

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch



Newsletter 91



Butterfly
Conservation

September 2011



Diary of Events

Wednesday 5 October **Work Party, Magdalen Hill Down**

Meet: at top of track by Magdalen Hill cemetery and Blackwell and Moody Stonemasons on Alresford Rd (B3404) Winchester (SU512 295).

Time: 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Friday 14 October **Work Party, Yew Hill**

Meet: at roadside in Old Kennels Lane near the junction of Port Lane and Millers Lane (SU451 269). **Time:** 10.00am to 4.00pm.

Saturday 22 October **AGM and Members' Day**

Time: 1.30pm at Littleton Millenium Memorial Hall, The Hall Way, Littleton, Winchester, SO22 6QL (SU455324). See pp. 8, 9 & 10.

Friday 21 October **Work Party, Magdalen Hill Down**

Details as for 5 October.

Friday 4 November **Work Party, Magdalen Hill Down**

Details as for 5 October.

Wednesday 23 November **Work Party, Bentley Station Meadow**

Find us in the meadow after using **very** limited spaces in Station Road (SU792 432). Or contact Jayne Chapman (01962 808400. Mob: 07909 968 657) re alternative parking. **Time:** 10.00am to 2.30pm.

Friday 2 December **Work Party, Yew Hill**

Details as for 14 October.

Wednesday 7 December **Main Committee meeting**

Friday 6 January **Work Party, Magdalen Hill Down**

Details as for 5 October.

Saturday 14 January **Hampshire Moth Conference**

The next annual Branch Moth Conference will be held at Littleton Memorial Hall on Saturday 14 January 2012. Doors will open at 12.30pm and the Conference will close at 5.30pm. Refreshments will be available on the day. There will be a wide range of speakers and more details will be available

nearer the time on the Hantsmoths and Branch websites. All are welcome, beginners and experts alike, and there will be plenty of opportunity to chat and meet others with similar interests.

Friday 20 January Work Party, Yew Hill

Details as for 14 October.

Monday 30 January “Midsummer amidst the Mountains” (Swiss Alps)

An illustrated talk by Brian Fletcher, featuring a mix of scenery, flowers and butterflies. **Time:** 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm) at St Barnabas Church Hall, Fromond Road, Weeke, Winchester. **Admission:** £2.50. Joint with HWT.

Friday 3 February Work Party, Magdalen Hill Down

Details as for 5 October.

Friday 17 February Work Party, Yew Hill

Details as for 14 October.

Saturday 25 February Spring Social

Time: 2.00pm at St. Barnabas Church Hall, Fromond Road, Weeke, Winchester. For further details please consult the website nearer the time of the event.

Saturday 24 March Transect Recorders Meeting

Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall, The Hall Way, Littleton, Winchester. SO22 6QL. **Time:** 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Teas, coffees and biscuits will be available, but please bring your own lunch. Open to all transect recorders and anyone who would like to get involved with this butterfly recording scheme. Further details will appear on the website, or call Linda Barker on 02380 270 042 nearer the event.

Work Parties

Wear suitable clothes and footwear. Bring gloves and food. Contact Jayne Chapman, the new Reserves Officer (01962 808400. Mobile: 07909 968 657), for additional information if it is your first time.

If the weather forecast is bad please check by phone to see if the work party has been cancelled.



Chairman's Report

The butterfly season is all but over: I hope you managed to enjoy the spectacular start to the season, with many species flying much earlier than normal. The subsequent deterioration in the weather with the advent of summer leads me to the conclusion that the only predictable thing about the British weather is its unpredictability. Anyway, it was a delight to meet several members on my visits to our reserves and other sites in the two counties, whatever the weather.

I'd like to start this brief report by mentioning some changes to the Branch organisation that have taken place over the last few months. As many of you will know, Lynn Fomison, our Reserves Officer, retired at the end of September. Lynn has given an incredible amount to the Branch over the years; a summary of her achievements can be found later in this Newsletter. I think the quality of our three reserves speaks for itself, and we wish Lynn well.

On a related note, I'm very pleased to welcome our new Reserves Officer, Jayne Chapman, to the Branch. Jayne joined us in August and has definitely "hit the ground running" by getting actively involved in all manner of Branch activities. Jayne will be attending our AGM and Members' Day on 22 October when you can meet her if you haven't already.

We also had several Committee members stand down at the end of September: Linda Barker as Butterfly Recorder, Tessa Newell as Treasurer and Cressida Wheelwright as Secretary. Again, I would like to thank Linda, Tessa and Cressida for all the support they've given to the Branch over the years.

Another change also took place earlier in the year as a result of a desire to rotate the chairmanship of the various subcommittees (as we do for the overall chair). Roger Buchanan took over from Brian Fletcher as Chairman of the Information Subcommittee; I'd like to thank Brian for his leadership of the Subcommittee, and also welcome Roger to his new role.

Reiterating a point I frequently make, the Branch is run by volunteers and we encourage participation by any members who are able to help out with Branch activities in some way.

At the time of writing we specifically need to fill three posts: Treasurer, Publicity Officer and Butterfly Recorder. Any member interested in taking on one of these posts should please contact me for more details.

A highlight of our programme took place again this year: the two-day event at the National Buddleja Collection near Longstock. Thanks to all who attended and especially to those members who helped make the event a success, despite the less-than-ideal weather and a flying gazebo.

An upcoming event not to be missed is our AGM and Members' Day on 22 October, details of which are provided later in this Newsletter. I'm delighted that Jeremy Thomas, world-renowned scientist and author of *Butterflies of Britain and Ireland*, will be this year's keynote speaker, giving a talk on "Butterflies, ants and parasitoids". Dan Hoare will also be reporting on the results of the South-East Woodlands Project. Of course, there will also be plenty of time to mingle and meet other members.

Unfortunately, I feel obliged to mention the severe cuts that Butterfly Conservation has suffered in its Species Recovery Grant from Natural England, which is targeted at work to save our most threatened butterflies and moths. The cuts were much deeper than anticipated and their effects are still being determined. I simply want to thank you all for your ongoing support for the Society during this difficult period. In fact, I'm pleased to say that our membership continues to grow.

Finally, the Society has happily succeeded in obtaining funding for the "Dukes on the Edge" project mentioned in the last Newsletter, which is focused on the conservation of one of our most-threatened species, the Duke of Burgundy. This is an extensive landscape-scale project covering the downs of both Hampshire and Sussex. More information will be disseminated on the Branch website and in the Newsletter as the project unfolds.

Peter Eeles, Chairman

Opt out

We would like to remind members that a colour version of this Newsletter can be accessed on the members' section of the Branch Website. If you would prefer not to receive a paper copy please let our Membership Secretary, Pat Turner, know.



Reserves News

This time last year I wrote in Reserves News that I would be leaving my post as Reserves Officer for the Branch in September 2011. That year has flown by.

So what to say now? A VERY big cheerio and an even bigger many thanks to all who have supported the reserves by regularly giving time to work parties and walking transects as well as surveying, recording plants and other wildlife, and making photographic records of the many important happenings: really helping in all kinds of ways too numerous to mention. Those giving advice on habitat management and serving on the Reserves Subcommittee deserve a special mention. As so do a vast number of members who, though not directly involved, have generally taken a great interest in the reserves and shown their support in various ways.

People's comments or questions have often prompted me to write about particular topics in the Newsletter. That inspiration was welcome, for much of the news from the reserves could have come across as pretty boring. The habitat management follows a regular pattern of grazing, work parties and work by contractors (Pat Fleet in the main) and regular volunteers. It is thanks to Patrick's hard work and detailed knowledge that our reserves are so well cared for.

Over the years the topics covered in Reserves News have included the health benefits of working with plants (April 2005), the importance of group visits (April 2007), how butterflies overwinter and how we cater for that with conservation work (January 2008), and caterpillars (April 2009). I do hope you enjoyed reading these accounts as much as I did writing them.

Up-to-date news of the reserves is provided along with photographs on the Branch website. The August update included a photograph of one of the new reserve signs. There is one at each main entrance to MHD and one at Yew Hill. They were funded by a 70% grant from Natural England under our Higher Level Stewardship agreement. These updates help members to keep in touch with what's happening at the reserves; it is thanks to the support of members, financial and otherwise, that we have reserves. They are there to be explored and enjoyed.

My final words are to welcome my successor, Jayne Chapman. I hope that you will all offer her as much friendship and support as you have given me.

Adios.

Lynn Fomison

And it's hello from Jayne

I am very pleased to have already had a number of opportunities at events such as the special get-together at the Holt, walks and work parties to meet many of the members and volunteers who are active in the Branch. Oh yes, I was at Buddlejias, Butterflies and Moths at Longstock and was impressed at the superb event the Branch organised. I feel so thrilled to have the chance to work with the Branch and to help to carry on with the good work at our reserves. I just hope I can do as good a job as Lynn has done, and I look forward to the future with Butterfly Conservation.

Good luck Lynn; have fun in your retirement!

Jayne Chapman, Reserves Officer

What are you going to do when you retire?

Is a question I have been asked many times.

I am in the process of fixing up a month's placement in the new year as a volunteer English teacher in the Galapagos: hence the "adios" at the end of my piece on reserves news. In the next few months I have got to work hard on improving my Spanish. So if there is a good Spanish speaker out there I would welcome some help.

Something else you may be able to help with: I would like to take some things to give away at the school, such as unwanted binoculars and books about wildlife in the Galapagos. If you have any such items lingering in your cupboard, please let me know and maybe bring them to Members' Day in October.

I took some old binoculars to Ethiopia last November and gave them to a security guard at the airport who was a keen bird watcher but who just could not afford to buy any. It was great to help him to enjoy the rich wildlife of the area better. He was exceedingly interested in Tim's bird book too, but it was the start of the holiday so we could not hand it over! But this made me think that on future visits abroad I must try and take along wildlife books in English to help local people.

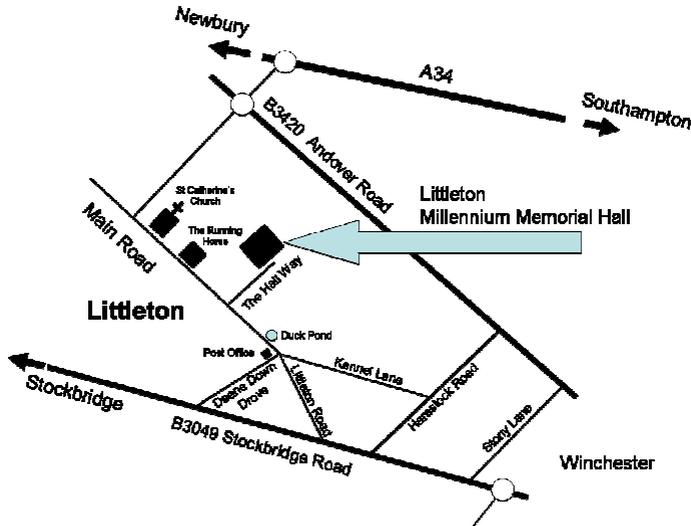
Lynn Fomison



Members' Day

**Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch
Saturday 22 October 2011**

Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall, The Hall Way,
Littleton, Winchester, SO22 6QL (SU455324)



Programme

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1:00 | Doors open |
| 1:30 - 2:30 | Annual General Meeting |
| 2:30 - 2:50 | Dan Hoare: Report from the South-East Woodlands Project |
| 2:50 - 3:15 | A Roundup of the Butterfly and Moth year |
| 3:15 - 4:15 | Refreshments, "mingling" and photographic competition |
| 4:15 - 5:00 | Professor Jeremy Thomas: "Butterflies, ants and parasitoids" |
| 5:00 - 5:45 | Results of photographic competition |
| 5:45 - 6:00 | Peter Eeles: Final comments and close of meeting. |

Members' Day

Annual General Meeting 2011

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Presentation of accounts.
5. Reports of Conservation, Information, Records and Reserves Subcommittees.
6. Chairman's report.
7. Election of Committee members.

The following members are standing down from the Committee:

Tessa Newell
Cressida Wheelwright

In keeping with the requirements that a third of Branch Committee members should stand down at each AGM the following members (based on seniority rotation) are standing down but seeking re-election:

Arthur Greenwood
Jenny Mallett
Mike Wall
Peter Eeles
Roger Buchanan

Branch Rules allow a maximum of 15 Main Committee members. This means that, subject to the above members being re-elected, there will be 2 vacancies.

Additional nominations of members willing to serve on the Main Committee are invited. Names of those wishing to stand for election should be sent to Pete Eeles, Chairman, to arrive no later than 19th October.

8. Health and safety matters.

Any other business.
Items should be notified to the Chairman by 19th October.

Members' Day Photographic Competition 2011

All images must be prints not exceeding an image size equivalent to A4 (210x297mm) in landscape or portrait format. Prints may be mounted.

MEMBERS ARE LIMITED TO A TOTAL OF THREE PRINTS OVERALL

Prints will be displayed and judged in the following categories:

- UK Butterflies
- UK Moths
- Behaviour
- Immature Stages
- Overseas Butterflies and Moths

All members attending the meeting will be invited to complete a voting slip identifying their favourite image in each category and to choose their overall winning entry.

The results will be collated, and the winners announced at the end of the meeting.

As last year there will be no opportunity to show slides or digital images at this meeting.

Members unable to attend but who wish to submit prints may do so by post to: Roger Buchanan, 23 Grosvenor Road, Chandlers Ford, Hants SO53 5BU. Those attending should bring their prints with them.

Please ensure that you enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you wish your prints to be returned.

Thank you

Lynn Fomison

Lynn was the Branch's first Reserves Officer and has held the post for 14 years. During this time she has done a magnificent job: the present state of our reserves is a testament to her stewardship. Perhaps her greatest achievement was in overseeing the conversion of the arable field now known as North Down at MHD to a species-rich sward. It is thanks to her negotiating skills that it is now possible for us to manage the area for cattle and sheep as well as people. The fences, gates and water troughs are in the right places and the disabled access gates are sheep-proof. Her other skills have included her ability to identify and secure the grants and other funds so essential to the management of the reserves. She has motivated volunteers to do essential work on all the reserves and has kept them informed by means of regular newsletters. She has been active in publicising the Branch, in particular the reserves, through local media outlets. As her tenure comes to an end it is perhaps enough to note that thanks to her talents and dedication the butterflies are thriving, and large numbers of people are able to enjoy visiting the reserves.

Linda Barker

Some people do more than the minimum and this is as true of Linda Barker as it is of Lynn Fomison. Over the years Linda has been Newsletter Editor, Butterfly Recorder and Editor of the Report, all heavy, time-consuming jobs. Initially she was sole editor of the report until Tim Norriss took over the section on moths. As well as serving on the Records Subcommittee she has also been a member of the Information Subcommittee, organising the Branch's attendance at shows and working on Branch leaflets and displays. She brings a meticulous care to everything she does from checking the data for the report to organising transect recorders, preparing displays for shows, or devising activities for children. In short, she is a tower of strength and the Branch owes a lot of its success to her and people like her who devote so much time and energy to promoting the cause of butterfly and moth conservation. Linda is standing down as Butterfly Recorder but we are glad to say she is remaining on the Information Subcommittee.

Brian Fletcher

Brian Fletcher was Chairman of the Information Subcommittee for many years, hosting meetings in his own house. He undertook the design and production of the Newsletter cover with unflinching efficiency up until this year when the design changed. As well as giving many talks (which he continues to do) he also designed and produced many of the early Branch leaflets, his exquisite script being the envy of us all. We thank him for all his efforts.

Tessa Newell

Tessa Newell took on the job of Treasurer in 2006. For the past six years she has been quietly efficient in this essential but not universally popular position. It is never easy to find people willing to act as Treasurer and we thank her for her long service and commitment to the job.



Records

Butterfly Records 2011

The deadline for sending in records this year is Friday 4 November

We are very pleased to be receiving an increasing amount of electronic data and we would be grateful if anyone who currently sends in handwritten data and has the use of a computer would think seriously about entering their data on a spreadsheet. If you would like to send your records on a spreadsheet, please email me (lindabarker4@btinternet.com), and I will send you the Butterfly Conservation Hampshire and Isle of Wight 2011 spreadsheet, with instructions. If opting for a spreadsheet please use the Butterfly Conservation one, which integrates easily into our database. Data can also be sent electronically using MapMate. Recorders who are familiar with this programme and would like to use it should contact Tim Norriss.

Although we are encouraging recorders to send in their data electronically, we do not wish to discourage those who prefer to use the paper recording forms, for we do want all your records. Data entry is time-consuming. It is even more time-consuming if the handwritten data is sent in any format other than on the two recording forms. Please use either the site or casual form for all handwritten records.

Please continue to send your anecdotal comments, which can be used in the *Butterfly and Moth Report*. If anecdotal comments contain data (numbers seen, dates, etc.) all of this data must also be recorded electronically or on paper forms, as it is much easier for data entry if all the data is together. It is very time-consuming to search for data within the anecdotal comments.

Recorders who have filled in our on-line recording form do not need to send that data again, as it has already gone onto our database.

Records sent after the deadline may not be used in the *Butterfly and Moth Report*, but all data will be incorporated into our database however late it arrives.

Your data is a valuable contribution: it is used in the *Butterfly and Moth Report* and, as part of our database, it increases our understanding of the numbers

and distribution of butterflies in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and consequently helps their conservation.

Thank you; we look forward to receiving your data.

*Linda Barker
Branch Butterfly Recorder*

Moth Records 2011

The deadline for sending in records this year is Saturday 31 December

With over 126,000 moth records received for 2010 the task of analysing and checking your submitted data is immense. We are very grateful to all those who send in their records using MapMate, as this greatly reduces the time it takes us to enter your records.

Most of the above comments relating to butterfly records are applicable to your moth records as well but remember that owing to the greater volume of records submitted the need for having the data in electronic form is that much greater.

If you would like to know more about records **submission, please go to the <http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk/mothrecording.php>** website or contact us by email. Remember that you can always copy and paste records, entered on Mapmate, into an excel spreadsheet and submit them that way rather than using the automated Mapmate sync method.

Don't forget to make use of the Flying Tonight feature at http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk/flying_tonight.php to assist you in your identifications, but always be aware that some species cannot be identified to species level using only external characters. Only submit records for which you are 100% certain of the identification.

Thank you, we look forward to receiving your data.

Hantsmoths Newsletter

The latest Hantsmoths newsletter covering the period July-August can be found by following the link from the homepage at <http://www.hantsmoths.org.uk/>

*Tim Norriss and Mike Wall
Branch Moth Recorders*



News, Events, Comment & Reviews

Events

The main event of the summer was, of course, Butterflies and Buddlejas at Longstock Nursery. This was held on 6 and 7 August and neither the weather nor the butterflies performed as well as last year. Nevertheless, a good time was had on the Saturday with plenty of families enjoying butterflies and live moths, and the children's activities organised by Jayne Chapman. The buddlejas were looking good thanks to the efforts of Peter Moore, their Longstock custodian, and the meadow further down the hill was spectacular. On the Sunday gale force winds discouraged both people and butterflies and even produced a flying gazebo. This event requires a lot of manpower: if it is to be repeated in future years we will need more help from members.

On 3 September a few of us attended the Test Valley Community Wood Fair at Valley Park, Eastleigh. This is very much a family day and large numbers of children enjoyed colouring butterflies and learning a bit about them at the same time.

On 10 September we had a stand at Romsey Show. There were six Branch Members helping and this meant we all had time to look around the rest of the show as well as talking to a lot of interested people and, incidentally, selling 25 of the FSC Identification Charts. This one-day show, we feel, is well worth attending in the future.

Jenny Mallett, Branch Organiser

Buddlejas, Butterflies and Moths

Special AA road signs were provided by The John Lewis Partnership to advertise the event run by the Branch and Longstock Park Nursery on 6 and 7 August this year.

The weather could have been kinder! But thankfully lots of visitors came along and were able to enjoy walks to see butterflies, get guidance on growing buddlejas from the nursery holding the national collection of these wonderful "butterfly bushes", and buy items such as calendars, paintings, photographs

and greetings cards. There were also displays featuring the reserves and other Branch activities, as well as amusements for children, including, on the Saturday, face-painting and ceramic butterflies.

What I really want to mention is the moths. As in 2010 they proved to be of great interest. Tim Norriss and Dave Green had a fine variety available from traps run the night before at Longstock and in Dave's garden, and other people brought moths along too. Most were in boxes on the table, but it was the moths "hidden" on adjacent trees that caused the most comment and fun for visitors. From time to time the "exhibits" did attempt to escape and some very skilled "moth whispering" was needed to maintain the display for a whole day.

The Branch Members manning the event were thrilled that lots of other members came along: it was great to have the opportunity to chat to people in the delightful surroundings of Longstock Park.

Lynn Fomison



Face painting at Longstock

More Wildflowers for the Garden.

The wildflowers featured in this article have been chosen for their ability to flower over a long period without setting so much seed that they become a nuisance. Many wildflowers are good sources of nectar for bees, butterflies, hoverflies and moths, and this is true of most of those described here.

Flowers that grow in light shade are particularly useful, as most gardens have their shady corners. Primroses combine the virtues of flourishing under such conditions, flowering early in the spring and continuing in flower for several months, often starting to bloom in January and finishing in late May. They are very popular with Brimstones, which in return for the nectar pollinate more primroses than any other insect. An added bonus for these pale yellow butterflies is that they are almost perfectly camouflaged amongst the flowers and are safely hidden from most predators (and photographers!).

Growing more vigorously than the primrose is the pink-flowered Hidcote comfrey, which has leaves that form a six-inch-deep mat and flowers on 12–15 inch stems quite a lot earlier in the year than the comfrey of the river bank and other damp places. In late spring black, white and yellow caterpillars may be seen nibbling the leaves, though by no means causing unsightly damage to the plant. In June and July these caterpillars change into one of our more spectacular day-flying moths, the Scarlet Tiger, which is slightly smaller but more brightly coloured than the familiar Red Admiral. After flowering, the comfrey looks a little bedraggled but soon produces another crop of fresh green leaves which last through the summer and autumn. In my garden it thrives in a west-facing shrub border.

A suitable companion to both Hidcote comfrey and primroses would be our native English bluebell, not to be confused with the bigger, more upright and invasive Spanish bluebell.

Cowslips grow well in sunnier and more open conditions, though they seem to prefer to grow amongst other plants of similar size or in a meadow. From time to time they hybridise to produce flowers that resemble polyanthus, normally in pale or golden yellow. Occasionally an orange or red cowslip will appear. Cowslip seeds are slow to germinate and are best sown as soon after harvesting as possible; if sown in summer some will come up quickly and if over-wintered in an unheated greenhouse some may reach flowering size the next spring.

Ladies smock and purple loosestrife are reliable plants for damper areas of the garden or round the margins of a pond. Ladies smock, also called cuckoo flower, has pale pink flowers and comes in both single and double forms. The

latter does not set seed and thus is of little use to Orange Tips, the caterpillars of which feed on the seed pods produced by the single form. Purple loosestrife can be grown in a container in shallow water, and here its red-purple flower spikes will reach four feet in height, though only half that height in drier conditions.

Two other red-flowered plants of similar stature are red campion, which flowers in early summer, and red valerian, which flowers a little later and prefers a poor dry soil, often being seen at its best amongst broken chalk or limestone in old quarries. In the wild it is an excellent source of nectar for many insects.

Whist all the plants mentioned so far are perennials, two summer-flowering annuals are well worth the effort of growing: the bright-blue flowered cornflower and the corn marigold, which has golden-yellow daisy-like flowers. Both grow to about two feet in height, have a branching habit and a very long flowering season; they are extremely popular with bees and hoverflies.

My last plant, hemp agrimony, is a back-of-the-border perennial that reaches four feet in height. The native plant has pale pink flowers in flattish heads, but more brightly coloured cultivars are available. This plant is a very good source of nectar in late summer, attracting butterflies and other beneficial insects, but must be deadheaded after the flowers have faded, otherwise the feathery seed will be dispersed far and wide and may become a nuisance.

Brian Fletcher

1911 and all that

I am indebted to Mr John Towse of Portchester for the loan of the *Portsmouth Handbook 1911*, published by the British Association (for the Advancement of Science). A compact little digest of 250 pages, it covers everything, including health and education, battleship production, and finally, in true alphabetical order, local zoology. This last chapter makes surprising reading. Evidently the 'Belle Epoque' was anything but that for our mammals and birds. Bere Forest for instance, was bereft of deer, the remnants of the Red Deer (yes, *Red*) herds having been captured and donated to Windsor Great Park before they could be annihilated by poachers. The badger fared little better, described as being 'on the brink of extinction', and the Grey Seal which unwisely surfaced off Hill Head was of course duly shot, as were feathered exotica like the Hoopoe and Honey Buzzard.

Fewer than 400 words are devoted to Lepidoptera. Mr E.W. Peard of the local natural science society notes the rapid decline of the Large White and the rise

in fortunes of its two smaller cousins. The Small Blue had recently disappeared from Portsea Island as the town of Portsmouth expanded, its population having increased by 40,000 in the previous decade alone, to the advantage of the Holly Blue. The occurrence of the Purple Emperor at Southwick is recorded by Moncreaff; meanwhile the Speckled Footman moth captured on Southsea Common, then still a wilderness, is hailed as one of the area's greatest rarities.

Andrew Brookes

Book Review

In 2011 the National Trust sneakily produced a new book entitled: *Butterflies - spotting and identifying butterflies*. No mention on the front cover that the author was Matthew Oates. If this had been just a book on butterfly identification it would have been like having John Constable paint the back bedroom ceiling. Indeed, as far as butterfly guides go there are far better ones around. But it is worth finding room on your bookshelf for this delightful read.

If you think you've been to a lot of trouble to see a special butterfly, read the account of I.R.P. Heslop's search for Large Copper and think again. The book has much to entertain and amuse. And there is good advice too: tips for beginners, sections on butterfly photography and gardening for butterflies and, of course, the section on identification, which includes behavioural information to help spot species. Mind you, the book is not entirely good reading. Matthew points out that most people's eyesight deteriorates with age so that anyone taking up butterflying after the age of about 50 may have missed their best window of opportunity. He concludes: "Sadly, butterflies seem to become smaller as one ages". That aside, this book will give endless pleasure to readers.

Price:£7.99. ISBN No. 978-1-907892-05-9.

Lynn Fomison

Lepidopterous Presents

Do you, like me, receive lots of butterfly and moth birthday and Christmas presents from friends and relations who know about your lepidopterist interests? The gift from a neighbour of a tea towel (you can guess who dries the dishes) covered in pictures of moths got me thinking about some of the other gifts that I and my wife Barbara have received over the years.

When I first knew Barbara, she arranged for me to receive one porcelain butterfly a month for a whole year. There was even a special glass case provided to house these beautiful replicas of foreign butterflies.

Barbara is often lucky in winning raffles: on one occasion the prize was a painting of her choice by a well-known artist; she decided to have a butterfly picture. After I had supplied the artist with some of my butterfly photos, she duly delivered a lovely piece of artwork.

Pride of place in our lounge is a stunning modern picture of butterflies superimposed on other butterflies produced by a friend in Florida. Another piece of artwork consists of various butterflies in cross-stitch embroidery done by my daughter Lorna and framed by Barbara to hang in my study.

My most intriguing present was a book called *Love among the Butterflies*. This tells the story of how, in November 1940, ten large mahogany cabinets containing 22,000 butterflies were delivered to the Castle Museum in Norwich with one condition of acceptance: that a japanned metal box accompanying them, which was locked and sealed, would not be opened until 15 April 1978. When the box was opened 12 ledger-like diaries of a Victorian lady, Margaret Fountaine, were discovered. They dated back to 15 April 1878, when she was not yet 16. Margaret was the daughter of a country clergyman and travelled the world searching for butterflies (and the love of a number of men in the process). *Love among the Butterflies* is a fascinating account of her adventures.

Peter Martin



New look Newsletter

We hope you enjoy the new look to the Newsletter. The design has been done by Dan Powell and the illustrations are by Rosie Powell. We would like to thank them both very much for their help, which has resulted in a great improvement. If you would like to see more of their work, including paintings and gift ideas, please visit their website: <http://www.powellwildlifeart.com>. If you chose to make a purchase, let them know on the contact form and they will make a donation to Butterfly Conservation. Dan and Rosie will also be at Members' Day, when you can visit their stand.

South-East Area Group News

Defence Munitions Gosport

On 20 May, Andrew Brookes and Michael Gwilliam met Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage and Natural England officer Hilary Crane at Defence Munitions to discuss the conservation of the Bedenham Grasslands, home to three Priority species of butterfly.

The meeting went well, and Hilary requested lists of the site's varied flora and fauna with a view to including the site in the Portsmouth Harbour SSSI. However, several members of the site's management were not in favour of the notion, and it seems unlikely such a move would be made unless the depot was threatened with closure.

Elm Trial News

Isle of Wight planting

The *Island2000* Trust has planted 70 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' cultivars at the Pan Country Park, and a further 20 at Cridmore Farm. SEAG has been consulted by the Southern Water Authority with a view to planting other elm cultivars to aid the reclamation of its redundant three-hectare Fairlee sewage-sludge site near Newport.

Forestry Commission planting

The FC is to plant 100 'Morfeo' elm cultivars at various plantations around Hampshire this winter.

Gift from Hilliers' Nurseries

Hossein Arshadi, Manager of Hillier Nurseries, kindly donated 3 'New Horizon' cultivars to the cause in April. The trees have been planted on dry chalk sites to assess their drought resistance.

***Ulmus* 'Morfeo'**

The wholesale nursery of F. P Matthews '*Trees for Life*', at Tenbury Wells, is seeking to purchase a propagation licence for 'Morfeo', the elm cultivar raised in Italy, which has excelled in the Branch's elm trials.



New Members

74 members joined between March and August this year

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members and hope they will enjoy their membership and participate in some of our events.

Mrs RAZ Andrews, Jersey, Channel Islands; Mr G & Mrs S Baker, Basingstoke; Mr D Barton, Christchurch, Dorset; Mr NA & Mrs E Beer, Salisbury, Wiltshire; Mr BA Bloomfield, Fleet; Ms H Boyce, Alton; Ms L Braidford, Basingstoke; Mr G Bryant, Fleet; Mr R Burgess, Farnham, Surrey; Mr O Cummins, Winchester; Mr K Cummins & Mr J Bryant, Petersfield; Mr K & Mrs SL Cutler & Family, Salisbury, Wiltshire; Mr M & Mrs L Dobner, Alresford; Mrs J Dove, Tadley; Ms AA Dunnachie, Southampton; Mr M & Mrs P Edwards, Southampton; Mr JP Evans, Ventnor, IOW; Rev RA Ewbank, Hook; Dr J Field, Romsey; Miss ME Flaye, Waterlooville; Mr R & Mrs G Fletcher, Barnsley, South Yorkshire; Ms N Fogarty, Liss; Miss SM Frampton, Whitehill; Ms N Graham & Mr C Coldwell & Family, Fareham; Mr R & Mrs B Grande, Alresford; Miss AM Gribble, Southampton; Ms J Hall, Basingstoke; Ms H Hardman, Portsmouth; Mr CH Hind, Liphook; Miss TA Howard & Mr P Noble, Southampton; Mr & Mrs B E Jones, Eastleigh; Ms P L Jones, Rowlands Castle; Miss FM Jordan, Sandown, IOW; Miss TF Kelly, Aldershot; Ms VJ Lander, Southampton; Mr AR Lawson, Jersey, Channel Islands; Dr RD Lee, Southampton; Ms S MacDougall, Guernsey, Channel Islands; Mr R MacInnes & Family, Alton; Mr MD & Mrs L Mackrill, Cowes, IOW; Mr IJ & Mrs P Merrifield, Newport, IOW; Prof J Micklewright, Winchester; Mr R L Mills, Jersey, Channel Islands; Mrs SJ Mitchell, Brockenhurst; Mr D & Mrs J Newnham, Southampton; Miss KL Parker, Southampton; Mr M & Mrs J Pearson, Southampton; Ms I Phillips, Southampton; Mrs AM Phillips, Winchester; Mr G Pictor, Southampton; Mr CJ & Mrs EA Piper, Alton; Mr M Read, Alresford; Mr & Mrs P Ready, Newport, IOW; Mrs B Reynolds, Havant; Mrs MJ Richards, Southampton; Mr J Roberts, Southampton; Mr C & Mrs H Rose, Alton; Mr T Smith, Andover; Ms E Sommerville, Winchester; Miss ME Tillman, Gosport; Mr S & Mrs J Walker, Stockbridge; Mr RD & Mrs J Vincent, Petersfield; Mr A & Mrs A Ward, Winchester; Mr JP & Mrs RL Westmacott, Wokingham, Berkshire; Mrs M Wilson, Winchester; Mr RP Windsor, Putney, London; Mr S Withers, Southsea; Mr C Worgan, Farnborough.

New Members' Day 2011

Thirty-four new members plus several Committee members attended BC New Members' Day at Easton Village Hall on 21 May for a variety of talks in the morning followed by a picnic and walk on Magdalen Hill Down afterwards. The walk produced 14 species of butterfly, including lots of Green Hairstreak, and at least two Painted Ladies.

A Small Elephant Hawkmoth found by Lynn Fomison on the path and *Adela croesella* were the moth highlights and a Drinker moth larva was also seen.

The following is a list of all species seen on the afternoon walks on MHD:

Butterflies

Brimstone
Orange-tip larva
Green Hairstreak
Brown Argus
Small Blue & egg
Common Blue
Speckled Wood
Red Admiral
Peacock
Painted Lady
Small Heath
Large Skipper
Large White
Grizzled Skipper

Moths: Six-spot Burnet – 1000s!

Psyche casta – case x 2

Adela croesella – 2 (male and female)

Yponomeuta cagnagella – larval webs

Yponomeuta padella – larval webs

Coleophora hemerobiella – one case but plentiful

signs of feeding damage on hawthorn

Coleophora serratella – one case

Cnephasia (prob. *asseclana*) – larva on mullein

Pseudargyrotoza conwagana – 1

Celypha lacunana – present

Crambus lathoniellus – one

Pyrausta aurata – a few

Homeosoma sinuella – many

Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla – a few

Yellow Shell – 3

Green Carpet - 1

Drinker – larva

Burnet Companion - a few

Drinker moth larva

Small Elephant Hawkmoth

Six-spot Burnet & larvae & pupae

Cinnabar

Birds

Whitethroat, Skylark, Goldfinch, Kestrel, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Yellowhammer, Common Swift, Swallow, Wood Pigeon, Stock Dove, Starling and no doubt other feathered fiends

Others

Longhorn beetle - *Agapanthia villosiviridescens*

Seven-spot ladybird

Chorthippus parallelus

Dark Bush-cricket

Common lizard

Tim Norriss

Membership Secretary: Pat Turner, Bridles, Waggoners Way, Grayshott, Surrey GU26 6DX. Tel: (01428) 605831. email: pat@turner.me.uk

Librarian: Brian Fletcher, 1 Abbots Ann Road, Harestock, Winchester SO22 6ND. Tel: (01962) 882746. email: brandm@talktalk.net

Leader SE Area Group: Andrew Brookes, 126 Castle Street, Fareham PO16 9QH Tel: (07780) 606556. email: andrew.brookes@port.ac.uk

Reserves Officer and Health & Safety: Jayne Chapman, Lilac Cottage, Kiln Lane, Old Alresford, SO24 9DU. Tel: 01962 808400. Mobile: 07909 968 657. email: jayne.t.chapman@hotmail.com

Reserves Warden: Patrick Fleet, 31 Vivaldi Close, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke, RG22 4YP. Tel: (01256) 465140.

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

Isle of Wight Group:

Contact: Caroline Dudley, Tel: 01983 754 935. email: caroline_dudley@btopenworld.com

Newsletter Deadline

Many thanks to all contributors. The deadline for the spring Newsletter is 14 March 2011.

We now use Arial 10pt for text, 12pt for headings; paper size A5; bold for emphasis (not underlining). It is helpful (but not essential) for contributors to format their offerings in this way.

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



Chairman: Peter Eeles, 6 Cholsey Road, Thatcham, Berks RG19 4GH. Tel: 07796 331061. email: pete@ukbutterflies.co.uk

Vice-Chairman (joint): Tim Norriss, 40 Taskers Drive, Anna Valley, Andover, Hants SP11 7SA. Tel: (01264) 354944. mob: 0771 325 4901. email: tim@kitsmail.com

Vice-Chairman (joint): Dave Green, Old Mill Cottage, Weston Down Lane, Weston Colley, SO21 3AG. email: alpium@clara.co.uk

Branch Organiser: Jenny Mallett, Great Fontley Farm, Fareham, PO15 6EA. Tel:(01329) 832177. email: jennifer@mallett2.orangehome.co.uk

Treasurer: Arthur Greenwood, 23 Kingswood Firs, Grayshott, GU26 6ET. Tel: 01428 604730. email: greenwoodarthur@hotmail.com

Butterfly Recorder: Linda Barker, 13 Ashdown Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 5QF. Tel: (023) 8027 0042. email: lindabarker4@btinternet.com

Moth Officer & Report Editor (moths): Tim Norriss, 40 Taskers Drive, Anna Valley, Andover, Hants SP11 7SA. Tel: (01264) 354944. mob: 0771 325 4901. email: tim@kitsmail.com

Chairman Conservation Subcommittee: Andy Barker, 13 Ashdown Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 5QF. Tel: (023) 8027 0042. email: aj3barker@btinternet.com

Chairman Records Subcommittee: Tim Norriss, 40 Taskers Drive, Anna Valley, Andover, Hants SP11 7SA. Tel: (01264) 354944. mob: 0771 325 4901. email: tim@kitsmail.com

Chairman Information Subcommittee: Roger Buchanan, 23 Grosvenor Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 5BU. Tel: (023) 8025 2963. email: roger@roger-jane.co.uk.

Chairman Reserves Subcommittee: Jenny Mallett, Great Fontley Farm, Fareham, PO15 6EA. Tel: (01329) 832177. email: jennifer@mallett2.orangehome.co.uk

Website: www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Webmaster: Robin Turner, Bridles, Waggoners Way, Grayshott, Surrey GU26 6DX. Tel: (01428) 605831. email: webmaster@hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Juliet Bloss, 7 Forest Meadow, Hythe, Southampton SO45 3RH. Tel: (023) 8084 8085. email: sevenmeads@aol.com

Butterfly Conservation is a charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268).
Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP. Vat. No. 565 9070 16.