

DIARY OF EVENTS

2009 Walks and Groups at the Reserves

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL

Magdalen Hill Down: Wednesday Wander

Leader: Lynn Fomison (01962 772251). **Meet:** 10.30am in gravel car park opposite the cemetery on B3404, Alresford Rd, Winchester. A regular walk on the first Wednesday of the months April to 7 October. A gentle stroll to enjoy seasonal wildlife.

TUESDAY 7 APRIL

Bentley Station Meadow: Walk2Health

Leader: Lynn Fomison (01962 772251). **Meet:** 10.45am in the NE corner of the car park at Bentley station at SU792 432. (Usually room to park in Station Road.) The Alton Walk2health group is visiting BSM on the first Tuesday of the month up to and including 6 October. Come and enjoy a leisurely stroll interspersed with looking at nature.

WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL

Bentley Station Meadow: Easter Stroll

Leader: Lynn Fomison (01962 772251). **Meet:** 10.30am in the NE corner of the car park at Bentley station SU792 432. (Usually room to park in Station Road.) Visit your local nature reserve at a super time of year to hear spring bird song and to see early flowers and butterflies. Children and parents most welcome. Wellington boots advisable.

SATURDAY 25 APRIL

Photography Workshop

See website for details.

TUESDAY 5 MAY

Bentley Station Meadow: Walk2Health

Meet: 10.45am. As 7 April.

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY

Magdalen Hill Down: Wednesday Wander

Meet: 10.30am. As 1 April.

TUESDAY 2 JUNE

Bentley Station Meadow: Walk2Health

Meet: 10.45am. As 7 April.

WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE

Magdalen Hill Down: Wednesday Wander

Time: 10.30am. As 1 April.

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE

Yew Hill: Evening Walk

Leader: Colin Matthews (01794 388272). **Meet:** 7.15pm at end of Old Kennels Lane at junction with Port Lane and Millers Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU451 269). A good time of year to see orchids and butterfly habitat.

FRIDAY 26 JUNE

Bentley Station Meadow: All about Purple

Emperors

Leaders: Matthew Oates and Lynn Fomison. **Meet:** 10.30am in the NE corner of the car park at Bentley station (SU792 432). (Usually room to park in Station Road). Visit your local nature reserve to hear all about this elusive and majestic butterfly.

WEDNESDAY 1 JULY

Magdalen Hill Down: Wednesday Wander.

Time: 10.30am. As 1 April.

TUESDAY 7 JULY

Bentley Station Meadow: Walk2Health

Time: 10.45am. As 7 April.

25 JULY to 2 AUGUST **SAVE OUR BUTTERFLIES WEEK**

There is one event at each reserve to mark National Save our Butterflies week. See www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk for more events locally or for national ones look at: www.butterfly-conservation.org.

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY **Yew Hill**

Leader: Ivan Arnold (01962 866706). **Meet:** 10.30am at end of Old Kennels Lane at junction with Port Lane and Millers Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU451 269). A gentle stroll at one of the best times of year to see butterflies. (Approximately two hours.)

FRIDAY 31 JULY **Bentley Station Meadow: A gentle stroll**

Leader: Lynn Fomison. **Meet:** 10.30am in the NE corner of the car park at Bentley station at SU792 432. (Usually room to park in Station Road.) No dogs. Visit your local nature reserve to see summer flowers and butterflies and maybe catch sight of the elusive and majestic Purple Emperor. Children and parents most welcome.

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST **Magdalen Hill Down**

Leader: Lynn Fomison. **Meet:** 10.30am in gravel car park opposite the cemetery on Alresford Rd B3404. A joint walk with members of Hampshire Ornithological Society. This is one of the best times of year to see Chalkhill Blues.

TUESDAY 4 AUGUST **Bentley Station Meadow: Walk2Health**

Time: 10.45am. As 7 April.

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST **Magdalen Mill Down: Wednesday Wander**

Time: 10.30am. As 1 April.

TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER **Bentley Station Meadow: Walk2Health**

Time: 10.45am. As 7 April.

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER **Magdalen Hill Down: Wednesday Wander**

Time: 10.30am. As 1 April.

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER **Bentley Station Meadow: Walk2Health**

Time: 10.45am. As 7 April.

FRIDAY/SATURDAY
18/19 SEPTEMBER **NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT**

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER **Magdalen Hill Down: Wednesday Wander**

Time: 10.30am. As 1 April.

FUTURE EVENTS

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER **AGM and Members' Day at Littleton Memorial Hall, Littleton, Winchester.**

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER **National AGM, hosted by Hampshire Branch at Winchester University (formerly King Alfred's School), Winchester.**

BARBEQUE

SUNDAY 24 MAY

Butterfly Conservation's Big BBQ, at Tytherley Woods. Details will be available on our website www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk nearer the time.

Main Committee meetings: Weds 6 May, 2 September, 2 December.

Shows and Events 2009

We will be attending the following shows and events this summer. If you could help please contact Jenny Mallett (01329 832177).

NB. We do not plan to attend the New Forest Show this year.

Blackmoor Church event: Saturday 9 May.

Basingstoke Fun Day: Wednesday 5 August.

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens: Monday and Tuesday 10 & 11 August.

Eastleigh Wood Fair in September.

Romsey Show: Saturday 12 September.

Blackmoor Apple Day in October.

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS)

After two years of pilot testing, a new method of monitoring butterflies in widespread habitats, such as farmland and upland moorland, is to be rolled out nationwide this year. The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey method has been developed by Butterfly Conservation and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology as part of the UKBMS project. For full details see our website.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

The Branch extends a warm welcome to the following new members. We hope you will take advantage of some of the many events that have been organised for the season.

Ms S Ashman, Southampton; Mr AJ Butler, Kings Worthy; Mr T Codlin, Fareham; Mrs J Cox, Liphook; Mr PA Clarke, Radcliffe, Manchester; Mr N Gilly, Whitchurch; Mr GN Hoggarth, Emsworth; Mr P & Mrs D Martin, Hull; Mr RD Merritt, Dibden; Miss S Oakley, Lymington; Mr S Searley, Cosham.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

I concluded my letter last April with the hope that the weather would prove better than in 2007 – wrong: another poor year after a promising start. I note that the Met Office, who seem to base their long-range forecast on (amongst other things) Atlantic sea temperatures, are slightly more optimistic about this summer. Let's hope they are correct.

That said, we continue to receive more records in support of our annual *Butterfly and Moth Report* (one of the Branch's main achievements). If any of you feel you could give us some time to enhance yet further our understanding of the populations in our area, please contact any of the Committee members. Head Office is starting a new national survey of some areas not included in regular Branch butterfly transects. This is building on some successful pilot studies in other areas. It will be interesting to see how this project develops and whether enhanced information accrues.

Social afternoon

What had been a "start-of-the-season" social evening became an afternoon event on 21 March. Despite a clash with a little fixture between England and Scotland plus the best weather of the year thus far, we had a very good attendance at an enjoyable function. Not unsurprisingly, the majority of the excellent images came from trips overseas! We have resolved to continue with this event as an afternoon function but will move it to February for 2010.

Photography Workshop

As last year, Peter Eeles is holding a workshop that should prove of interest to all who wish to pursue the many opportunities for butterfly and moth photography. This year's event will be held in West Tytherley on Saturday 25 April; full details are available on the Branch website. If the weather permits, Peter plans to visit Bentley Wood during the afternoon – a superb site for a wide range of butterflies, including the Purple Emperor.

Website

Our website continues to flourish, with many thanks due to our webmaster, Robin Turner, and to all of you who provide the information that is its essential dynamic. So please visit the site and send Robin information and images. The archive is growing and we hope it will be an interesting and useful component of the site.

Head Office is adding a "Branches" area to the main website (the exact title is unclear at the time of writing). This is an area for members/branches and will provide additional information to that available to non-member visitors to the site. The Branch is considering whether there is a role for a members' section of our own website and your Committee would be interested for any views that you have on this subject.

Annual General Meeting

This year we will be holding two! The Branch AGM will be held on Saturday 24 October at Littleton Memorial Hall, Littleton, Winchester. This venue proved excellent last year – I promise that we will have a microphone this year – possibly our one omission for our first visit in 2008.

The Branch will be hosting the National AGM on Saturday 21 November. This will be in the Stripe Theatre of Winchester University. More details to follow in due course.

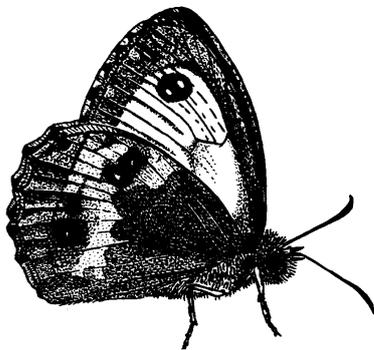
Summer Events

As last year, this Newsletter contains information about our programme of events. As I mentioned last year, we are keen to encourage any ‘ad hoc’ additions to the programme and to try to help out with any specific requests.

May I conclude with thanks to all of you who help maintain our Branch and for the support of all the Branch members. We remain keen to see new faces on our committees, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to help in any particular area.

Have a good season.

Roger Buchanan, Chairman



Charles Flower

One of the reasons why Magdalen Hill Down is a flower-filled paradise is that the Branch had expert advice and supervision during the sowing process. Our consultant was Charles Flower from Shalbourne near Marlborough. Charles’s own Farm, Carver’s Hill, is organic and he has developed wonderful habitats there. It is open for group visits by appointment (01672 870782). There is also a new website with loads of information and forums for queries about growing wild flowers at <http://www.charlesflower-wildflowers.co.uk>. For those who prefer books, *Where have all the flowers gone?* (ISBN: 978-1901092-82-0) is a new book by Charles Flower. A delightful work, at £25 it provides both inspiration and advice.

Lynn Fomison, Reserves Officer

Early Sightings in 2009

January

The only butterfly to appear in January this year was the **Red Admiral**, first reported by Paul Brock in Lyndhurst on 13 January, followed by a few more during the month but with very few since then.

February

On 4 February, at the end of a very cold spell, a **Peacock** was reported from the Isle of Wight. Next came two **Brimstones** seen by Peter Thomson in Fordingbridge on 16 February, followed by several more on the 21st. That date also produced the first **Comma**, in Alison Harper's Winchester garden. On 27 February David Tinling reported a "great awakening" in Gosport, with 4 **Commas** and 5 **Brimstones**, and Richard Coomber saw the first mainland **Peacock** at Lymington.

March

There was nothing more until the beginning of a spring-like spell of sunshine on 15 March, when Ashley Whitlock at Havant Thicket and Pat and Robin Turner at Exton saw the first **Small Tortoiseshells**. The next week saw a flurry of sightings. On 17 March **Small** and **Green Veined White** were noted at Gosport, and Michael Skelton saw a very early **Small Copper** at Southborne. On the 19th Dan Hoare, at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, saw nearly 50 butterflies: 18 **Peacocks**, 14 **Commas**, 13 **Brimstones**, two **Small Tortoiseshells** and 1 **Small White**; and the first **Large White** was seen. A very early **Orange Tip** was seen at Farlington on the 21st, followed by two reports of **Large Tortoiseshell** (confirmed by photographs). Stuart Ball saw a **Speckled Wood** at Milton Lock on 22 March. And then the "Blackthorn Winter" cold spell arrived, and we await some April sunshine.

Jenny Mallett

Postscript: On 3 April (in beautiful sunshine) Peter Burford saw five **Small Tortoiseshells** on Magdalen Hill Down.

New to butterfly watching?

If you need help in identifying butterflies and have Internet access then visit <http://www.northwalesbutterflies.org.uk/>.

An online butterfly identification workshop is available with simple and advanced levels - well worth a look.

BUTTERFLY RECORDING IN 2009

How to send in your records:

Paper recording forms: there are two standard recording forms enclosed with this Newsletter which are also downloadable from our website.

1. The **Butterfly Site Recording Form (green)**, which should be completed when visiting the **same site on a number of occasions**.
2. The **Casual Recording Form (yellow)**, which should be completed when visiting a **number of different sites** during the season.

When completing these forms please enter **actual numbers** seen and not the letter codes A, B, C, D and E.

As the number of records continues to increase each year, if you are able to send your data electronically it would save us time on data entry and would be greatly appreciated. However, if you do not have a computer please continue to send your data in on the paper recording forms: we welcome all records.

Electronic recording: there are three easy ways to send us data electronically:

1. The **Sightings Form** on the website, which you complete and send on-line. This data is displayed on the Sightings Page and is subsequently entered onto our database.
2. **Excel spreadsheet:** if you wish to send in your records using a spreadsheet please contact me and I will email a spreadsheet template to you (with instructions). This is designed to enable quick and easy data entry in a tabulated format.
3. **MapMate:** if you would like to send in your data via MapMate please contact Dave Green (contact details on back page).

Please remember that for a complete record we always require the following information:

Name of recorder	Butterfly species name
Date seen	Site name
Grid reference	Number seen

Garden data: when sending in records from your garden, rather than sending in everything you see each day please record the earliest and latest sighting and peak count for each species.

How to work out a grid reference: the Ordnance Survey has a website which explains how to read grid references. Visit:

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/gi/nationalgrid/nghelp1.html or contact me and I will send you some written instructions. If you would like to

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know the grid reference for your garden, contact me with your **postcode** and I can provide it for you.

Linda Barker, Butterfly Recorder

Target Species

Small Tortoiseshell: 2008 was another poor year for this species. As in 2007 it wasn't helped by the weather. We hope to see an upturn in its fortunes this year, so please send in your records. The flight period is March through to November (hibernators plus two summer broods).

Silver-studded Blue and Grayling: these two species are under-recorded. In an effort to encourage members to record numbers seen at sites where these species can be found I am making a list of places to visit. This list will be available to anyone who contacts me. Both species are found on heathland. The Silver-studded Blue is on the wing in June and July and into August; the Grayling flies in July and August and into September.

Wall: although this species is still well distributed on the Isle of Wight it was believed that the only remaining colony in Hampshire was on the coast between Lymington and Keyhaven, but interestingly an individual was observed at Fort Gilkicker, Gosport in 2008. Please search along this coastal area, including Portsdown Hill and Hayling Island, both places where it has been seen in the recent past. The butterfly has three broods in this part of the county: May to mid-June, July to mid-August and mid-September to end October.

Linda Barker, Butterfly Branch Recorder

NEW MICRO-MOTH RECORDER

With approximately 100,000 moth records being sent in each year the job of County Moth Recorder can be time-consuming to say the least, especially over the winter months. With that in mind the job has now been split into two: Mike Wall has agreed to take on the role of Micro-moth Recorder, whilst I will continue as Macro-moth Recorder. Please continue to send in your records, preferably by MapMate sync file, in the usual way – no need to send in separately. Full details of how to do this appear on the Hantsmoths website at **<http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk/>**.

Tim Norriss, Moth Officer

Can you help to fill in the Gaps?

This is the last year of the current five-year recording period. Last year we printed a map of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight showing the tetrads (2 x 2 km squares) for which we didn't have any data. At the beginning of the recording season in 2008 there were 99 tetrads with no data, 80 in Hampshire and 19 on the Isle of Wight. By the end of the recording season the number had been reduced to 45, with 35 in Hampshire and 10 on the Isle of Wight. Our aim is to reduce this figure to zero by the end of the 2009 recording season.

Listed below are the grid references of the 45 tetrads which need visiting. The grid reference is for the bottom left hand corner of the tetrad (2 x 2km square). The (E) means that the tetrad is on an edge with only part of it in Hampshire, the rest of the tetrad being in another county or in the sea. If you explore some of the edge tetrads, please visit the Hampshire portion rather than the neighbouring county.

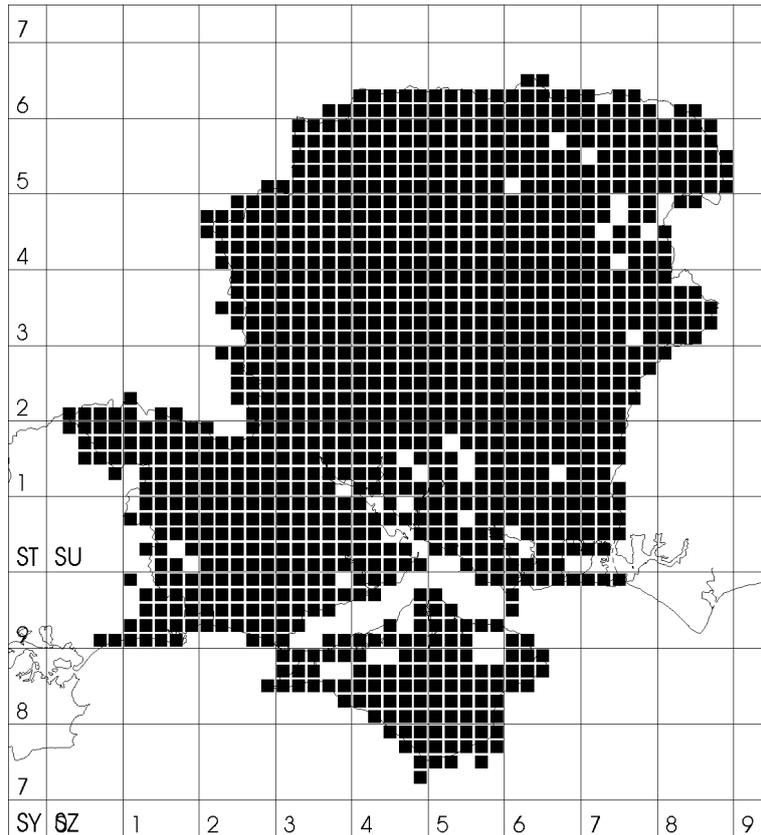
The map shows all the data we have for 2005-08. The gaps are the tetrads listed below.

If you would like to take part in this survey, please select a tetrad and let me know (contact details are on the back page) so that I can establish which ones are being covered. If you would like to join in but are not sure what area a tetrad covers, let me know which one you would like to visit and I will send you a map with your tetrad marked out. Even if you don't sign up for a square please take this list with you when you go out to look for butterflies and try to visit some of the unrecorded tetrads. Even if someone else may be looking after this tetrad, the more records the better.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. SU1022 (E) North west of Whitsbury | 24. SU7244 West of Lower Froyle |
| 2. SU1010 (E) Ringwood Forest | 25. SU7246 Long Sutton |
| 3. SU1008 (E) Ringwood Forest | 26. SU7448 South east of Odiham |
| 4. SU1602 South of Ringwood | 27. SU7844 Bentley |
| 5. SU1800 North of Bransgore | 28. SU8046 (E) Whimple Hill,nr Farnham |
| 6. SZ3898 South east of Boldre | 29. SU8048 South of Fleet |
| 7. SU4404 Fawley | 30. SU8648 (E) South of Aldershot |
| 8. SU3810 Marchwood | 31. SU6050 South east Basingstoke |
| 9. SU4608 West of Bursledon | 32. SU6656 Sherfield Loddon |
| 10. SU4614 East Southampton | 33. SU7054 West of Hook |
| 11. SU4812 Hedge End | 34. SU8060 Yateley |
| 12. SU5216 West of Bishops Waltham | 35. SU7262 (E) Wellington CP |
| 13. SU5414 West of Waltham Chase,Isle of Wight | |
| 14. SU5412 West of Shedfield | 36. SZ3686 East of Freshwater |
| 15. SU5406 West Fareham | 37. SZ3886 North of Shalcombe |
| 16. SU6004 Portchester | 38. SZ4288 East of Shalfleet |
| 17. SU7000 Hayling Island | 39. SZ4488 Watchingwell |
| 18. SU7200 Hayling Island | 40. SZ4692 Hill's Corner |
| 19. SU6612 North east of Denmead | 41. SZ4694 Northwood |

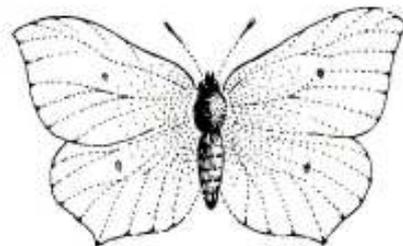
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| 20. SU7630 | Greatham | 42. SZ5688 | SW of Havenstreet |
| 21. SU8238 | North east of Bordon | 43. SZ5888 | North west of Brading |
| 22. SU8438 (E) | North of Headley Down | 44. SZ5690 | South west of Ryde |
| 23. SU7440 | West of Binstead | 45. SZ5890 | South of Ryde |

Map of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight showing all tetrads for which we have data for 2005-2008



Can you help fill in the gaps? Contact Linda Barker on 023 8027 0042 or lindabarker4@btinternet.com

We are recommending a minimum of two visits, one in mid-May and the other in mid-July. If you have time please visit mid-June and mid-August as well.



Reserves News

Having attended a caterpillar training day arranged by Butterfly Conservation at Blashford Lakes last May and after the wonderful experience of watching a Puss Moth caterpillar in my garden, I am looking forward to finding caterpillars on the reserves this season. There are certainly plenty there.

Last year I got off to a good start. Patrick Fleet frequently finds caterpillars when he is working on MHD and with his help we found the caterpillars of Common Footman on 2 March. These are interesting as they feed on lichen on fence posts. When Paul Guymer was working at Intech last summer he frequently visited the Reserve and as well as recording the butterflies he mentioned the caterpillars too. On 30 May he photographed a magnificent Drinker moth caterpillar. On 22 August whilst walking the transect Thelma Smalley was thrilled to find a Privet Hawk moth caterpillar feeding on privet. Last year 6-Spot Burnet moths abounded at MHD – it was very easy to find their cocoons on the grass stems. When they had emerged the black remains of the pupal case could be seen sticking out.

I hope visitors to all our reserves will look out for and record caterpillars as well as butterflies this summer. The new book *British Moths and Butterflies: a photographic guide* by Chris Manley has lots of illustrations of caterpillars and should be a big help with identifying them. I also have the Collins *Field Guide to the Caterpillars of Britain & Europe*, which is good but no longer available. For those who access the Internet, www.hantsmoths.org.uk has caterpillar images, as does <http://www.whatsthis caterpillar.co.uk>. If you disturb a caterpillar please put it back on the plant where it was feeding.

Happy caterpillar hunting.

Lynn Fomison, Reserves Officer

Caterpillars Again

(and how to describe them)

By chance I found a website:

<http://www.whatsthis caterpillar.co.uk/america/>. On its opening page there was an illustration showing different types of caterpillar with descriptive terms such as: *smooth, knobbly, horned, fleshy, slug-like, hairy, tufted, bristly, spiny, feeders, builders*. If you find a caterpillar and want to describe it, these are some of the terms useful for specifying the physical features that would help in identification; for the latter two (*feeders, builders*) behaviour can help also.

Lynn Fomison

Help needed to solve caterpillar conundrum

Last year the numbers of Small Tortoiseshell butterflies recorded in Hampshire & Isle of Wight were sadly very low again, as they were country-wide. When we are all working so hard to protect our butterflies it is very sad to see a once common species decline so much. You may have heard that a lot of research is being undertaken to try to find the cause for these low numbers. It is thought that the main reason is the presence of a parasitic fly *Stumia bella*. The same parasite is thought to be attacking the Peacock butterfly too.

This newly-colonised parasitic fly lays eggs on the nettles that the Small Tortoiseshell's caterpillars feed on. It is suspected that the caterpillars are consuming the eggs, which then hatch and develop inside them as they reach the cocoon stage, killing the host. Butterfly Conservation is working with the Department of Zoology at Oxford University to investigate the severity of the problem. They are looking at trends in butterfly populations and sizes across the country and want volunteers who can collect and rear Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars, and then report back on how many are parasitized.

If you can help with this research, visit our Branch website: **www.hantsiow-butterfly.org.uk** and look at the news item, where there is a direct link to detailed information on the main Butterfly Conservation website.

Janet Jones, Publicity Officer

Feeding Habits of Garden Caterpillars

As the garden wakes up from the dormant winter season I find it very exciting to see which of my plants have self-seeded themselves around their parents and beyond. They invariably include Honesty (*Lunaria*) and Dame's Violet or Sweet Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), two of the best early nectar flowers.

Last year I was interested to see Large White caterpillars feeding on Dame's Violet, something that I had seen in 2007 for the first time. This diet seems to have suited them very well so far as three pupae are on a wall close to where the plants grow. I hope to see them emerge in a few weeks time.

One evening last May I was very surprised to notice a green caterpillar on a stem of Honesty in a posy of flowers on my kitchen windowsill. It had been eating away at the leaves. When I looked for the caterpillar the following morning to put it in the garden I couldn't find it anywhere. Imagine my surprise when, a few weeks later, a freshly emerged Small White butterfly dropped onto the windowsill. (I put it in the garden where I watched as it pumped up its wings and eventually flew away.) This was the first time I have seen possible evidence of Small White butterflies laying eggs on Honesty. Support for this theory: since the autumn a Small White pupa has been fixed to

a wall close to where Honesty grows; I wonder if this insect too fed on this plant.

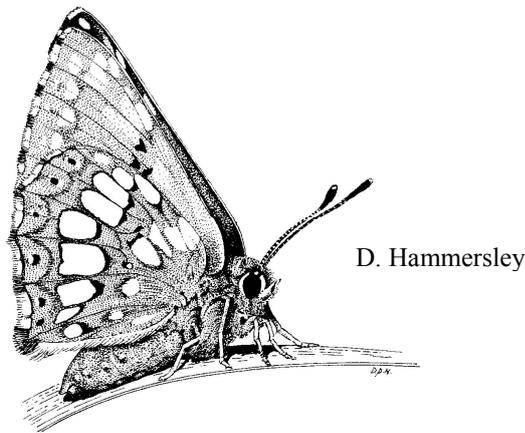
I have recently heard a report of both Large and Small Whites feeding on Jack-by-the-Hedge or Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) in a Hampshire garden. It would be very interesting to see if these two species are changing their feeding habits slightly – the vegetable gardeners amongst us will be very pleased if they are!

Janet Jones, Publicity Officer

Did you know?

Chrysalis comes from the Greek word for gold, because many butterflies have strikingly spiky chrysalises ornamented with gold and silver dots.

Pupa is from the Latin for a doll, which they do slightly resemble.



Extracts from the Branch website

Ian Pratt writes: "I believe bird watchers have a competition each year on 1 January to see the most species in a day. On 26 July last year Paul Millward and I visited three sites on the IOW: Shalcombe Down, Walters Copse and the fields opposite my house in Branstone. We saw 24 species in about four hours! Large, Small, Green-veined and Marbled White; Dingy, Small and Essex Skipper; Silver-washed and Dark Green Fritillary; Red and White Admiral; Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock; Comma; Common, Holly, Small and Chalkhill Blue; Brown Argus, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet; Speckled Wood; and Brimstone. How well can any other county do in half a day?"

On 30 July Rupert Broadway wrote: "My Winchester garden was distinguished yesterday by a brief visit from a Silver-washed Fritillary to a buddleia bush. It was the 28th new species to visit in 14 years of recording. Other visitors seen during the day were Small and Large White, Brimstone, Common Blue (fresh male and female), Peacock, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper."

Lynn Fomison

English Moth Recorders Conference 2009

Almost 100 people attended this event on 31 January in Birmingham, including about 20 county moth recorders and numerous other interested moth-ers and staff from the Moths Count team. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Branch was well represented by Tim Norriss, as County Moth Recorder, David Green, Lynn Fomison and Phil Young.

The conference was opened by BC National Chairman Maurice Avent, who described how his interest in moths had grown from leaving the bathroom light on and the window open to having a moth trap and showing off the moths attracted around his village.

Richard Fox provided an informative update on the wonderful progress made with the Moths Count Project. This was well illustrated with photos of the many successful events through 2008, gorgeous moths and the all important atlas maps that are being produced using the data.

Lunch was preceded by a riveting talk by Dr Charles Fletcher of the Yorkshire Moth Group on the effects of climatic change on moth populations in Yorkshire. He had prepared graphs illustrating the weather trends over a number of years: they clearly showed that although there were high and low fluctuations the trend over the last ten years had been one of rising average temperatures. Particularly notable was the fact that February had become less cold, and Dr Fletcher demonstrated the close correlation between this change and earlier emergence in several spring and summer species. The recent change of some species from being single-brooded (univoltine) to double-brooded (bivoltine) was also highlighted and attributed to the warmer temperatures experienced in Yorkshire. This, along with the arrival of new species to the county, made Yorkshire an exciting place for moth-ers.

After lunch the theme of climate change continued, with Dr Tim Sparks of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology describing the effects on migrant lepidoptera. His lecture included a stimulating consideration of what indeed a migrant is.

Dr Dan Hoare, Regional Officer for the South East (including Hampshire), described how the SE Woodland Project was seeking to conserve moths on a landscape scale. It was good to have up-to-date news on this as part of the project, which includes the Hampshire woodlands at Tytherley and west into Wiltshire.

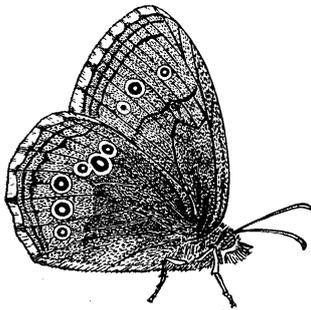
“A net full of moths” was the title of the presentation by Martin Harvey. The ‘net’ referred to the Internet, with Martin pointing out useful websites, forums and e-groups. A full list can be seen at www.bit.ly/mothweb. The “What’s

flying tonight” sections on Norfolk Moths, Suffolk Moths and Somerset Moths websites could be especially useful to new moth-ers.

The last lecture of the day, Dr Paul Hatcher on “Conserving the Netted Carpet moth in the Lake District”, was an inspirational story of how cattle grazing and the associated ground poaching created ideal conditions for their larval food plant, Touch-me-not Balsam (*Impatiens noli-tangere*), thereby helping to save an endangered moth.

There was lots of time to meet up with old friends, talk to other moth-ers and the national Moths Count team – a great day in all respects.

Lynn Fomison, Reserves Officer



HOW I GOT INTO MOTHING

A year or so ago I came across my copy of *The Observer's Book of Larger British Moths* in which, as a young teenager, I had noted the dates of sightings of about a dozen or so species when my home was in Devon.

This early interest in moths lay dormant for decades, although sometime in the 1980s I picked up a remaindered pair of South's books in the Wayside and Woodland Series, probably motivated by a general interest in natural history rather than a particular desire to study moths. At that stage they were things that came to lighted windows or the porch light, and the only light trap I had come across was at Portland Bird Observatory during a birding holiday in the days of Frank Clifton's reign as warden in 1964.

A sunny day in April 1990 changed things, for near Holmsley in the New Forest I took a photo of a quite well-marked moth sunning itself on a woodland track. A week or so later I showed the picture to Nigel Jones, who had just taken over the birdwatching travel company Ornitholidays. He produced a copy of *Skinner* and identified the moth as an Orange Underwing. One evening a few weeks later he invited me to his home, then in Chandler's Ford, to see what came to his Robinson trap: it was a revelation.

That July, when Nigel took his family on holiday, he offered me the use of the trap while he was away. Of course I very quickly discovered I was going in at

the deep end at that time of the year! I lived then at Bashley, just north of New Milton, and my house was surrounded by oak trees and fields. The first morning was bewildering, but I was pleased to identify a mere dozen or so species. Those few turned up again the next time I ran the trap and a few more were identified and added to the list. So it went on, and by the time the trap was returned two weeks later I was hooked and had even been across to Kent to equip myself at Watkins & Doncaster's.

After that I kept plugging away, and following a period of domestic upheaval I moved to Pennington. Barry Goater kindly identified some specimens that I sent by post. Sadly, one batch didn't travel well and in a politely schoolmasterly fashion I was justifiably chastised!

The next 'advance' came with my first steps into the world of digital photography. Suddenly one could take an image, put it up on the computer screen and compare it with one of the i.d. websites that had been set up by Ian Kimber or our own Mike Wall. After seeing a piece in this Newsletter by Tim Norriss about MapMate software, I sent off for the programme, but initially didn't make much progress. So I contacted Tim, who kindly came down and set up it on my laptop. At the same time he encouraged me to join the Hampshire Moth Group, through which I discovered the joys of moth evenings and eventually the desire to have my own generator, but that's another story.....

Although living on a 1970s estate, I fortunately have a garden where the trap can be run without bothering the neighbours. The downside is all the street lights we see. Gradually the garden's list has grown to 626 species since July 1994, although additions are harder to come by nowadays.

The commonest in terms of dates and numbers recorded is Large Yellow Underwing, with 2,112 individuals recorded on 325 nights. The highest-placed micro, perhaps not surprisingly to other moth-ers, is the invasive Light Brown Apple Moth, with 997 individuals on 261 dates. Second in abundance is Lunar Underwing, with 1,243 individuals on only 53 dates, which places it 80th in the Date League. Others such as Light Crimson Underwing and Portland Wave have appeared just once in a blue moon, whilst Jersey Tiger has now appeared three times since 2000. Who knows what 2009 will have in store?

So through the kindness and helpfulness of others I discovered a whole new world, lost hours of sleep and helped to keep our garden's blackbirds, robins and wrens well fed.

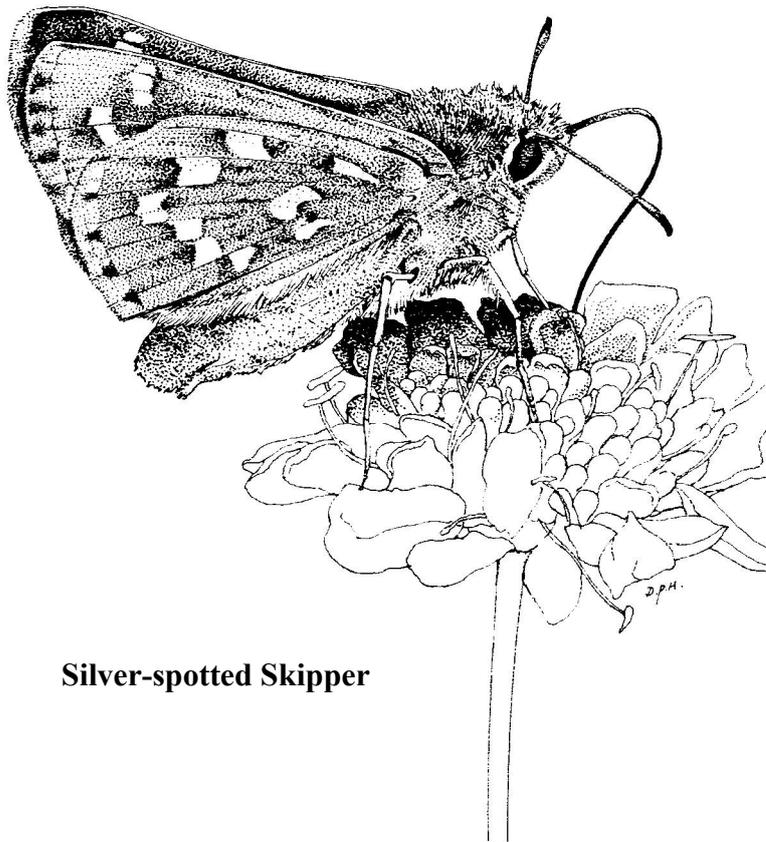
Richard Coomber

A Fortnight in Provence

A family holiday in southern France in August 2008 made me realise the extent to which observation of butterflies in the UK is regulated by factors such as location, habitat and timing. In contrast, in the beautiful Var area of Provence 30 plus species turned up within a few metres of the front door of our holiday villa in two weeks, many of which we would regard as habitat specialists at home.

The villa, found and booked on the Web, was idyllically situated on a hillside of pine trees. It had its own pool, some cultivated plants (including a Buddleia) and two or three uncultivated grassy areas, all features of varying degrees of attraction to the visiting butterflies.

First to show on day one was the Wall Brown, followed swiftly by Large and Small White, Silver-washed Fritillary, Scarce Swallowtail, Meadow Brown, Spotted Fritillary and Common Blue. The beautiful Cleopatra turned up at lunchtime and Berger's (or possibly Pale) Clouded Yellow showed up soon after. Tree Grayling lurked in a shady corner of the garden.



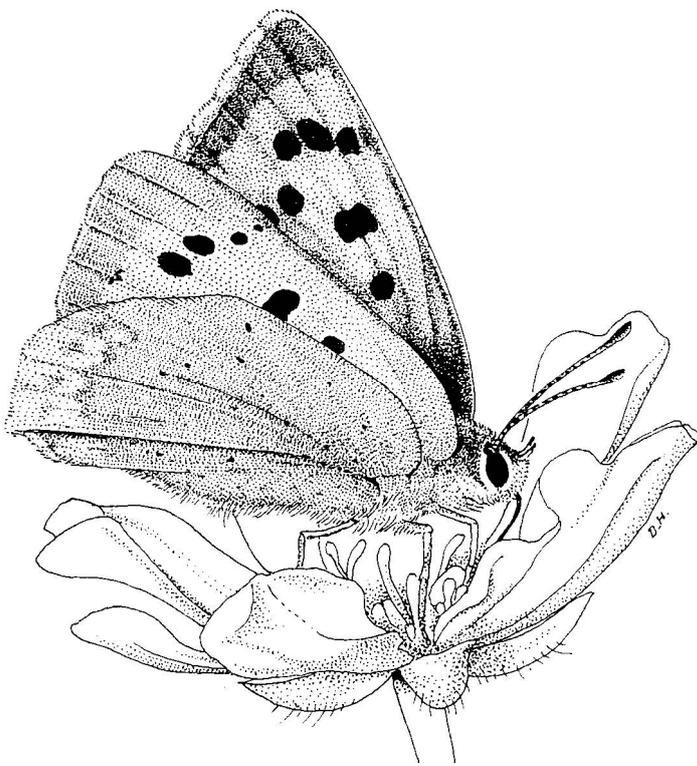
Silver-spotted Skipper

The constant presence of two or three Silver-spotted Skippers nectaring on Dianthus and Valerian next to the pool first made me realise that “normal” rules of habitat didn't apply here; this was confirmed by the later visits of Chalkhill Blue (and possibly its Provençal cousin), Adonis Blue, Brown Argus, Grizzled Skipper and Small Heath: all these in habitat as far removed from Hampshire chalk downland as you're likely to find.

Various small fritillaries patrolled the rough grassy areas, and the inadequacy of my field guide as an aid to identification was quickly revealed. Later

purchase of a better quality guide and retrospective study of photographs revealed Knapweed and Heath Fritillary, as well as the more distinctive Spotted Fritillary. These species had a curious penchant for diving into the pool: they often showed remarkable powers of recovery following rescue after quite long periods of immersion, a convenient sun-bed proving well suited to the task of recuperation.

Gatekeeper, Clouded Yellow, Long-tailed Blue and one of the larger Grizzled Skippers (impossible to say which) completed the tally for the first week, and the weekend was distinguished by visits from the graceful Southern White Admiral, which managed to perfect the art of taking water from the pool without becoming waterlogged, and High Brown Fritillary.



Small Copper

In the second week Comma, the tiny Baton Blue and the stately Great Banded Grayling dropped in. On the last full day there was a rush of new species, including Wood White, Mallow Skipper and Small Copper. To complete the picture we were treated to a high-speed flypast by the magnificent Two-tailed Pasha. Curiously, only one additional species, the Queen of Spain Fritillary, was positively identified away from the house

during the fortnight.

The presence of so many species demonstrates that under ideal conditions butterflies are far more prone to dispersal and that habitat may be a much less limiting factor than we find at home. This year we're heading to a different area of Provence a little earlier in the year and we'll be hoping to do as well.

Rupert Broadway

Illustrations by Douglas Hammersley

SOUTH - EAST AREA GROUP NEWS

Sea change at Hook Heath

A volte-face by the Hants & IoW Wildlife Trust in recent months has resulted in the signing of a new tenancy agreement with the Southwick Estate to facilitate a 10-year Higher-Level Stewardship accord with Natural England. A meeting was convened at Fort Widley in late February; it was chaired by Dr David Rumble of HWT, and two SEAG members were in attendance. The Trust's ambitious plan for the restoration of the site was mooted. The plan will initially involve re-fencing the site to accommodate Dexter cattle to check scrub encroachment. However, this operation will demand vehicular access along the public footpath through Pinsley Coppice, and is likely to prove contentious. Ideally, the reserve would be extended to include Pinsley and the footpath, the resultant 'public access' status qualifying it for further funding. The new Reserve Officer is Jamie Marsh, who replaces Mark Kilby.

Horsea Island

Following the temporary introduction of unshod horses to the meadows last year, six sheep are now to be accommodated in the main meadow, site of the Small Heath colony. The operation is a remarkable and very encouraging example of cooperation between the local Defence Estates office, Natural England, and Richard Jones, Portsmouth CC Countryside Officer. The proposal to build Portsmouth Football Club's new stadium at the eastern end of the island, the site of one of the Branch's elm trials, has been postponed indefinitely in favour of expansion of the existing ground at Fratton

Cams Bay

The Group aided the Portchester Civic Society and Fareham Borough Council with a work party at Cams Bay Public Open Space on 22 February. One of the dense bramble thickets had been cleared earlier by the Council, and trees were planted along the margins by the work party. The Group provided a small number of elms, including the new French cultivar 'VADA'.

Castle Shore Park, Portchester

Hampshire CC Countryside Service was able to fund forage-harvesting of most of the meadows in February. The site was formerly industrial, the home of a concrete works, but was reclaimed and covered with chalk fill in the 1970s, bestowing it with an interesting calcicole flora, including Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* and various orchids. Small Blues, almost certainly vagrants from Ports Down, are found intermittently, and Ringlets have recently colonized the damper areas near the wood.

Changes at the Forestry Commission

The FC's South East Area Manager, Mr Steve Neal, has retired and has been succeeded by Mr Simon James, tel. 07771 667141, email simon.james@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

Andrew Brookes, Leader SEAG

BOOK REVIEW

British Moths and Butterflies: A Photographic Guide by Chris Manley is a very welcome addition to the butterfly and moth books currently available. It is the first to provide top-quality photographs of a large proportion of the species that occur here. The book covers 1,420 species in all, including 74 butterflies and 850 macro-moths (which is all of them except for a handful which you are never likely to see anyway). Also covered are more than 500 micros, but bear in mind that this is just a selection, so don't use it as your only source of reference for identification. The book usefully includes over 300 photos of caterpillars, pupae and eggs.

Many people will find it an aid to identifying a species, especially when used in conjunction a good identification guide such as Waring, Townsend and Lewington. But more importantly the photos in this book really emphasise the beauty of moths and the wonderful range of caterpillars that can be found. The short text accompanying each species is helpful in giving flight times, habitat and larval food plants. Informative and wonderfully inspirational - what more could one ask for £19.99? Well, yes, just one thing: there was a sad omission from the list of websites: www.hantsmoths.org.uk.

Lynn Fomison & Tim Norriss

JOHN LANGMAID REACHES 1000

Congratulations to Dr John Langmaid for being the first person in Hampshire to see 1,000 species of Lepidoptera in their garden. This milestone was achieved on 31 August 2008 when John recorded *Acleris emargana*, one of a total of 15 new species seen during the year. John's urban Southsea garden has had many new firsts for the county, including Scar Bank Gem *Ctenoplusia limbirena* in 1997 and Plumed Fan-foot *Pechipogo plumigeralis* in 2006; but sadly, once widespread species such as Garden Dart *Euxoa nigricans* and Double Dart *Graphiphora augur* have not been recorded for many years. John Radford in West Sussex holds the garden record with over 1,200 species.

Tim Norriss

FIELD TRIP PROGRAMME

See also the excellent programme of walks on our Reserves this summer in the Diary of events on pp. 2 & 3.

If the weather looks doubtful please check with the leader in advance. For walks that start in the morning it is advisable to bring lunch. For your safety and comfort wear strong shoes and appropriate clothing, use sunscreen, carry a drink, heed all safety advice, watch out for hazards such as rabbit holes and check for ticks after the walk. Also remember to inform the leader if you wish to leave early.

For beginners interested in moths a good way to learn is to go along to one of the moth evenings organised by members. Some are listed below, whilst others, which may be arranged at short notice, will be posted on the Yahoo email newsgroup at <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/hantsmoths>. Additional daytime field meetings may also be arranged and will be advertised on the website.

We look forward to welcoming you all on our field trips whatever your level of knowledge. We cannot guarantee seeing the wildlife, but the Hampshire countryside is lovely and there will be time to enjoy it (weather permitting!).

SATURDAY 9 MAY

ITCHEN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Leader: Dave Payne, Eastleigh countryside ranger. **Contact:** Alison Harper (01962 882261). **Time:** 10.30am–1.30pm. **Meet:** outside the Visitor Centre (an old tithe barn) SU 461 161. On arrival do not pay the car park/entry charge but park and go straight to the visitor centre and ask for Dave (desk phone 02380 475086, mob 07771 851043), who is arranging entry for us. The Park is situated at the southern end of Allington Lane West End. From M3/M27 use airport junction and follow A7 east up steep hill past Haskins garden centre, turn left at roundabout into Allington Lane. This should be an excellent time to see early butterflies and also the extensive work carried out in the woodland areas of the park. Morning only. Map: Winchester 185. **Target species:** Orange Tip, other early butterflies.

SUNDAY 10 MAY

OXENBOURNE DOWN

Leader: Ashley Whitlock (02392 731266). **Meet:** 10.30am in the main car park (small charge) at Queen Elizabeth Country Park (SU 718 185). A longer walk than usual with steep slopes. Wear stout walking boots and bring lunch. **Target species:** Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Small Heath, Dingy and Grizzled Skippers.

SATURDAY 16 MAY

NEW FOREST (Joint with Dorset Branch)

Leader: Jonathan Cook. **Contact:** John Ruppertsbery (02380 663492). **Meet:** 10.30am in New Copse Inclosure. Turn off A337 at Brockenhurst by the Balmer Lawn Hotel onto the B3055 to Beaulieu. After 2 miles turn left onto gravel track opposite entrance to Roundhill campsite at SU 329 024. Park about 75m along this track. Bring lunch. Map Solent 196. **Target species:** Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

SATURDAY 23 MAY

DANEbury

Leader: Mervyn Grist (01264 358737). **Meet:** 10.30am at upper car park (SU 329 377). Signed entrance is off the Stockbridge to Middle Wallop Airfield road. This morning stroll around the Danebury SSSI will be of interest to any members wanting help with their identification skills. There is one steep slope. Map: Winchester 185. **Target species:** smaller spring butterflies such as Dingy and Grizzled Skippers.

WEDNESDAY 27 MAY

MARTIN DOWN (Joint with Dorset Branch)

Leader: Brian Fletcher (01962 882746). **Meet:** 10.30am in the car park off the A354 Salisbury to Blandford Road (SU 037 201) for walks in both downland and woodland areas. Bring lunch if staying for the afternoon. Map: Salisbury184. **Target species:** Adonis Blue, Small Blue.

SATURDAY 30 MAY

BENTLEY WOOD

Leader: To be confirmed. **Contact:** Jenny Mallett (01329 832177). **Meet:** 10.30am. From West Dean take minor road north towards West Tytherley; after one mile take left fork towards the Winterslows. Drive about ¼ mile and turn into small gravel track on left. Drive up track to car park (SU 258 292). Bring lunch. Map: Salisbury 184. **Target species:** Fritillaries, dragonflies and possibly Argent & Sable moth (we found one last year).

SATURDAY 30 MAY

MARTIN DOWN: Daytime Moth Walk

Leader: Pete Durnell (01590 610021). **Meet:** 11.00am at the main car park off A354 (SU035201). We shall be hoping to find some of the daytime moths that frequent downland at this time of the year.

SATURDAY 30 MAY

EXBURY GARDENS: Moth Evening

Leaders: Tim Norriss (01264 354944) and Juliet Bloss (02380 848085). **Meet:** Please phone Tim or Juliet for details. Bring a torch and warm clothes.

SUNDAY 31 MAY

MARTIN DOWN (Joint with Upper Thames Branch).

Leaders: Peter and Pat Gardner (01730) 827488. **Meet:** as 27 May above for walk in both downland and woodland areas. Bring lunch if staying for afternoon. Map: Salisbury 184. **Target species:** as 27 May above.

FRIDAY 5 JUNE

PAMBER FOREST: Moth Evening

Meet: Please see HWT diary or website for details of this event.

SATURDAY 6 JUNE

HOGMOOR INCLOSURE, WHITEHILL,

BORDON: Moth Evening. **Leader:** Stephen Miles (01420 478845). **Meet:** 8.00pm on east side of Hogmoor Road, south of St Andrew's Road at SU 786 346. The objective is to obtain more site information for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Joint meeting with members of the Alton Natural History Society and the British Entomological and Natural History Society. Bring a torch.

One day during the Week 12/17 June UPPER THAMES BRANCH AREA

An invitation has been received from Upper Thames Branch to join an exploration for Black Hairstreak in an area where it is known to be present. Date dependent on weather. **Contact:** Alison Harper (01962 882261) from Friday 12 June for further information. Suggestion is for members to make their own car-share arrangements.

SUNDAY 21 JUNE

WINNALL MOORS HWT RESERVE

Leader: Bob Whitmarsh (01962 868862). **Meet:** 10.30am Durngate Car Park, Winchester (SU 485 297). From north/east head into Winchester from jct 9 of M3. As you enter Durngate Place at bottom of hill, turn right into small car park opposite Willow Tree pub. From west/south follow Winchester one-way system until the Police Station where bear left. Car park is immediately on left. A morning stroll to see the wildlife and the results of the HWT restoration of that part of the Itchen Navigation since our visit last year. Morning only. Map: Winchester 185. **Target species:** Scarlet Tiger Moth, dragonflies and perhaps water vole.

APRIL 2009

SATURDAY 27 JUNE

HAZELEY HEATH (Hartley Wintney)

Leader: Adam Green or Leigh Neville (Hart Countryside Service). **Contact:** Janet Jones (01252 842174). **Meet:** 10.30am 0.5 mile north of Hartley Wintney on the B3011 in lay-by opposite Arrow Lane (SU 756 578). Morning only. The site is part of the Thames Basin Special Protection Area and an SSSI. Map: Reading 175. **Target species:** Silver-studded Blue.

SATURDAY 27 JUNE: HAMPSHIRE MOTH NIGHT

SATURDAY 27 JUNE

CHOLDERTON: Bats and Moths

Leaders: Tracé Williams, RSPB (01980 629835) or (07715 371747) and Tim Norriss (01264 354944) courtesy of Henry Edmunds. **Meet:** 9.00pm at Source Farm Shop, Cholderton at SU 233 429. £2 donation to go to Bat Group funds. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome. This joint RSPB/BC event is part of the Moths Count Project. Bring a torch.

SATURDAY 27 JUNE

MARTIN DOWN

Leader: Pete Durnell (01590 610021). **Meet:** 10.00pm at the main car park off A354 (SU 035 201). Lamps will be run behind the scrub adjacent to the car park. Running a moth lamp here at this time of the year is always exciting and numbers can be spectacular. Bring a torch.

SUNDAY 28 JUNE

BRAMSHOTT COMMON

Leader: Arthur Greenwood (01428 604730) (mobile on the day: 07920 803900). **Meet:** 11.00am at the car park (SU 855 335). This is best accessed from the small lane left off the northbound A3 (not the southbound lane) at SU 857 331 (between Liphook and Hindhead, before the A3 tunnel roadworks). Bring lunch. Opportunity to extend your visit in the afternoon by walking from car park to NT Waggoners Wells beauty spot. Map: Aldershot 186. **Target species:** Silver-studded Blue in profusion.

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY

BOTLEY WOOD

Leader: Richard Levett (01489 582503). **Meet:** 10.00am by the double gates under the electricity pylon line on Titchfield Lane (between Wickham and Titchfield) at SU 551 102. Bring lunch. Map: Solent 196. **Target species:** Woodland butterflies.

SATURDAY 11 JULY

WINCHFIELD: Moth Evening

Leader: Tim Norriss (01264 354944). The evening is courtesy of Janet and Ken Jones. Please phone to book your place (01252 842174) or email janet@mauvedrop.com.

SUNDAY 12 JULY

HAWKHILL INCLOSURE & WOOTTON

COPPICE, NEW FOREST. **Leaders:** Alison Harper (01962 882261) and Linda Barker. **Meet:** 10.00am at Hawkhill Inclosure car park (SU 351 019) along a track north off the B3055 Brockenhurst to Beaulieu road shortly after the road leaves the woodland for the open heath. Lunch in car park. Afternoon: **Meet** by 1.45pm at Wootton Coppice car park (SZ 250 997). This will be the first of two trips to this part of the New Forest (see 18 July below). We aim to finish about by 4.30pm. Map: Solent 196. **Target species:** Dark Green, Silver-washed Fritillaries, White Admiral in woods plus Silver-studded Blue and Grayling on heathland.

SATURDAY 18 JULY

HOLMSLEY PASSAGE, NEW FOREST

Leaders: Steve and Sheila Lankester (01590 682 421) **Meet:** 10.00am at Forestry car park near Holmsley Lodge just north of Holmsley Inclosure (SU 223 013). As part two of our New Forest exploration (see 12 July above) we will explore one of the less-well-known areas

to search for Forest heathland butterflies as well as dragonflies and Damselflies. Morning only. Map Bournemouth 195. **Target species:** Grayling, Silver-studded Blue and dragonflies. Mostly on gravel tracks.

SATURDAY 18 JULY **HOLMSLEY, NEW FOREST: Moth Evening**
Leader: Richard Coomber (01590 674471). **Meet:** 9.30pm in the car park at SU 223 012 for trapping along the old railway track. **Target species:** Small Chocolate-tip.

SATURDAY 18 JULY **MILLFIELD, OLD BASING: Moth Evening**
Leader: Mike Wall (01256 819631). **Meet:** 9.00pm at the gate into Millfield at Bartons Mill (SU 662 531). Bring a torch.

SATURDAY 25 JULY **LADYCROSS, NEW FOREST: Moth Evening**
Leader: Pete Durnell (01590 610021) or Richard Coomber (01590 674471). **Meet:** 9.30pm. Turn north off B3055 Brockenhurst/Beaulieu Road at Ladycross Lodge and meet at the T junction along the forest track at SU 335 030.

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST **PERHAM RANGES (Joint with HWT and Bulford Conservation Group).** **Leader:** John Moon (HWT) (01264 710 123). **Time:** 11.00am-3.30pm. Turn into Benin Road, beside the Londis shop in Perham Down on the Weyhill to Tidworth road. After 400m turn left again beside a brick hut. Park by sheds at northern end of old ranges at SU 259 484. We will visit the Warren Hill end of this downland area. Bring lunch. Map: Salisbury184. **Target species:** Silver-spotted Skipper and other downland butterflies.

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST **SOUTHAMPTON OLD CEMETERY**
Leader: John Vetterlein (02380 636080). **Meet:** 11.00am at the main gates to the cemetery at the far end of Cemetery Road (SU 414 136). Free parking in road outside 27-acre Victorian cemetery to the south of Southampton Common, managed to conserve fauna and flora and grading from heathland to grassland to woodland. Morning only. Map: Solent 196. **Target species:** large numbers of all the late summer butterflies, especially gatekeepers, and wildflowers.

SATURDAY 8 AUGUST **STOCKBRIDGE DOWN (Joint with HWT)**
Leader: Brian Fletcher (01962 882746). **Meet:** 2.00pm-4.30pm in the lower car park on right beyond the Sandy Down crossroads when travelling from Winchester on the road to Stockbridge (SU 388 345). Map Winchester 185. **Target species:** Chalkhill Blue, possibly Silver-spotted Skipper and Adonis Blue, wildflowers.

SUNDAY 9 AUGUST **BROUGHTON DOWN (Joint with Dorset & Wiltshire Branches).** **Leader:** Glynne Evans (01264) 860697. **Meet:** 10.30am at the end of Buckholt Road (SU 301 325) off the B3084 at the west end of Broughton village to explore the Hampshire Wildlife Trust's Broughton Down reserve. Bring Lunch. Map: Winchester 185. **Target species:** A wide range of wildflowers, Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper.

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST **VALE END, TILLINGBOURNE VALLEY & ST. MARTHA'S HILL (Joint with Surrey and Upper Thames Branches)**
Leader: John Foulsham. **Contact:** Alison Harper (01962 882261). **Meet:** 10.30am at Vale End on A248, 0.5km west of Albury, 7km east of Guildford (TQ 044 479). Map: 186 Aldershot. Vale End cottage is on the north side of the road, but park in the field opposite on the south side. Please check before departure if weather doubtful.

Once again we have been lucky enough to be asked to John and Daphne Foulsham's home at Albury with its beautiful garden in the Tillingbourne Valley. Meet for morning coffee and biscuits and, after exploring the 'Yellow Book' garden, wander along the valley and then steeply up onto the North Downs, which have a great variety of butterflies and great views. Bring lunch. Eventually set off downhill to complete the circle back to Vale End, where afternoon tea and cakes await us. The visit will end around 4.00pm, leaving time for a visit to one of the largest Adonis Blue colonies in the country at **Denbies**, about 30 minutes drive away.

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST WOOLMER FOREST, BORDON and LINCHBOROUGH WOOD, CONFORD: Moth Evening.

Leader: Stephen Miles (01420 478845). **Meet:** 7.00pm at the entrance barrier, just north of the remains of the old Whitehill social club on the eastern side of the A325 at SU 791 337. Moth lamping at two sites in a joint meeting with Alton Natural History Society and the British Entomological and Natural History Society. Because of possible short-notice changes due to military training requirements, alternative trapping sites outside the range boundary are available at both sites. Bring a torch.

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST SHIPTON BELLINGER (Joint with local residents and Upper Thames Branch). **Leader:** Andy Barker (02380 270042). **Meet:** 10.30am at Village Hall car park. Entering Shipton Bellinger from the south on A338, take the first turning on the left into the High Street soon after entering the village. Follow this road ½ mile to T-junction with Bulford Road and turn left. Village Hall car park 100 yards on right as road bears left (SU 229 457). Map Salisbury 184. Bring lunch. **Target species:** Brown Hairstreak.

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST OXNEY TRAINING AREA and OXNEY FARM, BORDON: Moth Evening. **Leader:** Stephen Miles (01420 478845). **Meet:** 6.45pm outside the barrier on the hard-surfaced track on the north side of Oakhanger Road, Bordon, at SU 788 361. Joint meeting with the Alton Natural History Society and the British Entomological and Natural History Society. Bring a torch.

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST BARTLEY HEATH HWT: Moth Evening
Meet: Please see HWT diary or website for details of this event.

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER MARTIN DOWN (SILLENS LANE)
Leader: John Ruppertsbery (02380 663492). **Meet:** 11.00am. From A354 Salisbury to Blandford Road turn south at the Coote Arms. In Martin village turn into Silless Lane at triangular green. Car park is at end of the road (SU 058 192). Bring lunch. Map Salisbury 184. **Target species:** Chalkhill Blue and other grassland species.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 18 & 19 SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL MOTH NIGHT

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER PAMBER FOREST: Moth Evening
Leader: Graham Dennis (01189 700155 or 07770 891126). Meet at Impstone Road, Pamber Heath at SU 621 617 at 7.00pm. Bring a torch.

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER KEYHAVEN: Moth Evening
Leader: Pete Durnell (01590 610021). **Meet:** 6.30pm along the Ancient Highway east of Keyhaven Harbour at SZ 310 919. Weather permitting, there is the chance of migrants along the coast. Bring a torch.

Membership Secretary: Janet Jones, Ferney Hoolet, Pale Lane, Winchfield RG27 8SW. Tel: (01252) 842174. email: janet@mauvedrop.com

Minutes Secretary: Thelma Smalley, 3 Carpenters, Alresford SO24 9HE.

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Reserves Warden: Patrick Fleet, 31 Vivaldi Close, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke, RG22 4YP

Tel: (01256) 465140.

Manager Yew Hill: Colin Matthews, The Risings, Old Palace Farm, Kings Somborne, Nr. Stockbridge SO20 6NJ. Tel: (01794) 388272.

Adviser Bentley Station Meadow: Ken Willmott, 3 Yarm Court Road, Leatherhead KT22 8NY. Tel: (01372) 375773.

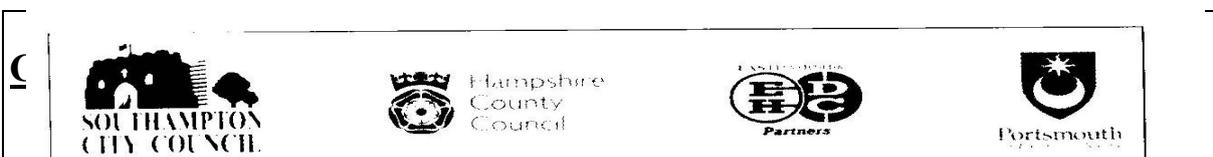
Field Meetings Organiser: Alison Harper, 6 North Drive, Littleton, Winchester SO22 6QA. Tel: (01962) 882261. email: alison.harper@hotmail.co.uk

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Many thanks to all contributors for their articles. The deadline for the September 2009 Newsletter is 25 August.

Juliet Bloss, Editor

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



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