:

- UK Butterflies
- UK Moths
- Behaviour
- Immature stages
- Overseas butterflies and moths

All members attending the meeting will be invited to complete a voting slip to identify their favourite image in each category and to choose their overall winning entry. The results will be collated and the winner announced at the end of the meeting.

There will be no opportunity to show slides or digital images at this meeting. Members unable to attend but who wish to submit prints may do so by post to: Clive Wood, 68 St Cross Road, Winchester, SO23 9PS. Please ensure you enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you wish your prints to be returned.



# Submitting your 2014 Butterfly and Moth Records

The on-line butterfly recording form on the Branch website was closed down in May 2014 and you are now asked to submit all your butterfly and moth records using one of the three options below. This change became necessary as the records previously submitted to our website had many errors which took a great deal of time to correct before being able to import into our database. There was also no way of querying a record as the email of the person submitting the record was not retained, so that if he/she were not known to us then unusual records sometimes had to be arbitrarily deleted as we had no way of checking whether they were correct or simply a typo.

Living Record is a similar on-line recording system that you can use for all your natural history sightings, not just butterflies. It has the great advantage that you can view and manage all the records that you have entered and this was not available to you using the Branch website. As County Recorders we can then view and verify or query/comment on any records on-line and you are able to attach any pictures in support of your id or add additional comments. If you choose to use Living Record as your submission method then we encourage you to start using it **now** and try and keep your records up to date. It is of course slightly different to what you have been used to so it will take a short time to learn it but believe me it is worth the effort and we value your records.

You can use **Mapmate** <http://www.mapmate.co.uk/> for data submission of your butterfly and/or moth records. There is no need to split the two and they should be sent to either Tim Norriss (CUK 1c5) or to Mike Wall (CUK 2h3), or to Iain Outlaw (CUK art {for IoW moth records only}). We suggest that if you currently use Mapmate then you continue to do so.

You can use **Living Record** <http://www.livingrecord.net/> for data submission of your butterfly and/or moth records. As explained above, this is a well-proven on-line recording system and it's free!

You can submit your records using the Butterfly and Moth Excel Spreadsheets available for download at <http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/recording.php> and sending them by email to Tim Norriss at [tim@kitsmail.com](mailto:tim@kitsmail.com).

## **DEADLINES**

If using Living Record it would help greatly if you enter your records as you go along to allow time for on-line verification. If using Mapmate or the Excel spreadsheets then please submit them by **30 November** at the latest with a later follow-up by 31 December if required. If you have any queries then please just ask and I will do my best to assist.

*Tim Norriss, County Macro-moth Recorder*

## Isle of Wight Moth Recorder

Sam Knill-Jones has decided to stand down as County Moth Recorder for the Isle of Wight after carrying out the role for over 12 years. Our thanks go to him and we hope he has a happy 'retirement'! Iain Outlaw has agreed to take over with immediate effect and he now holds the island moth database on Mapmate. This will be regularly kept 'synchronised' with the Branch database so that we both hold the same data. Please send any Isle of Wight moth records to Iain at 36 Hungerberry Close, Shanklin, Isle of Wight PO37 6LX or email: [zoothera@live.co.uk](mailto:zoothera@live.co.uk). His CUK is 'art' if you normally send in your records using Mapmate. Iain will continue to get all the support needed from Mike Wall and myself and all the moth-ers on the island.

*Tim Norriss, County Macro-moth Recorder*

## Hampshire Moth Conference Saturday 21st February 2015

The next Hampshire Moth Conference will be held at Littleton Memorial Hall on Saturday 21 February 2015 so please put this date in your diary now. Doors will open at 12.30pm for a start at 1pm and will close at 6pm. Refreshments will be provided and there will be plenty of opportunity to meet and chat with old and new friends.



*Bordered Beauty*  
*Pete Durnell*

There will be a range of speakers and programme details will be posted later on the Branch website and on the Hantsmoths and Branch Facebook pages. Whether you are an expert, a beginner or even just thinking about taking up mothology you will all be very welcome.

## Another Moth Date for your Diary

The next BENHS Exhibition will be held at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn, London on Saturday 8 November 2014. The Exhibition will open from 10am until 4pm. Members and guests are welcome. See: [www.amentsoc.org/events/listings/0744/](http://www.amentsoc.org/events/listings/0744/)

*Tim Norriss, County Macro-moth Recorder*



# Reserves Updates

What a fantastic summer. A year stuffed full of butterflies and reminiscent of my childhood days, spent outdoors, chasing butterflies up and down the front gardens of the street in which we lived. It never fails to amuse me to see grown-ups doing exactly the same thing when a butterfly they are watching intently, suddenly takes flight! I can only imagine the excitement when on the 14th April, Mike Gibbons and Mike and Janet Pearson, who were visiting Magdalen Hill Down, saw a Swallowtail. Janet commented that it was 'racing up and down and being chased by Peacock butterflies', but it obviously settled long enough for them to take this excellent picture.



*Swallowtail at MHD*

*Mike and Janet Pearson*

Following on from one of our ever-popular 'Transect Training Days', yet another 'exciting sighting' was seen by an attendee, Chris Cobb. After the event, Chris went to have a bite to eat in chalk-corner, where he happened upon a male Adonis Blue. I commented in the Spring Newsletter that it would be great to see Adonis on the reserves. The habitat they require – short turf, grazed by sheep, is certainly in evidence, and now too it seems are the butterflies, with second generation being spotted during the summer, including females, and culminating in 3 male Adonis Blues being recorded on transect by Andy Barker on the 28th August. Andy also recorded an aberration, more from him on that in due course I'm sure... all good stuff indeed.

## MAGDALEN HILL DOWN

So just exactly what have we been up to since I last wrote the reserves updates? I often think that there might be a break from the endless work involved in managing the reserves – especially as the winter-work parties have come to an end, and summer is just around the corner. But no, there is no let-up. The summer walks programme merges seamlessly with the last work party, and with on average 30 walks and events across our reserves from May to September, we are kept pretty busy all year round. The walks, in general, have been well attended and we welcome anyone who has an interest in butterflies and the great outdoors to join us on our regular ‘Wednesday Wander’. Details will be posted on the website in spring 2015.



*Loading cattle*

*Jayne Chapman*

This year we introduced light summer grazing with cattle to small areas of the reserve, which was so successful that the management team has agreed to continue this regime in the future. We will be holding back 9 steers from the winter grazing herd, to remain at Magdalen until they are ready to go to market. The steers are a part of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust’s breeding programme, and it makes sense to leave them with us rather than having to constantly move cattle and go through the added expense of TB testing. Another win-win situation for both BC and HIWWT. Oh and the butterflies of course.

A further addition to this year’s herd has been the inclusion of a bull. This came not without a few headaches, as first of all a risk assessment had to be prepared to say that to the best of my knowledge the bull had previously shown no signs of aggression towards his handlers, and was of even temperament. This is to satisfy our insurers should there ever be an ‘incident’, but as with all livestock, caution around them remains a priority. Extra signs had to go up informing visitors of a bull in the field. Using the words ‘dangerous’ or ‘beware’, goes against advice, so I was very pleased to find a superb laminated sign of a red image of a bull, on Amazon. It looks like a

Spanish bullfight is about to be held, but it does get the message across, and also gives walkers the opportunity to seek an alternative route should they wish to avoid the livestock. Since his arrival on the 4th August, 'Superman', as he is called, has been on his best behaviour – and likes nothing more than a scratch on the head and a pat on the back. He holds the impressive title of 'National British White Champion', and is quite spectacular – so do pay him a visit if you are at Magdalen this winter.

Those who know me are aware that I could talk about livestock all day long, but no update is complete without mentioning the sheep. Our 'permanent' flock has been an absolute boon, and in light of reduced rabbit numbers, they continue to maintain areas of short turf across the reserve. Sheep need certain care at different times of the year – their feet have to be trimmed annually, sometimes more frequently, and in the month of May they require shearing. With a small flock, this is manageable, and is achieved through using the skills of a professional shearer, the sheep owner himself, myself, and our volunteers. It's all back-breaking work, but if you're fortunate, the owner might see a return of £4 for a fleece at today's market prices.

Keep a look out for the following, all of which have been spotted on Magdalen Hill Down: Golden-bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle *Agapanthia villosoviridescens*; Hornet Robberfly *Asilus crabroniformis* which is nationally scarce and a Biodiversity Action Plan species (although it is being seen more frequently at Magdalen – Rob West spotted two on the Old Allotments on the 28th August); and Cricket-bat spider *Mangora acalypha* which is quite rare on downland, preferring open woodland, and seen by Mike Wall on the 28 May.



Golden-bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle

Graeme Davis

If you spot anything unusual and have a photo to back up your sighting, please email it to me at: [jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org)

## BENTLEY STATION MEADOW

There isn't much to report here during the summer months, but David Walton and Arthur Greenwood did lead a walk each to see the orchids and butterflies of the season. However as access to this reserve is not the easiest (unless you take the train), the walks are quite often, not very well attended, especially when the weather can be the deciding factor on whether or not to turn out on the day. It is however the most beautiful place to be on a sunny day, so if you have some time to spare, and the sun is shining, simply jump on the train to Bentley station, and take a short walk across the track into the meadow. You won't be disappointed.

The reserve is situated along the Shipwrights Way. This is a new 50-mile long-distance route in East Hampshire, the result of a partnership between East Hampshire District Council, Hampshire County Council, South Downs National Park Authority and the Forestry Commission, who pooled their resources and expertise to bring about the route. It links villages and towns through some beautiful countryside. The name reflects the use of oak grown at Alice Holt Forest for Tudor shipbuilding, linking this site with Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, home of the *Mary Rose* and HMS *Victory*. Starting from Alice Holt Forest, the route passes through Bordon, Liphook, Liss, Petersfield, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Staunton Country Park, Havant, Hayling Island and continues to Portsmouth via the ferry, finishing at the Historic Dockyard, and including seven rail stations. See <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/shipwrightsway.htm>

There are twenty stone sculptures along the way, beautifully carved from Portland stone by artist Richard Perry to show the history, or wildlife, of each place – Bentley Station Meadow has a Silver-washed Fritillary – very apt given the recent increase in numbers of this butterfly to the Reserve. I observed around 30 individuals of this fast-flying butterfly in mid-July. They were swooping through the open meadow and sunny rides, and feeding on bramble as Ron Hills and I spent an enjoyable couple of hours scything the over-grown transect paths.



*Shipwrights Way sculpture at BSM  
Jayne Chapman*

## **YEW HILL**

The meadow had a good summer, and on a hot sunny day at the end of July, Ivan Arnold led a walk for the public, where there were 'Chalkhill Blues by the dozen'. Phil Budd encountered a Silver-washed fritillary patrolling along the hedge line, and I was delighted to find Greater Butterfly orchid, flourishing alongside Common-spotted, Fragrant and Bee orchids, all on the reserve.

Following a hard winter graze, Hilltop (9 acres) has surprised us all by the abundance of flowers compared to previous years. This part of the reserve has no public access, but is still an important meadow area providing nectar sources for butterflies. It does however have a major ragwort problem, and many hours have been spent over the years pulling the ragwort during the summer months – all to no avail. The majority of ragwort on this site is Hoary ragwort, which has a different root system to Common ragwort. Generally, the root does not pull cleanly out of the ground, resulting in a snapping action, where bits of root remain in the ground to continue growing. This year, I decided to top the ragwort using a tractor mounted flail mower. The benefits of this are that it can be done in a fraction of the time that it takes for the volunteers to pull the plant, but the key is to get the timing right – just after flowering and before the plant has set seed.

There is a great deal of misconception and myth surrounding Ragwort. If you would like to find out more, this is an informative site: <http://www.ragwort.org.uk/>

## **OTHER NEWS**

Current and on-going volunteer opportunities:

At least two more people are needed for the rota to check the livestock at Yew Hill up until December. If you, or anyone you know might like to help out, please give me a call (details below). Training will be given.

Once again, as ever, I shall look forward to seeing many of you on our conservation work-party dates (details in the inside cover of this newsletter and on our website). Please feel free to contact me on 01962 808400 if you would like to discuss what we do and how you can become involved, or email (address below) if you would like to be added to our volunteer email list.

### **How you can get involved**

As well as the dates listed on the inside front cover, I also send out an email for extra work-parties when we have one-off jobs to tackle, or if the weather has forced us to cancel any of the pre-planned dates. If you would like to be added to this list, please email your contact details to: [jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org)

The work we do is fun and varied, and benefits butterflies, moths, birds and other wildlife. All you need is enthusiasm, stout footwear, gloves and a packed lunch. We provide all the necessary tools and training, and teach you a little bit about habitat



*Lambs*

*Jayne Chapman*

management along the way. Volunteers are crucial to tackling the practical management work that is necessary during the winter months. It is a great reason to get outside and get fit.

#### **This winter's tasks on our reserves**

**Magdalen Hill Down:** We will be carrying out our usual scrub-block coppicing programme – lots of bonfires – plus extra work to reduce the scrub encroachment on the Original reserve, and a nice, easy task to clear the fence lines this winter.

**Yew Hill:** Clearing fence lines from clematis and tackling thorn and dogwood encroachment in the grassland.

**Bentley Station Meadow:** The meadow has suffered a fair amount of wind blow during the 2013/14 storms – there is plenty of clearing up to do! So... get your boots on and bring a friend!!

#### **AND FINALLY...**

I would like to end this update by saying that now Adonis Blues appear to have colonised Magdalen Hill Down, I will be setting my sights on the Duke of Burgundy Fritillary over the coming months – more to follow on that in the next Newsletter.

*Jayne Chapman, Reserves Officer*



# Learning about Butterflies and Moths

## **Our Education Programme**

Since 1 May this year I have been lucky enough to have been appointed the Education Officer for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch. The Branch was given a legacy from June Bailey to set up an Education Fund, which is how my role is being funded. The legacy was given to be used for educational activities which promote people's awareness of the conservation of butterflies and moths and their habitats within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Butterfly Conservation as a whole has always provided a lot of information suited to adults but has been a little lacking in providing it for children. My task has been to change this within our branch. The main head office in Lulworth had already started their mission to involve children through their Munching Caterpillars project and I was able to shadow them to see what they were doing. From that I have been able to set up our own programme, adding and changing features to suit our branch.

So what are we offering? We provide sessions for schools and youth groups aimed at the ages of 7-11 years but we are adaptable to other ages as well. In these sessions we introduce the wonderful world of butterflies and moths through interactive presentations, games and hands on activities with live specimens. We can also provide field trips to any of our three beautiful nature reserves. During these trips we can cover species identification, foodplants, food webs and habitat management to name but a few. We have successfully run two sessions with Cub Scouts at their Scout huts, and a session at Yew Hill Nature Reserve, receiving some lovely feedback for both. We already have 9 Scout groups booked for September and October, and are in the process of contacting schools to get them on board.

Our education programme has already come a long way in a short time and I hope to continue with this level of progression! Thanks to the June Bailey Fund our branch is leading the way on education and hopefully other branches can follow suit.

If you run a youth group or are a teacher and would like us to run a session for you, then please don't hesitate to contact me at: [asullivan@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:asullivan@butterfly-conservation.org) or call 07845 849947.

***Abby Sullivan, Education Officer***

## **Butterfly Identification Course: Identification of Hampshire's butterflies and day-flying moths**

Following the popularity of previous courses, I have decided to offer a butterfly identification course for beginners and those who wish to further their knowledge. The course will focus on identification features of butterflies and day-flying moths, but will also discuss habitat requirements and the status of each of Hampshire's butterflies. A brief introduction to those species not found in Hampshire will also be given. My aim is to inspire you all to go out and enjoy, record, and raise awareness of our butterflies, moths and their habitats.

The course will run for six consecutive Thursday evenings, 7.30-9pm, commencing 5 February and ending 12 March 2015. It will take place at Shawford Village Hall, just south of Winchester, and close to Shawford railway station. The full course is priced at a modest £18 per person, but places are limited to a maximum of 20 people, and must be pre-booked by emailing or writing to Andy Barker (see details in back of this Newsletter). Once your place on the course has been confirmed, you will then be asked to send a cheque made payable to 'Butterfly Conservation Hampshire Branch'.

I will be presenting most of the course, but will be joined by a number of experts who will give short guest presentations about particular species and their status in Hampshire. The outline for the course is as follows:

<b>5 February:</b>	Introduction, Whites and Skippers
<b>12 February:</b>	Hairstreaks and Blues
<b>19 February:</b>	Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Vanessids and Fritillaries
<b>26 February:</b>	Browns and Non-Hampshire species
<b>5 March:</b>	Introduction to moths and identification of day-flying moths
<b>12 March:</b>	Survey and monitoring techniques, and species trends for Hants and Isle of Wight

I shall look forward to seeing you all, but remember that places on the course are on a first come first served basis, so please book early.

***Andy Barker, Chair Conservation Subcommittee***  
*aj3barker@btinternet.com*



# New Members

A very warm welcome is extended to the 57 new branch members who joined between March and August 2014. We encourage you to participate in some of the events and field meetings to make the most of enjoying your membership.

Mr Steven Alderson, Thornhill;  
Mr Lewis Avery, Warsash;  
Mr H & Mrs Bagshaw, Portsmouth;  
Mr B J & Mrs P Bailey, Newchurch, Isle of Wight;  
Mr R E Bailey & Mrs C Rose, Torquay, Devon;  
Miss Alison Ballamy, Portsmouth;  
Mrs Judy Ballanger, Ventnor, Isle of Wight;  
Mrs Jill Barnes Touchwood, Stockbridge;  
Miss Lily Batt, Liss;  
Mrs F beard, Blackfield;  
Ms R Bellgore-Gullit, Newport;  
Mrs Jennifer Bennett, Bishops Waltham;  
Mr Tyler Blackbourne, Basingstoke;  
Mrs V C Boxall, Alton;  
Mr D Bridger, Passfield;  
Mr A Butcher & Miss S Whittaker, Privett;  
Mr P Butler & Mrs Vidovic-Butler, Southampton;  
Ms E Chapman & Mr A Miles, Chandler's Ford;  
Mr Andrew Conroy, Southsea;  
Mr Steve Cook, Fareham;  
Miss H Cooper, Sandown;  
Mr A & Mrs E Day, Portchester;  
Mrs W Donne, Highcliffe, Dorset;  
Mrs S Edwards, Locks Heath;  
Mrs Jennie Espiner, Winchester;  
Mr Stephen Georgiadis, Kilmeston;  
Mr Charlie Gibbons, Nether Wallop;  
Mr Stefan Goodyear, Baughurst;  
Mr Matthew Greening, Otterbourne;  
Mr Sunara R Highley, Hook;  
Mr Simon C Jones, Harestock;  
Mr N Juvigny-Khenafou & Mrs E Dobi, Rotherwick;

Mr A & Mrs S Locke, Tidworth;  
Mr D & Mrs J Levy, Basingstoke;  
Ms Sophie Liddel, Chandler's Ford;  
Liss Junior School Hill;  
Mr Stewart Luck, Cowplain;  
Mrs Mary Macmillan, Milford on Sea;  
Mrs A & Mr S Meats, Romsey;  
Mr David Minns, Emsworth;  
Mrs Marion Mort, West Hythe;  
Mrs Rosalind Newman, Petersfield;  
Ms K Newton & Mr M Wigley, Bouldnor, Isle of Wight;  
Mr Nigel Owen, Frogham;  
Mr David Prichard, East Meon;  
Mr J Rault, St. Brelade, Jersey;  
Mr David F Redbond, Burley;  
Mr B & Mrs V Saddington, Hayling Island;  
Mr A Salt & Miss A Sellen, Gosport;  
Mr Kenneth Saunders, Andover;  
Dr P & Dr E Statham, Southampton;  
Mr Thomas Stone, Chandler's Ford;  
Mr S & Mrs H Taylor, Stubbington;  
Mr V & Mrs K Trevor & Family, Whitehill;  
Mrs S & Mr M Watson, Southsea;  
Mr P White, Chandler's Ford;  
Mr Mark R Wynn, Scorguie, Scotland.

***Pat Turner, Membership Secretary***



## Other News

### **Obituary: Joyce and Edwin ('Giff') Gifford**

I am sorry to report the passing of Joyce and Giff. They were both in their 90s, and passed away peacefully at home in the New Forest earlier this year. They were dear friends to many of us, and were two of our longest serving Branch members, having joined almost 30 years ago. It is difficult to summarise all that they achieved, except to say that they were a true inspiration to so many people both young and old, and will certainly not be forgotten by those who knew them. They were two of the original volunteers involved with scrub clearance at Magdalen Hill Down in the 1990s, and also helped at numerous shows and events (especially New Forest Show) promoting the cause of butterflies and moths. Joyce had a particular interest in the Orange Tip, and would always look forward with great anticipation to the emergence of the first of the year from chrysalises in her porch. Both Joyce and Giff enjoyed walking and recording butterflies in the New Forest, and for several years Joyce was 'Species Champion' for the Silver-studded Blue, and wrote regular summaries for the Annual Report.

There is much more that I could write, but it would become increasingly difficult to know when to stop, so I will finish by acknowledging their very significant contribution to the development of the Branch and the conservation of lepidoptera. Whilst their tremendous enthusiasm for the natural world and conservation will be sadly missed, many fond memories will certainly stay with all those who knew them, and the cause of conservation will live on with all those they inspired.

***Andy Barker, Chair Conservation Subcommittee***

## Hampshire Branch at the New Forest Show, 29-31 July 2014

The Branch is developing an excellent relationship with the organisers of the New Forest Show and for the second year running we were delighted to have a display stand for all three days of what is one of the largest county shows in southern England. The event provides us with a wonderful opportunity to talk about butterflies and moths with members of the public and how they can help to understand and conserve these beautiful insects. The weather was excellent throughout and the stand was busy with visitors asking questions or looking at our display.



*The Butterfly Conservation stand at the New Forest Show*

Four volunteers manned the stand over each of the three days of the Show. Especial thanks go to Arthur Greenwood, Mark Coles and Clive Wood who each did two days. On the first day we had a display of live moths trapped the previous night by Juliet Bloss in her garden. Extreme good fortune resulted in the capture of two Poplar Hawk-moths, one Pine Hawk-moth and one Elephant Hawk-moth, perfect for dispelling prejudices against little brown jobs that eat your clothes. The supporting cast included Black Arches, Swallow Prominent, Rosy Footman and Ruby Tiger, all good for publicising the range and attractiveness of moths.



Craft activities for children were the focus of the following two days. We made scores of badges and finger puppets with some of the children making wonderful designs.

We also gave 3 lecture presentations on Butterfly Conservation and the Big Butterfly Count and gave away over 450 pamphlets, brochures and fliers including the ever popular *Gardening for Butterflies*. And, of course, we had countless conversations with young and old alike on moths and butterflies.

A couple of mentions. The award for 'Going the Extra Mile' must go to Arthur Greenwood for getting to the site on Day 1 by 6am, presenting a lecture he had barely seen before and for camping out overnight at the Show. And Juliet's moths were greatly missed on Days 2 and 3 as several folk asked to see them again, a lesson that we need a moth-er on all 3 days. All in all, a busy, tiring but rewarding event, and one we plan to repeat in 2015. Volunteers welcome!

***Juliet Bloss and Clive Wood***

## **Albany Prison: the wildlife value of a piece of derelict land**

When I mention my passion for butterflies to friends and acquaintances, I am often greeted with the refrain, 'I don't see as many butterflies as I used to'. The Island is blessed with a number of very good sites for butterflies: Bonchurch Down, Compton Down and Arreton Down, to name but a few. Many of these sites are owned and managed by conservation charities and their futures are therefore hopefully secure. But when people refer to the paucity of butterflies, they are talking about the absence of butterflies in their gardens, their towns, villages and localities.

We know that loss of green spaces are a factor in the decline of our urban butterfly populations and over the past two or three summers I have been monitoring the butterflies on an unkempt piece of land adjacent to Albany Prison. The site is owned by the Prison Service and was once, I believe, either a football pitch or an area of amenity grassland. It is about 1.5 acres in size and is wedged between the prison and the busy Newport to Cowes road. A large part of the site is coarse grassland, but the soils are thinner below the prison walls and birds-foot trefoil, wild strawberry, hardheads and red clover grow here in abundance.

I have been surprised by the number of species of butterfly present on what appears at first site to be a rather unpromising piece of neglected land. In May I recorded Grizzled and Dingy Skippers and as the season progressed I observed Common Blues, Marbled Whites, Large Skippers and Meadow Browns. The Albany housing estate borders the southern edge of the field and here a large patch of nettles is serving as a

breeding ground for local Small Tortoiseshells. Even at the nadir of the Small Tortoiseshell's fortunes I regularly made double figure counts of the butterfly nectaring on the brambles.

In July 2013 there was an explosion in the population of Small Skippers on the site. A walk diagonally across the field would yield a tally in excess of 200. The colony must have numbered in the thousands. And it's not just butterflies that find a refuge in this little green space; last winter I happened across a large flock of goldfinches feeding on the teasel seed heads and a good range of common birds nest there.



Given its proximity to the prison, the field is unlikely to be developed. The concern is rather that people will regard it as an eyesore and seek to 'tidy it up'. Indeed, during the middle of last summer the brambles at the back of the garages attached to the Albany housing estate were razed to the ground, destroying a marvelous habitat for Gatekeepers at the peak of their season.

The site is surrounded by urban development and yet supports a wide range of butterflies and other species. It is a haven for wildlife on our doorsteps and demonstrates the conservation value of such patches of derelict and neglected land in our towns and villages. Hopefully, it will be allowed to continue to flourish and provide enjoyment for those who frequent it with a discerning eye.

***Stuart Read***

## Garden Plants for Butterflies and Moths

Gardeners can make a great difference to pollinating insects by growing plants that attract them. Such plants need to be nectar-rich and pollen-rich and located in a sunny spot. Early spring plants are especially valuable for insects such as bumblebees emerging from hibernation. Double flowers should be avoided as the extra petals are produced at the expense of stamens (which produce pollen), and the nectaries are harder to access. There is a huge choice of suitable plants: one good place to look is the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) website where you can find a long list of garden plants that are 'Perfect for Pollinators'. As the list is arranged seasonally, it is easy to pick a range of plants which will attract insects throughout the year. It includes trees, shrubs, climbers, bulbs and corms, annuals, biennials and herbaceous perennials. There is a comparable list for wildflowers.

In addition, RHS Wisley has, for the past four years, been running an experimental project entitled 'Plants for Bugs'. Several plots have been planted with a mixture of different species, in order to investigate the biodiversity of both native and non-native plants and thus to determine their value to wildlife. A huge amount of data has been recorded and a number of papers are to be published, the first of which will focus on pollinating insects. It is due out in January: keep a look out for it.



*Juliet Bloss*

## Gardening and the Butterfly and Moth Annual Report 2014

From time to time Tim Norriss and I encounter people who relate interesting anecdotes about what they have seen in their garden. Maybe an unexpected species turning up, or some breeding behaviour – particularly rewarding when plants have been put in to encourage just that very thing.

If I receive enough material from people, I hope to write a special article on the value of our gardens to lepidoptera in the 2014 report. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Lynn Fomison**  
*lfomison@madasafish.com*



# Features

## 2014 - Silver Jubilee Year for our Reserves

What were you up to in 1989? I well remember at the start of that year, on my 35th birthday, I resolved to mark the half-way point of my three score years and ten by throttling back on the G&Ts and spending my money on gym membership and anti-wrinkle cream. Like all good resolutions this lasted as long as my birthday hangover and normal life resumed. But at the same time more significant things were happening in the world. You probably have in mind the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, for example. Well, yes, but this was as nothing compared with the excitement in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch of Butterfly Conservation on acquiring its first two nature reserves – Yew Hill and Magdalen Hill Down.



*Taking a well-earned break from scrub clearance on Magdalen Hill Down. Andy Barker*



*Clearing the scrub to reveal the chalk downland flora.*

*Andy Barker*

Both sites had been badly invaded by scrub. Yew Hill at 5 acres was less of a challenge than Magdalen Hill Down's 23 acres. Neglected for decades it was impossible to walk the length of the reserve at Magdalen Hill Down as thick hawthorn and privet scrub had invaded the site. There wasn't much chalk downland flora and the butterflies were even thinner on the ground. So the enthusiastic Hampshire lepidopterists donned their gardening gloves and picked up their loppers in eager anticipation of restoring some top-notch butterfly and moth habitat.



*Adonis Blue. Kelvin Richards*

Within a year both sites were transformed. And, importantly, very quickly the butterfly numbers soared. Looking at the transect figures for 1990 you can see that Chalkhill Blues were the immediate winners at Yew Hill with a count of nearly 2000. Meanwhile at Magdalen Hill Down we were also finding healthy numbers of Chalkhill Blue and Brown Argus.

And since then the reserves have gone from strength to strength. At Yew Hill we regularly record 25 species of butterfly. The diverse flora includes cowslip, horseshoe vetch, milkwort, scabious, clustered bellflower, bastard toadflax, squinancywort, sainfoin, and a spectacular number and variety of orchids (fragrant, greater butterfly, pyramidal, common spotted, bee and frog).

At 120 acres Magdalen Hill Down is now over 5 times the size it was 25 years ago. 34 species of butterfly have been recorded and we regularly count over 10,000 individual butterflies in the recording season, sometimes as many as 15,000. We've had counts of 1,500 butterflies on a single transect (around a 45 minute walk).

The greatest excitement this year at Magdalen Hill Down has been the arrival of the Adonis Blue butterfly. It seems for the first time we have a small colony of the species. What a fantastic reward for all the work done over the last 25 years to keep the site in good order.

So here's wishing Yew Hill and Magdalen Hill Down a Happy Silver Jubilee. I think this calls for a magnum (not the ice cream!).

***Penny Jeffreys, Minutes Secretary***

## A Taste of Honey

Many readers will be aware of the close association that a number of species of butterfly have with ants, a phenomenon known as *myrmecophily*. This association is most developed in the *Lycaenidae* family – the hairstreaks, coppers and blues. The most well-known association is that of the Large Blue *Maculinea arion* and the red ant *Myrmica sabuleti*, where Large Blue larvae switch from a diet of Wild Thyme flowers in their early instars to ant grubs from their 4th instar onwards. The larvae of other species of butterfly attract ants in order to gain a level of protection from potential predators.

I've had the good fortune of seeing, first hand, this association between butterflies and ants. I was invited to observe the introduction of several Large Blue larvae at a reintroduction site in Gloucestershire, where David Simcox and Sarah Meredith kindly showed me the adoption of a 4th instar Large Blue larva by its host ant, which proceeded to take the larva back to its nest, and future food supply! I've also had the pleasure of spending time with Tim Norriss observing nocturnal Chalkhill Blue larvae on Stockbridge Down, where several larvae were found surrounded by red ants. I've also found Holly Blue larvae attended by the Black Garden Ant *Lasius niger* whilst feeding on the flower buds of an ivy that grows at the back of my house.



*Holly Blue larva attended by Black Garden Ant*

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of rearing several Silver-studded Blue larvae through to adulthood and was amazed at the ant-attracting apparatus that the larvae have at their disposal. These observations led me to research the various devices that many *Lycaenid* larvae have and it turns out that there are 3 devices employed, although not all larvae have these.

The first device is a number of small, single-celled glands scattered over the caterpillar's skin, known as pore cupolas, which produce substances that attract or appease ants.



*Final instar Silver-studded Blue larva*



*Tentacular organs of a Silver-studded Blue larva*

The most visible device, in the case of the Silver-studded Blue, is a pair of retractable organs at the rear of the larva, known as dorsal eversible organs or tentacular organs. These are shown in the top-right photo and in the YouTube video that I've posted at <http://bit.ly/ssblarva>. These organs take the form of long cylindrical tubes that can be everted (turned inside out), and are topped with a ring of spikes when extended. When the tubes are retracted, a pale depression surrounded by hairs indicates their position. The function of these organs may be to attract or repel ants through the release of chemicals, but there is no definitive reason given for their function. These organs may also provide a visual cue.



*The honey gland of a Silver-studded Blue larva*

The third device, and possibly the most well-known, is a specialised gland known as the honey gland, dorsal nectary gland or Newcomer's gland, that exudes a sweet substance packed with sugars and amino acids that is attractive to ants. The gland is found in the middle of the 7th abdominal segment of the larva and can be made out in the photo above (it is the pale purple patch below the tentacular organs).

I'll never look at a Silver-studded Blue the same way again!

***Peter Eeles, Webmaster***

## Fritillary Forays

Except for the Silver-washed, all the lovely butterflies in this group have declined greatly since the Second World War and some are in serious trouble. My attempt this year to see all the fritillaries was not 100% successful. It was an early season and I happened to be away for the first half of May, which put pressure on the timings of visits to the spring species. Fortunately, Adrian Butterworth and I caught the end of the Pearl-bordered season on 24 May in Pignal Inclosure in the New Forest, where about 10 individuals were still flying. It was a warm day and it took some persistence before getting a look at the underside, vital for identifying this group, whose underwing pattern is diagnostic.

The Marsh Fritillary is perhaps the most stunning butterfly in the group. Buoyed up by the success of our first attempt, we headed up to Martin Down in search of this species. Although this butterfly is usually associated with damp meadows, there is a small population on Martin Down, where we found four on 31 May. It is not a strong flyer and may often be seen perched on meadow thistle or some other nectar plant. Its food plant is devil's bit scabious, on which the female lays large batches of eggs. The caterpillars emerge in spring and live communally in silken webs. Under favourable conditions this can lead to large populations, but numbers fluctuate dramatically. Drainage and overgrazing has contributed to its decline.

Bentley Wood is a well-known location for Purple Emperors, but it supports a good range of other species, including both Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries. The latter are locally even less common than their very similar cousins, and emerge later. Our woods have become much shadier since the decline of coppicing, but these two species need sunny woodland glades where their food plants, various types of violet, flourish. On our visit on 2 June both species were flying, although the Pearl-borderedes were coming to the end of their season and looked pale and faded in contrast to the Small Pearls, which were bright and smart. Again, it took a while before we managed to get a good view of the underwing pattern of both species and see the difference in the number of silvery spots.

We followed this visit up by going to the Isle of Wight on 8 June. The Glanvilles, with their striking underwing pattern of white and orange bands decorated with black dots, were still out in good numbers at Grange Chine, where their food plant, ribwort plantain, grows. This plant disappears when crowded out by vigorous grasses and is dependent on the slumping of the cliffs, where it can pioneer new spots. Carpets of thrift in full flower provided the nectar source; we must have seen 100 or more of the butterflies. The small mainland population at the end of Hurst Spit seems to have been wiped out by last winter's floods.

I was very keen to see High Browns, our most endangered butterfly, particularly as I had only once previously glimpsed it, in the early nineties. It now has only two strongholds: the Morecombe Bay area and Dartmoor, so I looked up information on sites in Devon and consulted Andy and Linda Barker, who provided me with directions



Marsh Fritillary



Glanville Fritillary



High Brown Fritillary



Mating pair of High Browns

to a site on the southern flank of Dartmoor. It was both a frustrating and an exhilarating experience. A very warm and sunny afternoon at Aish Tor saw me standing surrounded by fast-flying fritillaries (a wonderful sight) which landed if at all only for a millisecond. The problem was that at least half of them were Dark Green Fritillaries. How to tell the difference? Again, a view of the underside was essential to see the row of brown spots between the outer margin and the silver spangles, a feature absent from Dark Greens. But after two and a half hours I was still none the wiser. The only perched individual I had seen was a Dark Green, a welcome enough sight, but the Dark Green is much more widespread and this was my only chance to see High Brown. Thinking that they might be less active in the morning I returned after breakfast only to find they were flying as fast and furiously as the previous afternoon. Eventually, miraculously, one landed in the grass by my feet, closed its wings and stayed there motionless long enough for me to get a good view and even to take a photograph. Success and relief, both. Some guides mention another feature which distinguishes the two species: High Brown has a very slightly concave shape to the trailing edge of the forewing, whereas in Dark Green it is straight or very slightly bowed outwards. This is difficult to see in the field unless you are very experienced with both species, but can it be picked up in a photograph?

Silver-washed Fritillary was easy, both in Botley Wood on 13 July and at Exbury Gardens a few days later, but alas no *valezina*. Silver-washed lay their eggs on the trunks of oak trees where common dog-violet grows nearby. It is quite a widespread woodland butterfly that seems to tolerate shadier woods than some other species. My biggest failure was Heath Fritillary: I left it too late and they were over by the time I could have gone looking for them. Poor planning. Maybe one for next year.

**Juliet Bloss**

## Lepi-photos Website and Blog

Born in Fleet in the north-east of the county, adjacent to Fleet pond and the vast areas of MOD land with its woods and heathland, it is easy to see why, with no television or computers, my early interest in nature became established. Sights like a grass snake with a frog in its mouth, dung beetles rolling rabbit droppings and reed buntings in the garden during the colder winters, all cemented my love of nature further, but nothing stuck so well as seeing a female Emperor Moth depositing ova by the edge of Fleet Pond. It sounds unusual to see such a find by the edge of a pond except that in those early days the MOD Bramshott Golf Club fairways had heather growing very close to the pond.

What followed was a copy of *The Observers Book of Butterflies* and a deep desire to write a book on the subject one day. Teenage years kindled other interests and so my middle years are best described as bringing up a family, and it was only about seven years ago that my early love of butterflies and moths was rekindled when reading the Sightings pages on the Hants & IOW Butterfly Conservation website. I salivated for a year seeing sightings of butterflies and moths that I had never seen, before deciding I had to join the throng of recorders.



*Male Purple Emperor*

I purchased my little Fuji camera and can say the pleasure of seeing these insects for the first time, along with meeting such knowledgeable people doing the same, has given me immense pleasure, as well as the satisfaction of knowing I am doing my little bit to help secure these fascinating insects for future generations.

Having worked past the normal retirement date already I realised work would eventually end, and so I decided a website would create the motivation to pursue my interest – and so **www.lepi-photos.com** was born. As a purely amateur lepidopterist I now had photos of all but four of the UK butterflies and decided to extend this to moths. My interest grew with every visit to the annual Moth Conference.

I began switching the outside light on at night and was fascinated by what I found each morning, but was even more amazed when I decided to check the fence down at my local garage which has three security lights. When I found a False Mocha moth there, only the fourth sighting in Hampshire since 1994, I was hooked, and decided last year to purchase a moth trap. Now, the moth trap check in the morning can best be described as looking into your favourite 'sweetie bag', such is the anticipation at what I will find.

My website, created in October 2012, would come under the heading of 'UK butterflies and moths', wherever they appear, with additional European species seen on holiday. Each species of butterfly or moth is represented by two web pages, one for general descriptions, photos, and larval foodplants, with a second page describing taxonomy. The Lepi-plants sub-heading shows the larval foodplants and lists all the butterflies and moths whose larvae use a particular plant.



*Elephant Hawk-moth*

The self-explanatory Home Page, which is refreshed each week, shows photos of my local area, butterflies, moths and larvae, nature reserves, larval foodplants and, at the bottom of the page, other wildlife encountered on my fieldtrips for the interest of the viewer. Finally, I run a blog which records changes to the website (see link to Lepi-blog on the home page), as well as sightings, both at the moth trap and out in the field.



*Scarlet Tiger*

For me the website is a work in progress and a means of learning more about a subject that has meant so much over the years, so I do hope the viewer shares some of that enjoyment.

**Colin Baker**



## **A Change of Newsletter Editor: Signing off from Juliet**

Hampshire Branch was founded in 1982. The Chairman and first Newsletter Editor was Matthew Oates. In 1987 Andy Barker took over the editorship, which then passed to Linda Barker in 1988 for a couple of years. When I came along in 1990 she happily relinquished it. I have been editor for 24 years and put out 69 editions; and now the job has passed to Kevin Freeborn.

When I took over, Ian Small, who lived in Porton, was Chairman and insisted on proofreading each issue (three a year in those days) before it was printed. Since there was no email and time was always short, this necessitated driving from Hythe to Porton after work and sitting in his front room while he read it through. The following day it had to be delivered to the printers in Winchester. Thank goodness for email.

In the beginning Branch membership numbered only about 300, so part of the Editor's job was to keep the mailing list up-to-date and stuff the envelopes with the printed Newsletter and often several attachments as well. For several years, with my husband's assistance, I did this at home but finally the mailing list grew too big and took up too much time. We farmed the stuffing operation (which also involves attaching stamps and labels to the envelopes) out to the retirement home where my mother-in-law lived and the membership list was taken over by Head Office. When the OAPs found the job too big we founded the stuffing group, based in Alison Harper's house near Winchester, where it continues to this day. Thank goodness for self-adhesive stamps.

The present shape of the Newsletter owes much to Dan Powell, who offered his services for free in 2011 and upgraded its appearance dramatically. As well as the improved internal layout, the cover has changed from black and white to colour, and in this edition full colour is used throughout for the first time. It certainly does justice to such a colourful group of insects to be able to show them in all their beauty.

I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed reports and articles over the years, uncomplainingly and for the most part punctually, which has made the job much easier than it might have been. I wish Kevin all the best and am sure that a new eye will result in continued improvement to the Newsletter and our services to the members.

***Juliet Bloss***



### **...And Signing in from Kevin**

Back in 1982-83, in what is now commonly known as a ‘gap year’, I was fortunate enough to be recruited by John Bacon, reserve warden at Old Winchester Hill NNR at that time, on a Youth Opportunities Programme with the then Nature Conservancy Council. Growing up in West Meon, I had always been interested in wildlife and the countryside.

Under John’s enthusiastic tutelage my conservation interests were catapulted to new heights and in the wonderful Clouded Yellow summer of 1983 my enduring love of butterflies was forged.

I walked transects on OWHNNR and Beacon Hill and assisted John in the reintroduction of the Adonis Blue project at OWH. In 1986 my undergraduate cartography dissertation mapped the correlation of grass height and Adonis Blue transect counts, some the results of which John used in his grazing management plans for chalk grassland reserves.

In 1983 John Bacon introduced me to Butterfly Conservation and I enrolled in the embryonic Hants and Isle of Wight Branch. In 1986 I hand-drew the Branch’s first tetrad base maps of Hampshire for Matthew Oates to produce species distribution maps. Members with long memories may recall early branch stalwart Christopher Holt, a fellow resident of West Meon, with whom I shared transect walks at various Meon Valley sites.

I continued as a voluntary warden at OWH into the early 1990s until my editorial work in travel publishing and cartography, and family commitments, took me out of the county. But I retained my Branch membership and continued to make visits to some of my favourite spots in Hampshire. Now living in Eastleigh, I work as a freelance editor and cartographer.

It is lovely to have this opportunity to contribute to Branch activities as Newsletter editor. My grateful thanks to Juliet for showing me the ropes, and a big thank you to all contributors for your news and features. New contributors, please don’t be shy, and if you have an idea for the Newsletter do get in touch with me via email.

***Kevin Freeborn, Newsletter Editor***

## Advertising in the Newsletter

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch Newsletter is published twice a year, in the spring and autumn. The Newsletter is mailed out to more than 1,200 households across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and to members living outside the county. The Newsletter is also posted on the Branch website.

For all enquiries regarding advertising in the Newsletter, please contact me via email: kevinfreeborn@btinternet.com

### Rate card

Size	Commercial customer	Charitable status and/or conservation organisations
Full page	£100	£50
Half page	£65	£30
Quarter page	£35	£20

### Multiple insertions

Multiple insertions will qualify for a 20% reduction on the second and all subsequent insertions of the same (or substantially the same) advertisement.

Note: no more than 4 pages will be devoted to advertising per edition.

*Kevin Freeborn, Newsletter editor*

## Branch Vacancy: Events Organiser

Tired of pulling hoary ragwort or counting endless squadrons of Marbled Whites or Gatekeepers? Looking for an opportunity to use your excellent planning and organisational skills? Then the Branch has a great opportunity for you!

We are looking for someone to help plan and co-ordinate the Branch's annual programme of events and displays. Each summer the Branch attends around 15 or so events where we talk to the public about the work of Butterfly Conservation and display a range of literature, craft activities and photographs. The events can range from the three-day New Forest Show to small local affairs such as the Mottisfont Countryside Day. (Field trips and guided walks are organised separately).

Working with myself, the main aspect of the role is to book venues for outdoor and indoor events and displays and to organise a rota of lovely volunteers to attend with the appropriate directions, equipment and display materials. Attendance at events and displays is welcome but is not a requirement of the role.

If you are interested in finding out more or just having a chat about helping with our events programme, do please give me a call or send an e-mail. It would be great to hear from you. My contact details are on the inside back page.

*Clive Wood, Vice-Chair*



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**Butterfly Conservation** is a charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in  
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## **Newsletter Deadline**

Many thanks for all your contributions. Newsworthy items and features from  
new contributors are very welcome.

**The deadline for the spring Newsletter is 27 February 2015.**

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The opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch.



*Lime Hawk-moth*

*Pete Durnell*