

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### **MONDAY 28 JANUARY “The Land of Fire and Ice”**

A joint meeting with HWT for an illustrated talk by Brian Fletcher about Iceland, featuring the flowers, scenery and wildlife of this volcanically active island. **Time:** 7.30 (doors open 7.00) at St Barnabas Church Hall, Weeke, Winchester.

**Cost,** including refreshments: £2.00. **Enquiries:** Brian Fletcher (01962) 882746.

### **SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY Magdalen Hill Down**

**Time:** 10.30. Monthly meander for about 2 hours. A general nature walk looking for signs of spring. **Meet:** in gravel car park opposite Magdalen Hill cemetery on the B3404 Alresford Rd, Winchester, at SU 512 295. **Leader:** Phil Budd. Organised by Lynn Fomison (01962) 772251.

### **FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY Magdalen Hill Down Work Party**

**Time:** 10.00-4.00. **Meet:** at top of track by cemetery off B3404 at SU 512 295. Joint with Hampshire Conservation Volunteers. Please help with our winter programme of tree and shrub clearance and Reserve maintenance. **Organiser:** Lynn Fomison (01962) 772251.

### **WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY Bentley Station Meadow Work Party**

**Time:** 10.00-2.30. **Meet:** in station car park or join us on the Reserve. Please help with our winter programme of tree and shrub clearance and Reserve maintenance.

**Leader:** Lynn Fomison (01962) 772251.

### **TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY Woodland Butterflies: Challenges and Solutions**

**Time:** 7.30 in the West Berkshire Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury. See p. 3. for more details.

### **FRIDAY 29 FEBRUARY Yew Hill Work Party**

**Time:** 10.00-4.00. **Meet:** at end of Old Kennels Lane at SU 451 269 near junction Port Lane/ Millers Lane, or meet us on the Reserve. **Leader:** Colin Matthews (01794) 388272.

### **FRIDAY 29 FEBRUARY Social and Photographic Evening**

**Time:** 7.30 in St. Barnabas Church Hall, Fromond Rd., Weeke, Winchester. See p.6.

### **SUNDAY 2 MARCH Magdalen Hill Down**

**Time:** 10.30. Monthly meander of approx 2 hours looking at how weather affects wildlife on the Reserve. Arrangements as for 3 February.

### **FRIDAY 7 MARCH Magdalen Hill Down Work Party**

Details as for 15 February.

### **SATURDAY 8 MARCH Photographic Study Day**

See pp. 16 & 17.

### **THURSDAY 27 MARCH “Moths: Camouflaged, deceitful or deadly?”**

Illustrated talk by Brian Fletcher. Joint meeting with Wallop Valley Field Club. **Time:** 7.30 (doors open 7.00) at Wallops Parish Hall on the A343 in Middle Wallop between the two junctions of A343 and B3084. **Enquiries:** Brian Fletcher (01962) 882746.

### **SUNDAY 6 APRIL Magdalen Hill Down**

**Time:** 10.30. Monthly meander for about 2 hours at a good time to see early spring flowers such as Cowslips and butterflies such as Commas. Arrangements as for 3 February.

**SUNDAY 20 APRIL                      Visit to Water Meadows at Itchen Stoke Mill**

**Time:** 9.30. We have provisionally arranged with the owner to have a walk through the River Itchen water meadows at this delightful spot, to enjoy the spring and seek out any butterflies on the wing. The early start is because we hope also to have the contents of a moth trap set up the evening before to look at.

*Do write it in your diary now as the April Newsletter will give you very short notice.*

**Contact:** Lynn Fomison (01962) 772251.

**Tuesday 26 February: An Invitation**

The Upper Thames Branch of Butterfly Conservation in conjunction with the West Berkshire Group of BBOWT invites you to an illustrated talk entitled "**Woodland Butterflies - Challenges & Solutions**" by Kate Dent (Tytherley Woods Project Manager, Butterfly Conservation). **Time:** 7.30 in the West Berkshire Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury.

During the first half of the talk Kate will review our woodland butterflies and the challenges many of them face. In the second half she will outline a major new project recently initiated by Butterfly Conservation in an attempt to arrest the decline of our threatened woodland species. This talk will be of interest to anybody concerned about the fate of our woodland butterflies, as well as to woodland managers & owners. (See article p.5.)

Admission is free, although donations will be gratefully received. Light refreshments will be provided during the interval for a small charge.

**Sunday 11 May: Caterpillar Workshop**

The Moths Count Project in association with the Branch and the Wildlife Trust has organised a Caterpillar Workshop at Blashford Lakes Study Centre. The event will start at 11.00 and will be hosted by Dr Paul Waring. It will cover all aspects of larval identification and will be held partly indoors and partly outdoors to gain practical field experience in the many different habitats that surround the Centre. The day will be free, but to book your place please contact Tim Norriss on 01264 354944 or by email at [tim@kitsmail.com](mailto:tim@kitsmail.com). See also <http://www.mothscount.org/site/>

**Saturday 7 June: National Moth Day and Night**

Put this date in your diary: there will be lots of events for everyone to participate in – details in April Newsletter.

For further information see [www.nationalmothnight.info](http://www.nationalmothnight.info)

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

It is a great privilege to have an opportunity to serve Butterfly Conservation as Branch Chairman: I will endeavour to continue the excellent work done by my predecessors. That said, Andy Barker is a very hard act to follow. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject and of environmental issues, coupled with his energy and capacity to communicate, have all enabled him to be a huge contributor as Branch Chairman; we all owe him a great debt of gratitude. I am struck also by the amount contributed to the Branch by so many volunteers, some of whom serve on our committees; others roll up their sleeves and help us more physically. I would like to thank them all for what they do to make our Branch so successful.

This column often mentions the need for additional help with all aspects of our work: at the risk of repetition I would like to do the same. We are very grateful for your membership of BC and the benefit that accrues from that and, of course, your interest in butterflies and moths. We can, however, use any help that you might be able to offer, from joining one of our committees through to practical involvement in our activities. So, if there is anything at all that you might be able to offer, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committees. A recent Branch Liaison meeting highlighted the contribution made nationally by volunteers, amounting to over 72,000 hours, a figure hugely in excess of what BC might be able to achieve if dependent on paid support.

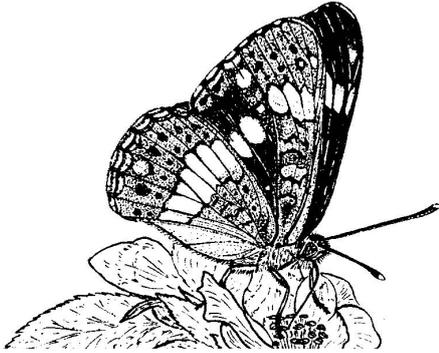
That meeting highlighted some of the proposed activities to celebrate BC's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008 and its unique contribution to an understanding of how 'our' insects are so important to the environment and our understanding of the many environmental issues. Amongst the proposals is a push for membership and donations to swell a fund to support future activities. As a Branch, we are discussing what we might do to contribute to Head Office's plans as well as to organise our own special events to mark this milestone. Many of those who attended our Members' Day/AGM in November have offered suggestions as to what we might consider in addition to our usual activities. Amongst these are field trips and outings, some of which might be themed to include instruction/guidance in specific subjects. One example is butterfly and moth photography, to reflect the rising interest generated by the advent of digital imaging as borne out by the success of our photographic evening (at the start of the season) and the photo competition (on Members' Day).

One exciting event is the inclusion of an exhibition (starting on 26 July) to be held in the new exhibition space in the Winchester Discovery Centre on Jewry Street. This development has completely revamped the library and has added new space, including the facility (adjacent to the main entrance) of a superb dedicated, museum-standard exhibition hall. The exhibition will be entitled

'Butterfly Summer' and will show artwork relating to butterflies and moths as well as images and material concerning BC. We hope to couple this with visits to Magdalen Hill Down and other reserves to attract a new group to the understanding of our subject and the work of our charity. More detail will appear in subsequent Newsletters.

All best wishes for the New Year.

Roger Buchanan, Branch Chairman



White Admiral by Brian Fletcher

## **Tytherley Woods Project – An Update**

Butterfly Conservation has been awarded a major grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a South-East Woodlands Project. This grant is now funding three full-time project officers working across the SE, one of whom is focusing on the ancient woodlands of Hampshire and Wiltshire, with a core area around Tytherley. The other officers are based in Sussex and Kent and have core areas around Rother Woods and Denge Woods respectively; all officers started work in early November. There is also a project manager who is probably a familiar name to many, Dan Hoare, and he will spend three days a week working on this project in other priority areas within the SE.

The project itself aims to address many of the issues of woodland butterfly declines, not least support for woodland owners, managers and workers in finding sustainable ways to deliver on-site management. An advisory service for woodland owners/managers will be available and several management workshops will be held; there will also be more general training events for volunteers and public walks and talks. Additionally, some funding will be available to support site management such as coppicing and widening of rides.

In the coming weeks and months I hope to meet many local members. However, if you would like to discuss the project prior to this I'd be delighted to hear from you at any time. My name is Kate Dent and I am based at Hampshire County Council's Eastleigh Offices.

My e-mail is [kdent@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:kdent@butterfly-conservation.org) or I can be telephoned on (023) 80 3834 455.

Kate Dent, Tytherley Woods Project Manager

**PRE-SEASON SOCIAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC  
EVENING**

**Friday 29 February**

**7.30 at St.Barnabus Church Hall, Weeke, Winchester.**

Everyone is welcome, and if you wish please bring along six butterfly or moth images (prints, 35mm slides or digital), preferably themed: eg Woodland Butterflies, Hawkmoths, Butterflies of Greece.

**Digital Images**

Members showing digital images: please arrange with Roger Buchanan **to send your pictures on a CD prior to the meeting or arrive with your CD as doors open at 7.00**. As you will appreciate, it takes a little time to load the data projector, so we need the CDs in advance to ensure the meeting starts on time.

**Photographs and Slides**

It would also be appreciated, to help with the planning of the event, if members showing slides or bringing photographs could contact Roger Buchanan before the meeting.

**Programme**

- 7.00 Doors open
- 7.30 UK butterflies
- 8.00 UK moths
- 8.30 Refreshments
- 9.00 Butterflies and moths from Europe and further afield
- 9.30 Close of meeting

**Contact Details**

Roger Buchanan, 23 Grosvenor Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 5BH  
Tel. (023) 8025 2963. Email: [roger@roger-jane.co.uk](mailto:roger@roger-jane.co.uk)

**Our Fundraising Promise**

Butterfly Conservation has signed up to the Fundraising Standards Board (FRSB) self-regulatory scheme. The Fundraising Standards Board works to ensure that organisations raising money for charity from the public do so honestly and properly.

As a member of this scheme, we follow the Institute of Fundraising Codes of Fundraising Practice and comply with the key principles embodied in the Codes and in the FRSB's Fundraising Promise.

To find out more, visit Butterfly Conservation's website or contact Natalie Ngo at Head Office (01929 406003).

## **FIELD TRIP PROGRAMME 2008**

We will be approaching things a little differently this year. Our primary objective will be to arrange visits to areas where with a bit of luck and good weather we may find some of Hampshire and Isle of Wight's rarer butterflies (but of course success cannot be guaranteed!). Then we will add some of our favourite sites for normally spectacular displays of summer butterflies. To get a wider picture of the lepidoptera at the site we also hope to begin some of the field trips with a look at the moths which came to traps put out the previous evening. A full list of field trips will be published in the April Newsletter.

Alison Harper, Field Meetings Organiser

## **NEW MEMBERS SINCE SEPTEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER**

**The Branch extends a warm welcome to the following new members. We hope to get to know you at some of our upcoming events.**

Mrs CL Andrews, Houghton; Ms LM Benson, Liss; Mr PDE & Mrs AR Beevers, Cliddesden; Mr CR Beyer, Cheriton; Mr PJ Booth, Hythe; Mr GSJL Brigham, Southsea; Mrs J Brooke, Romsey; Mr JM Cloyne, Winchester; Mr JP & Mrs A Cooke & Family, Portchester; Mrs SG Culliford, Tadley; Mrs D Dean, Petersfield; Mr EF & Mrs P Dormer & Family, Hayling Island; Mr P Drane & Ms B Hansell, Farnborough; Mr AJ Gauntlett, Petersfield; Mr N Gold, Torteval, Guernsey; Mr BJ Graham, Kings Worthy; Mr FC Gunner & Mrs E Hicks-Arnold, Chandler's Ford; Mr DJ Hart, Woodlands, Southampton; Mr RGA Helliwell, Aldershot; Mr PA Jackson, North Baddesley; Mrs M Jones, Southbourne, Emsworth; Mrs S McAdoo, Aldershot; Miss S Hobbs, Andover; Miss C Morrison & Mr J Tallack, Harestock; Mrs D Murray, Whitehill, Bordon; Ms C Paterson, Madrid, Spain; Ms JN Peeling, Gravesend, Kent; Mr & Mrs DL Redhead, Littlemore, Oxford; Miss EM Rice, Ventnor; Mr G Richardson & Mrs L Baker-Richardson; Mr RJ Seargent, Farnborough; Mrs H Sharples, Farnham; Miss JA Sloper, Upper Farringdon; Mrs M Thorncroft, Horndean; Mr A C Ward, Upham; Mrs CV Weeks, Alton; Ms M Wilson, Winchester.

## **SLIDE LIBRARY**

Sincere thanks to Douglas Hammersley (some of whose drawings can also be seen in this is Newsletter) for a very generous contribution of over 300 slides of moths. This brings our library of moth slides to over 1,100 and significantly increases the number of species covered. All contributions to the Slide Library, be they butterflies, moths or habitats, are gratefully received. The slides are used for talks, for producing photographs for displays and for scanning in for the web site, leaflets or talks using our new data projector.

Brian Fletcher, Slide Librarian

**Hampshire Branch Member**  
**acknowledged as “Outstanding Volunteer”.**

It is with pleasure that we are able to congratulate former Branch Chairman, Alan Hold, who was the worthy recipient of Butterfly Conservation's "Outstanding Volunteer" award for 2007. This title was conferred at the National AGM at Leamington Spa in November.

Alan has made an outstanding contribution to the work of Butterfly Conservation over the last 15 years, during a period in which our Branch has experienced rapid growth. He contributed greatly to the increased professionalism of our work, and through the Branch subcommittees he ensured the effective management of our wide-ranging portfolio of activities. He leads by example and is gifted with great organisational skills and attention to detail, ensuring success in whatever he sets out to achieve. He joined the Committee in 1992, was Vice-Chairman 1993-1995, Chairman 1995-1999, and the principal Branch contact and organiser when the national AGM came to Hampshire in 1995. He has regularly represented the Branch at regional and national meetings.

After a short break from the Committee following his chairmanship, Alan re-joined in 2000, and has been working hard ever since. His contribution over the years has been one of the most varied of any Committee member. As well as being Chairman he has also been Branch Organiser, Health & Safety Officer, Press Officer, and Branch Secretary, not to mention playing a key role in organising and leading field trips, and being a regular helper at shows and events.

Besides committee work Alan enthusiastically promotes wildlife and wildlife conservation and has a keen interest in the New Forest. He gives his time most generously and is a respected all-round naturalist with excellent knowledge of birds, dragonflies and butterflies. Alan has spent countless hours helping people of all ages and walks of life to get more out of watching wildlife. Whether in the bird hide or on a butterfly walk, he has a great way of helping with identification and passing on knowledge of aspects of animal behaviour and ecology.

Alan has now stepped down from the Committee following a recent move to Somerset. We wish him and his wife Audrey all the best and sincerely hope they will keep in touch and perhaps turn up to one or two of our events.

Andy Barker

## **SOUTH-EAST AREA GROUP NEWS**

### **Horsea Island in crisis**

Horsea Island has been proposed as the site for Portsmouth Football Club's new stadium. Vital to the economic viability of the scheme, apparently, is the development of several hundred new homes around the stadium. This would mean encroachment on the SSSI along the southern shore. Worse still, car parking for the stadium would be located on the site of the Tipner firing ranges, home of one of our few remaining Small Heath colonies. Defence Estates (Portsmouth) officer Rod Bailey has stressed that the plan remains at the concept stage and is fraught with problems, not least access.

### **Castle Shore Park, Portchester**

The Group attended this HCC Countryside Service site, which comprises chalk meadows and a small wood planted in the early 1970s. The meadows were comprehensively mown by Richard Jones, Portsmouth CC Countryside Officer, using his £40k Swiss-made AEBI mowing machine, complete with collecting tender. Another 10 sycamores in the woodland were annihilated by Richard Levett and chainsaw.



**Magnificent AEBI, every Branch should have one...**

### **Browdown**

A sustainable management plan for the conservation of North and South Browdown is to be drafted by a team comprising BC, HWT, NE, MOD, and Gosport BC. The site, a gravel promontory along the Solent shore, is home to the Grayling and other uncommon butterflies.

## **WANTED**

Recorder for the Hook Heath transect near Southwick. This SSSI has not been recorded for the last five years. It is important that surveys are resumed as soon as possible on this home to Purple Emperors, White Admirals, Silver-washed Fritillaries, Small Coppers etc. Please help!

[andrew.brookes@port.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.brookes@port.ac.uk)

## **Review of Shows and Events in 2007**

In 2007 the Branch attended the 11 shows and events listed below. At each our stand consisted of displays of butterfly and moth photographs, information leaflets about the Society, our nature reserves in Hampshire, gardening for wildlife, etc., plus a few books, identification charts and Reports for sale.

As in previous years these occasions provided us with an excellent opportunity to meet the public and talk about butterflies, moths and the Society.

**24 March: Hampshire Ornithological Society AGM**, Winchester.

**13 May: Gosport Really Wild Day** Wild Grounds Nature Reserve, Gosport, organised by Gosport Borough Council.

**20 May: Spring Wildlife Day** at the Lymington-Keyhaven Reserve organised jointly by HWT, Hampshire County Council and New Forest National Park. A lot of interest was aroused when Pete Durnell showed the moths he had trapped the previous night.

**10 June: Springwatch Festival** on Southampton Common. This festival is a joint project of the BBC and Southampton City Council, supported by a range of wildlife organisations.

**24, 25, 26 July: New Forest Show** This event gives us the opportunity to meet visitors to the show and representatives from a range of wildlife organisations, including the Forestry Commission and the New Forest National Park. The first day was excellent, with several new members signed up, but subsequently the weather was not kind to us: lots of wind and rain on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> days.

**30 and 31 July: Sir Harold Hillier Gardens** In contrast to the New Forest Show this event was bathed in sunshine. We led guided walks in the gardens and organised educational games and craft activities for the children.

**1 August: Basingstoke Family Play Day** This event is very much a day for the family, and we concentrated mainly on craft activities for the children.

**1 September: Valley Park Woodfair** Organised by Test Valley Borough Council. Another family-orientated event with lots of craft activities, which everyone joined in.

**8 September: Romsey Show** A one-day show which is much easier to get to and run than the New Forest Show. Many useful contacts were made at this event.

**6 and 7 October: Forest Lodge Garden Centre, Farnham** We took part in their wildlife gardening weekend.

14 October: Blackmoor Apple Day, Selbourne This event is always fun and was very well attended. During the day we signed up seven new members.

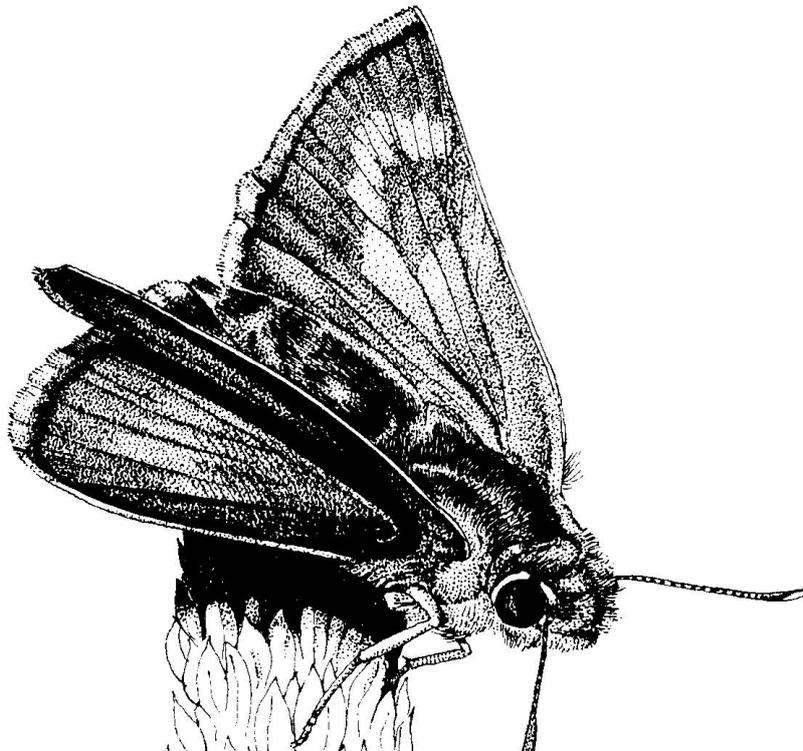
Jenny and I would like to thank everyone who helped out at the various events during 2007.

Linda Barker

## **WE NEED EXTRA HELP!**

**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING OUT AT AN EVENT LOCAL TO YOU  
DURING 2008**

We plan to attend most of the same events as in 2007 but to find out more about our 2008 programme please contact Jenny Mallett or Linda Barker. Contact details on back cover.



Lulworth Skipper by  
Doug Hammersley

## **RESERVES NEWS**

### **Management strategies**

It would be easy not to think about butterflies during the wet, cold winter weather. But do you ever wonder how they are spending the winter? Because we are conscious of the need to minimise any impact on over-wintering life stages when we undertake conservation work I assembled a chart showing how each of Hampshire's 46 species passes the winter. Seven do so at the egg stage, half (23) are larvae, and eight are pupae. Speckled Wood is the only species that can over-winter as either a larva or a pupa. That leaves five that hibernate as adults, plus Clouded Yellow and Painted Lady which, being migrant species, are sometimes suspected of over-wintering as adults.

I consider myself very fortunate to receive all manner of invaluable habitat management guidance from Matthew Oates. One of the things he told me when in 1983 I asked for advice to help us manage five acres at home for butterflies was, "Never do the same thing to the whole of the site at the same time". This is very important given the varied ways that life stages of butterflies spend the winter – the time when we do large amounts of conservation work on the reserves.

Here are some of the ways in which we try to take care. Holly Blue, for instance, passes the winter as a pupa. On rare occasions pupae have been found in ivy on trees. So although some winter clearance work of ivy-clad trunks is inevitable, we do make efforts to minimise it. Any work on ivy is better done after Holly Blues have emerged in spring but before they start laying on ivy again later in the summer. When you take account of the bird-nesting season too, that is not a very big window of opportunity. A compromise is to sever the ivy stems in spring but to leave the plant in situ: the ivy will just die off slowly, affording cover to both pupae and nesting birds.

We cater for the tiny caterpillars of Small Skippers in their grass sheaths (usually yorkshire fog) and Large Skippers in their grassy tents (often cocksfoot) by leaving areas of long grass ungrazed and uncut through the winter. Incidentally, long grass also supports harvest mice. These diminutive creatures and their nests – balls of grass – have been seen at Magdalen Hill Down. Much of the habitat management that helps butterflies is good for other wildlife too.

### **MHD Walks**

Our new series of regular walks at Magdalen Hill Down is being well supported. Do join us on the first Sunday one month and do feel free to tell your friends about these walks. Everyone is welcome.

### **Winter Work Parties**

All the help from volunteers saves the Branch money and also means we can undertake lots of work to improve habitats for butterflies. So if you have not yet got involved in practical conservation work but think this is something you might like to do, then please come and give it a try. Newcomers are assured a warm welcome. I am happy to talk to people beforehand so that they know what to expect.

Lynn Fomison, Reserves Officer

### **AGM and Members' Day**

St Barnabas Hall was filled to rather more than capacity for our Silver Jubilee Members' Day on 10 November. At the AGM Andy Barker retired from the Branch Chairmanship and his successor, Roger Buchanan, presented him with a Richard Lewington print in recognition of his three years of dedicated work and leadership, during which Branch Membership reached the total of 1,000 that Andy had hoped for.

Matthew Oates, a founder member of the Branch 25 years ago, gave a thought-provoking talk about the changes in butterfly – and moth – populations that have occurred over those 25 years and, more challengingly, what might happen in the next 25: perhaps climate change is not all bad news.

Richard Fox, Project Officer of 'Moths Count', gave a comprehensive presentation on this national project which is aimed at raising the profile of the importance – and beauty – of moths and putting in place a new and very ambitious moth-recording programme.

Finally Lynn Fomison, with the aid of some stunning images she had collected from various sources, spoke eloquently about 'The Beauty and Diversity' of our three reserves.

The entries in the Members' Photographic Competition were of the highest standard yet. The results are published on p.14 and some of the winning photographs can be seen on the web site.

As always there was a wonderful spread of food, in particular a cake decorated with immaculate models of Silver Butterflies by Brian Fletcher, and adequate time over tea for exchange of news and information among members.

The event has become so popular that it may be we shall have to find a bigger venue in future.

Jenny Mallett, Branch Organiser

**FULL RESULTS**

**2007 MEMBERS' DAY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

The second Annual Photographic Competition was held during Members' Day on Saturday 10 November. The prizes awarded this year were two highly desirable prints by renowned artist Richard Lewington.

A large entry of excellent photographs provided a challenge to the members present, who were asked to vote for the first, second and third places in the following six categories. Winning photographs can be viewed on our website.

|                        |              |                |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place: | Tony Wootton | Marbled White  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place: | Mike Young   | Adonis Blue    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place: | Ian Pratt    | Chalkhill Blue |

**Moths**

|                         |                 |                            |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place:  | Pete Durnell    | Mother Shipton             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place:  | Richard Eagling | Beautiful Yellow Underwing |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place=: | Sue Clark       | Six-spot Burnet            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place=: | Barry Clark     | Burnished Brass            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place=: | Peter Thompson  | Merveille-du-Jour          |

**Immature States**

|                        |                 |                  |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place: | Michael Skelton | Privet Hawk Moth |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place: | Kevin Donnelly  | Mullien Moth     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place  | Sue Clark       | Yellow-tail      |

**Overseas**

|                        |              |                    |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place: | Tony Wootton | Black-veined White |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place: | John Bogle   | Angola White Lady  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place: | Ian Pratt    | Map                |

**Behaviour**

|                         |                |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place=: | John Bogle     | Marbled White        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place=: | Mike Young     | Glanville Fritillary |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place:  | Alan Thornbury | Holly Blue           |

**Silver**

|                        |              |                        |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place: | Tony Wootton | Silver-spotted Skipper |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place: | Mike Young   | Silver-studded Blue    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place: | Robin Turner | Silver-studded Blue    |

**Overall**

|                         |              |                        |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place:  | Tony Wootton | Silver-spotted Skipper |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place = | John Bogle   | Marbled White          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place = | Mike Young   | Glanville Fritillary   |

## **ELM STUDY NEWS**

### **New trees**

Our recent Dutch visitor, Ron Nijboer, has kindly introduced us to Mr Matthew Ellis, proprietor of the Grange Farm Nursery in Lincolnshire and owner of a remarkable private arboretum holding over 500 trees, including several exotic elms and hybrids new to us. As a result, we are to receive hardwood cuttings of *Ulmus bergmanniana* (a close Asian relative of the Wych Elm) and the American cultivar 'Patriot' derived from a complex hybrid featuring European and Asiatic species. 'Patriot' was recently recommended for inclusion in "every forester's Top Ten list of urban trees" (Giblin, C. P. & Gillman, J. H. *Elms for the Twin Cities: A Guide for Selection and Maintenance*) but remains commercially unavailable in Europe.

### **White-letter Hairstreak promotion**

The White-letter Hairstreak has at last been elevated to the status of a UK Biodiversity Priority species (No. 945). It does not yet have an action plan, but it is hoped that when such a document is drafted the planting of disease-resistant cultivars will be strongly recommended. There is a precedent here, with a similar recommendation in the plan for another Priority species, the Orange-fruited Elm Lichen.

### **Elms for Christchurch**

Responding to a request from Christchurch Borough Council, we have supplied White Elm seedlings and Lutèce whips for planting in the Mude Valley reserve, at present a White-letter Hairstreak habitat but with the native elms fast succumbing to DED.

### **Wych Elm arrives in Greenland**

Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra* has been successfully established at Narsarsuaq on the southern tip of Greenland.

### **UK Wych Elms: disease resistant?**

We are cooperating with the French quango *Cemagref* and supplying material from two Wych Elms found in the West Country with an apparent resistance to DED. One, at Gittisham, Devon, has been propagated and commercially released by Thornhayes Nursery; the other grows on the banks of the Tone in the tiny Somerset hamlet of Waterrow, and is over 30m high. *Cemagref* is already receiving cuttings from Wych elms growing around Edinburgh. The cuttings will be struck under mist conditions and grown on in agar cultures. Ultimately, they will be planted out and, when 2m high, inoculated with the DED fungus.

Andrew Brookes, Leader, South-East Area Group

## **PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY DAY**

This year the Branch has been invited to contribute to a photographic study day at Alice Holt on 8 March. This will include a number of teaching sessions, which will be of interest both to newcomers to butterfly and moth photography and to the more experienced.

Full details (reproduced on the next page) may be found at the following web address: [http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/photography\\_workshop\\_2008.php](http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/photography_workshop_2008.php)

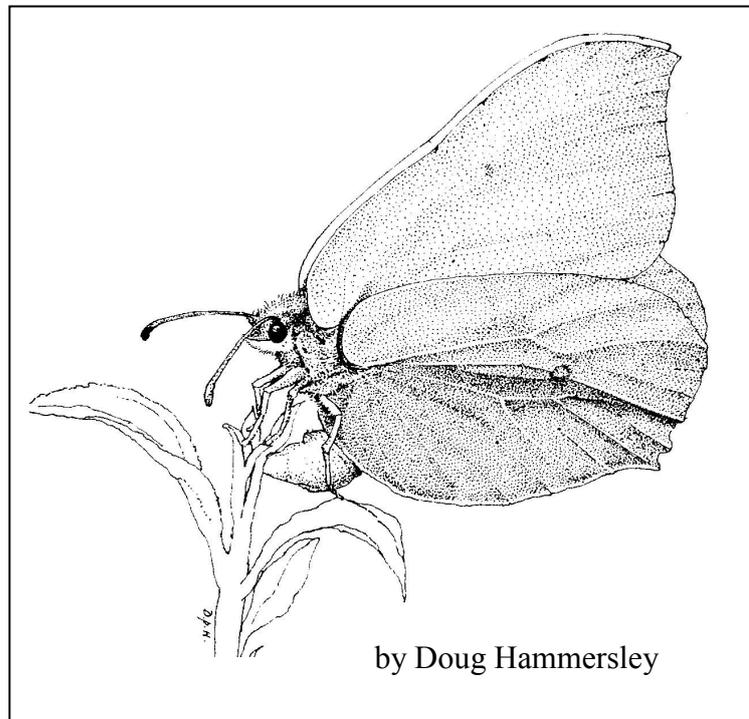
### **Registering for the event**

If you would like to attend please email Pete Eeles at [pete@ukbutterflies.co.uk](mailto:pete@ukbutterflies.co.uk). You will receive confirmation by reply.

People who do not have access to a computer can register by calling Peter:  
Tel: 07796 331061.

We look forward to seeing you!

### **Brimstone**



**2008 Photography Workshop**  
**Saturday 8 March 2008, Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire**

2008 sees the first-ever 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 members of the UK Butterflies community to share their photographic experiences, with an emphasis on lepidoptera.

**Logistics**

The event will be run in a hall in the Alice Holt Forest complex on Saturday 8 March from 10.00 to 5.00. There will be a charge of £5.00 to cover the cost of the hall and any other costs incurred in running the event. All profits will be donated directly to the Branch. Please bring your own lunch (coffee and tea will be available in the hall). Detailed directions will be provided in due course.

**Content**

The workshop content is still under discussion, but some ideas for topics are given here. We anticipate a day of presentations, mixed in with some practical work.

The content of the presentations is likely to include elements of the following:

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

It is expected that the day will also include:

- An exhibition of participants' photos
- A chance to look at photographic equipment that your peers use (please bring yours along)
- A selection of both in-print and out-of-print books to peruse
- A walk in Alice Holt Forest, with practical exercises
- A chance to have your photos criticised
- An opportunity to debate how our love of photography and lepidoptera can translate into practical conservation action
- A guest speaker (to be confirmed)
  - Peter Eeles, UK Butterflies

## **Gardening for Butterflies: Some like It Hot!**

In recent years (excluding 2007) we have had a series of hot, dry summers. Global warming may or may not be to blame, and the trend to hotter and drier summers may or may not be sustained, but all gardeners are bound to think long and hard about how they garden, and what plants they grow. We also sometimes forget that even in normal years (whatever they are) rainfall in the south-east of England is quite low – low enough for this area to qualify for the description semi-arid. While in some summers (recently perhaps one in three) plants which require a regular supply of moisture throughout the growing season will do well, in this part of the world you are more likely to see them suffer. So quite apart from the question of global warming it makes sense to bias your planting towards plants that can tolerate drought.

Now it so happens that phrases like ‘sunny well-drained position’ have cropped up regularly in the articles I have been writing on nectar plants over the last few years. This is largely because the plants I have written about are ones that do well in my garden, much of which is exactly that – sunny, with free-draining soil. This reflects another factor that is bound to influence the choice of plants to grow: soil type. Large parts of Kent (and Hampshire) have well drained soils, either on chalk or sand, which means that the effects of drought are exaggerated. When you garden on such soils, you sometimes learn the hard way what will not grow well for you.

So in the seven years I have been developing my garden (in Kent) I have had to give up trying to grow some plants I really like; this applies just as much to gardening for butterflies as to any other aspect of the garden. I have also had to think carefully about how I use the plants that do grow well here. In response to requests for more articles on gardening for butterflies, I decided to would put together some thoughts on these wider principles, in addition to continuing my series on specific plants. It is a large subject, and I am always learning, so this will be another series. I am also very keen to hear from other gardeners with their comments and suggestions, because I certainly don't claim to have all the answers.

My next article in this series will describe some of the ways I use nectar and food plants in my garden, but in the meantime here is a question to provide food for thought. Is it acceptable, during times of water shortage, to use mains water to keep alive plants which otherwise would die, or not flower properly, if those plants provide nectar for butterflies (or moths)? Examples of such plants would be *Heleniums*, *Eupatoriums*, perennial *Helianthus*, and a number of half-hardy annuals, such as *Nicotianas*.

Jeremy Spon, [jeremy.spon@care-4-free.net](mailto:jeremy.spon@care-4-free.net)

*Many thanks to Jeremy Spon for allowing us to use this and the following article, both originally published in the Kent Branch newsletter.*

**Nectar Plants: Knapweeds** by Jeremy Spon



Knapweeds, members of the genus *Centaurea*, include some excellent nectar plants, several of which are good garden plants as well. Perhaps most familiar are Black Knapweed, *C. nigra*, and Greater Knapweed, *C. scabiosa*. Both are native plants, the latter mainly on lime, but are probably too prone to self-seed to be used in the garden unless you have a wilder area. The annual cornflower is also a member of the genus *Centaurea* (*C. cyanus*) and well worth growing for the benefit of many insects, not just butterflies. But in this article I want to concentrate on the

perennial members of the genus.

My drawing is of *C. montana*, the perennial cornflower, or as the herbalist Gerard charmingly called it 'The Great Blew-Bottle'. This is one of those easy-to-grow cottage-garden plants which are rather undervalued. Its leaves, forming a neat clump, have a silvery sheen from their dense hairs, especially on the underside, and it will grow in any open spot that is not too wet. The main flush of flowers is usefully early in summer, usually deep blue with a reddish tinge to the centre. There are also pink and white forms, and it makes a useful edge-of-border plant provided you don't mind it flopping forward. It can be tidied up in July by cutting the old flower stems to the ground, or the seed heads can be left, in which case it will seed around (manageably.) Another 'perennial cornflower' is *C. dealbata*, with pretty, finely divided greyish-green leaves and pink flowers; the form 'Steenbergii' has darker flowers, but does tend to run; so beware what you plant it next to. 'John Coutts' is also sometimes listed or sold as a form of *C. dealbata*, but is actually a darker form of the pink *C. hypoleuca*. It is not at all invasive, and has a very long flowering period. Much taller (to 6 ft.) is *C. macrocephala*, with its rich yellow flowers enclosed in silvery brown bracts. Unfortunately it doesn't last long in flower, but is excellent for drying. There are several other interesting and desirable species, many especially suitable for gravel gardens, but I will end by mentioning the one with the most dramatically coloured flowers, *C. benoistii*. This plant, originating from Morocco but surprisingly hardy, is not widely available, but do try it if you can find it. The best forms have the most intense reddish-purple flowers I know of.

Jeremy Spon [jeremy.spon@care-4-free.net](mailto:jeremy.spon@care-4-free.net)

## Plants for Butterflies

No. 2 Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*



**Typical part-shade environment**

### Health & Safety

There are no known hazards associated with this plant.

### The Species

Garlic Mustard or Jack-by-the-Hedge is a biennial Crucifer, or member of the cabbage family. It is most commonly found along roadside hedgerows and in lightly shaded woodland. Indeed, it is shade that is essential for the plant, since whilst it relishes direct sunshine, it cannot compete with grasses, etc., and will inevitably be quickly displaced. It flowers early, in May, its small heads of tiny

white cruciform flowers imitated slavishly on the undersides of the Orange Tip's hindwings. It is the larva of this butterfly that is most commonly found on the plant, although it is also used by its three White cousins, Large, Small, and Green-veined. Whilst the Cuckoo Flower *Cardamine pratensis* is usually claimed to be the preferred foodplant of the Orange Tip, it demands a much more specific habitat; Garlic Mustard is far more reliable, tolerant of both wet and dry conditions.

### Cultivation

Propagation is by seed collected in July and broadcast immediately along woodland or scrub margins and hedgerows; wherever there is dappled sunlight but insufficient to foster grasses. If seed cannot be collected from the wild, it is commonly available from native-flower emporia such as John Chambers Ltd.

### Gardens

Although its flowers are very modest, in conjunction with its bright lime-green foliage it can make an attractive spring plant in the garden border, a better bet than Honesty, on which Orange Tip larvae rarely thrive. Moreover, its fresh young leaves can titillate the most insipid supermarket salad. The more colourful Sweet Rocket (syn. Dame's Violet), *Hesperis matronalis*, is another useful host plant, although it tends to flower rather late, towards the end of the Orange Tip's season.

Andrew Brookes, Leader, South-East Area Group

## **Did you know?**

*(I gleaned this piece from the Spring Watch web site in spring 2007)*

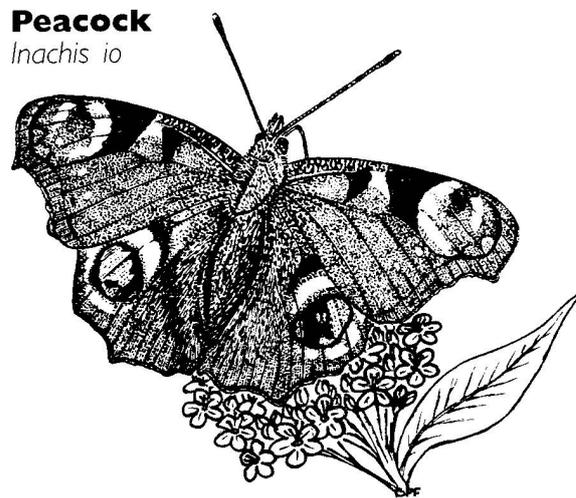
The Peacock butterfly is so called because the 'eyes' on its wings resemble those on a peacock's tail feathers. To a passing bird, the butterfly appears to be a much bigger animal. When at rest, the Peacock butterfly's wings are closed and the underwings are camouflaged to look like tree bark. If disturbed, they open their wings and produce a hissing sound.

In a study at Stockholm University the eye spots on some butterflies were blanked out with marker pen. When the group was exposed to a common predator, the blue tit, the butterflies that had intact eye spots fared much better (1 out of 34 eaten) than those that didn't (13 out of 20 eaten).

The Dutch word for butterfly, *boterschijte*, describes the colour of butterfly droppings.

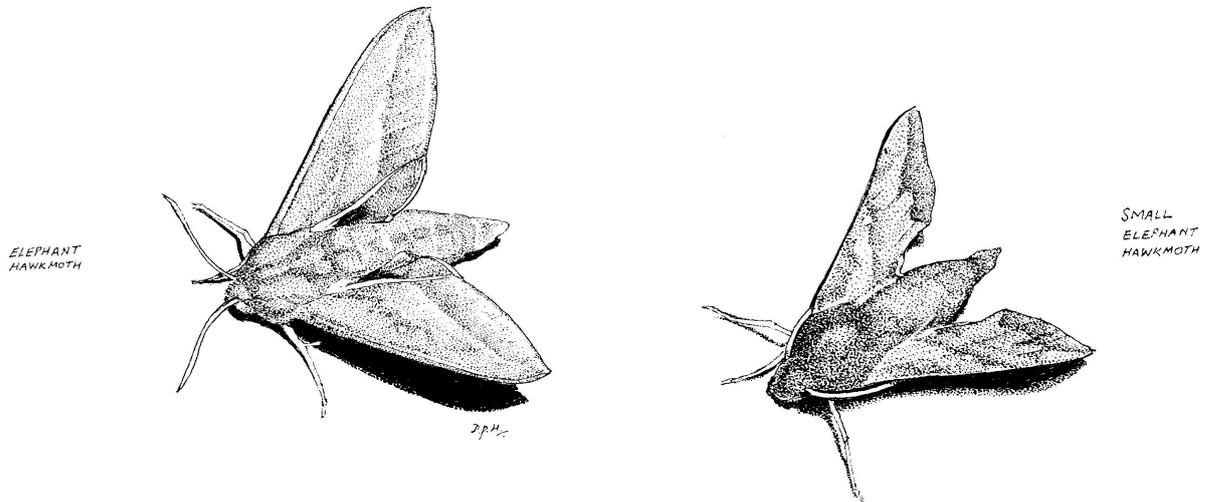
An observation on the above: I sometimes find Peacock butterflies hibernating in my log shed, so being camouflaged to look like bark is a good thing. And yes, I have been hissed at for disturbing one!

Lynn Fomison



Drawing by David Thelwell

## Elephant Hawk and Small Elephant Hawk-Moths



The two Elephant Hawk-moths are common and widespread in Hampshire. They are spectacularly coloured with pinks and greens predominating, and a sure-fire hit with children, whose response is usually a gasp of amazement. The same amazement is also shown by those adults who think of moths as small, brown and boring.

Superficially similar, Elephant Hawk-moth has pink and olive-green forewings and pink and black hindwings and is much the larger of the two. Its best distinguishing feature apart from size is the straight outer transverse line on the forewing which, in Small Elephant Hawk-moth (pink and yellowish-brown), is a wavy line. They feed on honeysuckle, Red Valerian and other tubular flowers.

The caterpillar of Large Elephant Hawk-moth feeds on rosebay willowherb in the wild and in gardens on fuchsia, where it is a familiar sight to many gardeners. It has large black eye spots behind the head and a small black horn at the rear end. Small Elephant Hawk-moth feeds on Lady's Bedstraw and is more likely to be found on chalk.

### Flight times

Their flight times overlap from May to July but Elephant Hawk-moth can still be found in early August; and in the last seven years there has been an increase in late August, September and even October records, indicating that they are capable of having a second brood in this country.

### Distribution

In Hampshire both species are widespread in all habitats where the foodplants are to be found, but Elephant Hawk-moths are generally the commoner of the two except on the larger expanses of chalk downland such as Martin Down and Porton Down. During one mothing session at Martin Down in mid-June 2004 over 500 were attracted to the lights before they were switched off at 1am.

Juliet Bloss in consultation with Tim Norriss

**Illustrations by Doug Hammersley**

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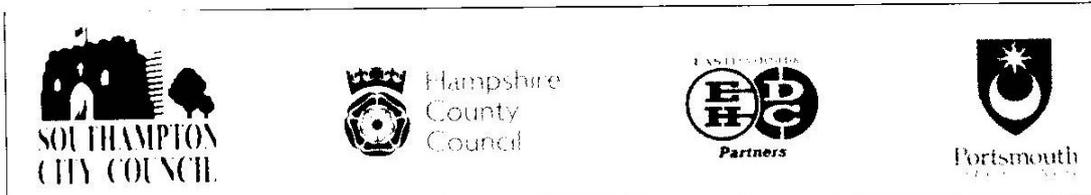
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Many thanks to all contributors for their articles. The deadline for the April 2008 Newsletter is 25 March.

Juliet Bloss, Editor

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



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