

# Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch

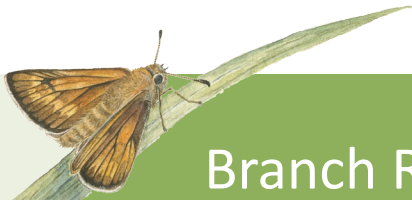


Newsletter 114



Butterfly  
Conservation

April 2023



# Branch Reserves Walks 2023

These are great walks for learning and sharing butterfly and day-flying moth identification and celebrating our magnificent wildflower meadows, a haven for wildlife.

**Directions for Magdalen Hill Down:** meet in the gravel car park opposite the cemetery on Alresford Road, B3404 (SU512295; satnav. SO21 1HE).

**Directions for Yew Hill:** meet at the end of Old Kennels Lane at junction with Port Lane and Millers Lane, Oliver's Battery (SU451269; satnav. SO22 4JT).

**Monday 5 June, from 2.00 to 3.30pm**

## **Magdalen Hill Down**

Joined by: birder and botanist David and Anna Stewart.

Looking out for that dancing jewel the Green Hairstreak, Small Blue and the iconic Adonis Blue.

**Friday 16 June, from 11.00am to 1.00pm**

## **Yew Hill**

Led by: naturalist Rupert Broadway.

A walk looking at chalk grassland butterflies, orchids and other wildflowers.

**Wednesday 19 July, from 11.00am to 1.00pm**

## **Magdalen Hill Down**

Joined by: birder and botanist David and Anna Stewart.

Enjoy a walk through glorious wildflower meadows in search of Marbled White, Small Tortoiseshell and chalk grassland butterfly specialists.

**Friday 4 August, from 11.00am to 1.00pm**

## **Yew Hill**

Led by: naturalist Rupert Broadway.

In search of the Chalk Hill Blue and other butterflies amid the high-summer wildflowers.

**Friday 18 August, from 11.00am to 1.00pm**

## **Magdalen Hill Down**

Joined by: birder and botanist David and Anna Stewart.

Hoping for sunshine, Chalk Hill Blue and the stunning Adonis Blue.

Please do email to book a place, and for queries or further information about the walks contact Fiona Scully: email [fscully@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:fscully@butterfly-conservation.org)



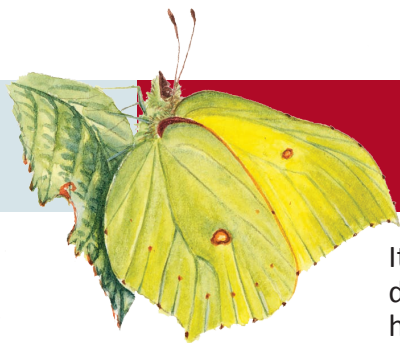


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*Overall winner of the Branch Photographic Competition 2022: Brimstones. Helen Pinchin*





## Chair's Message

It's so nice to be writing this as the days are drawing out, with the promise of spring on the horizon. Despite the occasional chill, it's been nice to see the sun again and I know that some

members have already seen their first butterflies of the year which are always those that overwinter as adults – namely Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma and, these days, Red Admiral that now must surely be considered a permanent resident. Those species that overwinter as a chrysalis will come next, such as Green Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper and everyone's favourite, the Orange-tip. Then come those that overwinter as caterpillars and, finally, those that overwinter as eggs such as the Brown Hairstreak and Silver-spotted Skipper.

Thanks to all the members that attended our 2022 AGM and Members' Day, and especially the organisers and speakers, and thank you for having me back as Branch Chair! One of the first items I focused on was the branch's alignment with Butterfly Conservation's overall strategy and its three goals. The strategy can be found on the main Butterfly Conservation website.

The first goal is **'To halve the number of the UK's threatened species of butterflies and moths'**. You may be aware of the recently published 'The State of the UK's Butterflies 2022 Report', also available on the main Butterfly Conservation website. The report shows that 80% of butterflies in the UK have declined since the 1970s but that targeted conservation work is very effective at halting declines. The decline in moths is just as shocking. From a branch perspective, the significant recording effort undertaken by many of you provides a solid foundation for both understanding the changes in abundance and distribution of our butterfly and moth fauna, but also allows us to act when needed. In addition to our magnificent reserves, we have other initiatives planned that will make a real difference.

This leads nicely onto the second goal to **'Improve the condition of 100 of the most important landscapes for butterflies and moths'**. Behind the scenes, the branch has been liaising with staff from Butterfly Conservation's Head Office and colleagues in other branches to help



identify significant landscapes that warrant our attention. I'm very pleased to say that we have four priority landscapes in the branch area that will receive a focus. Three of these will be familiar – the New Forest, the South Downs (with the Sussex branch) and the Isle of Wight. In addition, we made a strong case for a 'South East Wiltshire and West Hampshire Woods and Downs' landscape, which also made the list. An important aspect of this will be a 'Heart of Hampshire Fritillaries' project, conceived by Andy Barker, which will focus on the Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Duke of Burgundy. More details will be forthcoming, and we anticipate other landscape-scale projects further down the line.

The last goal is to '**Transform 100,000 wild spaces in the UK for people, butterflies and moths**'. This is a goal that we can all contribute to directly, whether this is planting a pot with suitable nectar sources and foodplants, or sympathetically managing a strip of land for the benefit of our butterflies and moths. There is more information on the Butterfly Conservation main website, especially guidance on what makes a wild space, as well as a mechanism to both register and pledge a wild space, with a more comprehensive portal being developed.

### 2023 AGM and Members' Day

I'm pleased to confirm that this year's AGM and Members' Day will be held at Littleton Village Hall on Sunday 5th November. While the full agenda will be made available in due course, I'm very pleased to say that Mike Slater, Chair of the Warwickshire branch of Butterfly Conservation will be speaking. Mike's book on 'Butterfly Conservation – the Warwickshire Approach' has just been published.

### Some Thanks!

First off, I must thank **Andy Barker** for his stint as Chair, and for steering the branch through a difficult period. The fact that the branch is stronger than ever is testament to Andy's leadership and I was delighted to present Andy with a gift on behalf of the branch. I'm pleased to say that Andy remains Chair of our Conservation and Records Sub-committee and continues to sit on the Main Committee.

Members may also be aware that **Linda Barker** has now stood down as Joint Transect Co-ordinator for the branch, taking on the role of Local Authority Transect Co-ordinator for Test Valley. Again, my thanks to Linda for going 'above and beyond' to support the branch over the years.

We are also saying goodbye to **Steve Lockett**, our Volunteer Warden at Bentley Station Meadow. On behalf of the branch, I would like to wish Steve the very best in his new job, which is focused on developing a nature reserve in Warwickshire.

Finally, I would like to thank **Francis Plowman** for his stint as Branch Minutes Secretary. I'm pleased to say that Lee Hurrell has agreed to take on this role and has been seconded onto the Main Committee.

### **Branch Vacancies**

Our branch has a couple of vacancies. If you are at all interested in helping the branch continue to go from strength to strength, then we would be delighted to hear from you! Please contact me in the first instance at **pete@eeles.net** or by calling **07796 331061**.

The **Events Coordinator** plans the branch's annual programme of events and ensures that all events are resourced with a leader, volunteers and equipment. We are invited to attend various events each year, and we also set up our own, such as a New Members' Day. This is also a Main Committee appointment.

While Bob Annell will continue to act as the Hampshire butterfly recorder, he will be standing down as **Butterfly Report Editor** next year, so there is plenty of time for a handover if this role is of interest to you.

With best wishes for the coming season,

***Pete Eeles,**  
Branch Chair*



*Holly Blue. Rosemary Powell*



## Congratulations Ashley Whitlock

*Ashley receiving his award  
from Dr Dan Hoare.  
Jackie Whitlock*

Branch stalwart Ashley Whitlock was awarded the prestigious Outstanding Volunteer Award at the Butterfly Conservation AGM in Huddersfield last November. Andy Barker's endorsement of Ashley is worth repeating here:

Ashley has been an active BC volunteer for over 30 years. He has served on the Branch Conservation Committee during some of this period, but his main contribution has been survey work for priority butterfly species, liaison with landowners, and public engagement, through a very active social media profile and by organising and leading an annual programme of field meetings. Ashley has submitted butterfly records and contributed to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Annual Butterfly Report since at least 1990.

He is the Species Champion for Duke of Burgundy and Purple Emperor, and has written annual species accounts for these butterflies since 2005. For several years he has co-authored a detailed annual report and site dossier for Duke of Burgundy in Hampshire.

He has given numerous guest presentations to local societies, over several decades, inspiring others to get involved, whilst also raising funds. In 2016 he co-authored the very popular and informative Hampshire & Isle of Wight Butterfly Walks book. Ashley has organised the Branch field meetings for more than a decade, leading the majority himself.

Through his field meetings, publications and presentations he has contributed greatly to our understanding of butterflies in the area, whilst freely sharing his knowledge and inspiring others to get involved. For all of these reasons, we regard Ashley as very worthy of the Outstanding Volunteer Award.

***Pete Eeles,***  
*Branch Chair*





# Events 2023 – Volunteers needed!

The Branch is seeking to build an **Events Team** of volunteers to encourage engagement with our conservation work and share interest in butterflies, moths and their habitats by leading or helping to staff various events around Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

Representation at such events engages with the public, helps share out work and can help recruit new members.

The events are great fun and very social, it's an absolute pleasure to talk to people about butterfly and moth conservation, species and habitats, and hear the connections they have to them.

For each event, we would like to have a team of up to four whose home location (if possible) is close to the event to minimise travel. This allows for flexibility on time availability and breaks.

Volunteers would take responsibility for collection and return of any equipment, which can generally fit into a moderate-size family car, setting up at an event and liaison with the organiser where applicable.

Branch events usually have a family engagement activity, such as colouring sheets of various Lepidoptera species, FSC Guides for sale and publications for sale or donation.

We would also love to hear from people who would like to attend an event in their local area where there isn't a Butterfly Conservation presence, but where this would be very appropriate. In this case we could provide equipment and resources you might need.

## Events we would like to attend

### **Wednesday 5 April**

Wild and Wonderful Day,  
Whitchurch Silk Mill

### **Saturday 13 May**

Sholing Valley Spring Fayre

### **Saturday 5 August**

New Members'/Members' Day

### **Sunday 8 October**

Blackmoor Apple Day

### **TBC**

Test Valley Wood Fair

### **Sunday 5 November**

AGM and Members' Day



Butterfly  
Conservation

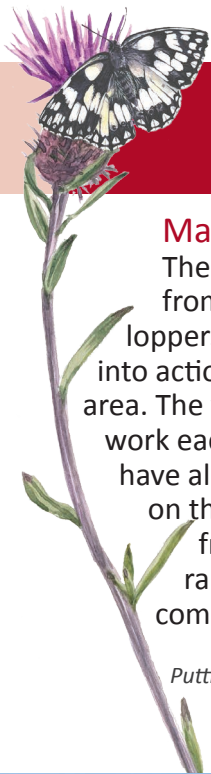
## Volunteer With Us!

- Would you like to organise or participate in events including engagement and members days?
- Contact Suzie Brown Membership Secretary [hisuziex@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hisuziex@yahoo.co.uk)



If you would like to join us at any of these events and form part of the team or if you have a local event at which you would like to encourage the charity's aims, please let me know.

**Suzie Brown**, Membership Secretary  
Email: [hisuziex@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hisuziex@yahoo.co.uk)



# Reserves News

## Magdalen Hill Down

The year started with a generous grant of £1,000 for new tools from the South Downs National Park. Armed with brand-new loppers, saws and rakes, the Reserves Volunteer Team was straight into action clearing scrub and letting light back into the education area. The volunteers are continuing their impressive scrub clearance work each week at Magdalen Hill Down. The Livestock Lookers have also been amazing, showing their dedication to checking on the animals in the worst of weather, breaking thick ice from the troughs when it's been freezing, enduring heavy rainstorms and helping out at last minute notice. Each reserve comes with an awesome team of volunteers so thank you all!

*Putting the new tools to good use.  
All images Fiona Scully*



At Magdalen, two new troughs have been installed with funding from a Farming in Protected Landscapes grant. There is a new trough at the bottom of the Allotment field so we can graze each compartment separately. A second trough in Extension field will allow periodic grazing of the small remnant of chalk grassland that's hidden and tucked away at the bottom of the field. This is part of the transect route and permissive footpath.



Dogs off leads are still an issue at Magdalen. This is a real shame for those who respect the signs and act responsibly, especially with livestock. The birdlife is wonderful at this time of year, with flocks of Redwing and Skylarks singing. It's so important to protect our nature reserves from disturbance by dogs.

## Yew Hill

Yew Hill has continued to be managed by volunteers who meet fortnightly, clearing scrub and restoring the Southern Water meadow by digging up the hawthorn scrub; quite an achievement. Hampshire Conservation Volunteers spent a weekend doing scrub clearance so I hope after this winter you can see much improvement.



*Clearance work on Yew Hill meadow. Picnic time*

Southern Water is undertaking construction works which affect Hill Top, so it won't be grazed this summer. They are already planning on reinstating the grassland, so it should return to us once the works are completed. The main reserve will continue to be grazed as before.

## A31 cycleway

The cycleway along the A31, next to Magdalen Hill Down, has been re-routed through the scrape that was originally designed for the Striped Lychnis moth and Small Blue butterfly. A chalk bank has been created from the spoil which will be managed for these species. It will allow better access and ensure the grassland verges and bank are managed appropriately. It has been entered into a five-year management plan in collaboration with the South Downs National Park. The second scrape alongside Kings Lane was cleared of its jungle of buddleia by the Magdalen volunteer team, revealing rock rose and patches of bare chalk ideal for Dark Mullein to colonise.

## Request for help running moth traps

Are there any moth trappers out there who could spare time to run a trap at Magdalen Hill Down this summer? It would be hugely appreciated if someone could give their time and expertise to help with our moth records. Please do get in touch. One volunteer has come forward just as the Newsletter is going to press but it would be helpful to know if any other moth-ers might be interested. Thank you!

## Volunteer Task Days

While our winter work programme finished in March, we are always ready to welcome more helping hands when this coming season's programme begins in October. There will be occasional volunteer days over summer too so if you can spare a day, please do come and join us. The days are sociable, provide good exercise and fresh air, they're great for health and wellbeing and very rewarding. If you're not already on the volunteer list, please email me for details if you would like to join us. You can contact me on [fscully@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:fscully@butterfly-conservation.org)

## Branch Reserves Walks 2023

Please see the inside front cover of this Newsletter for reserve walks on Magdalen Hill Down and Yew Hill. Please email me in advance to book a place on a walk.

I'm looking forward to seeing what 2023 brings and I hope you all have a wonderful butterfly summer.

***Fiona Scully,***  
*South Downs Landscape Officer*

## Bentley Station Meadow

The last volunteer session of the winter saw us able to complete clearing a clump of tangled bramble and thorn which has really opened up the North Meadow at the station end of the reserve. It was a great turnout, boosted no doubt by the chance to meet Paul Tinsley-Marshall, South East Region Conservation Manager, and to catch up with Pete Eeles, newly (re)elected Branch Chair. Great networking went on as Alison and Sarah, two stalwarts of the recently created and rapidly evolving Blacknest Community Open Space, came to share ideas about linking up with Bentley Station Meadow using a network of forest rides. They will lead a guided walk that will take place on Thursday 18 May at 12.00 from Gravel Hill car park SU 802433. Keep an

eye out for full details soon to be published on Alton Walking Festival website. It is hoped this will become a waymarked route in time.

After lunch, while the bonfire died down, some of us hunted for Brown Hairstreak eggs. The count was down on last year's survey but good to know they were breeding here again last summer.

This was also my final volunteer task as leader at Bentley as I have a new job involving a move to Warwickshire, where I will be helping to look after a small nature reserve which you will be glad to hear already has an established butterfly transect. I'm sure my 18 months in the role of Volunteer Reserve Officer gave me the opportunity to see that bit more of the behind-the-scenes goings on in a conservation organisation, and that this allowed me to secure my new role. I can recommend the BSM role to anyone keen on learning more about caring for natural spaces.

A great big thank you to all volunteers past and present who have made my time with Butterfly Conservation a memorable experience.

**Steve Lockett,**  
*Former Bentley Station Meadow Volunteer Reserve Officer*  
*posteve@hotmail.co.uk*

*The last of the winter volunteer sessions at BSM. Steve Lockett*







# Isle of Wight Group News

## Field meetings for 2023

Isle of Wight Field Meetings Organiser Kay Shaw has arranged an interesting programme of walks, details of which can be found on page 30 and on the branch website at:

[hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/events/ioW%20Walks%202023.pdf](https://hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/events/ioW%20Walks%202023.pdf)

## White-letter Hairstreak Project

This year, the group will be launching a long-term project to assess the population of the White-letter Hairstreak on the Isle of Wight. With over 5,000 disease-resistant elms planted on the island, the species receives scant coverage apart from one known site at Towngate Pond, Newport, although no records have been received from this site since 2020.

Local artist Alice Malia, in partnership with Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council, has created a beautiful mural of the White-letter Hairstreak in Post Office Lane, Newport, showing the full life cycle of this enigmatic species.



*The Newport mural by Alice Malia. Jim Baldwin*

It is hoped that this mural will also help to raise awareness of the White-letter Hairstreak. I am planning on leading a walk from the mural to the Towngate Pond site during the flight season. The species will also be highlighted at a number of events which the group will be attending during the summer.

There was a sighting reported and photographed by a holidaymaker at St Helens Duver in 2022 so it is quite likely that there are unreported colonies of the White-letter Hairstreak on the Isle of Wight. If you would like to be involved in the project or would like to report a sighting of a White-letter Hairstreak, preferably with a photograph, please email me at [wightmoths@gmail.com](mailto:wightmoths@gmail.com) or phone **07528 586683**.

### Isle of Wight Events

After last year's successes, the group will again be in attendance at various events across the island during the year. The first event actually took place on 17–18 February when I attended the Isle of Wight Dark Skies Festival at Brighstone, talking about moths and moth recording.

Looking ahead, the confirmed events at the time of writing are:

#### **Sunday 30 April**

##### **Spring Open Day at the Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary**

At Lower Winstone Farm, Wroxall, PO38 3AA

#### **Sunday 28 May**

##### **Be More Green**

At Moor Green Reservoir Park, Moorgreen Road, Cowes, PO31 7AH  
(in partnership with iWatch Wildlife)

#### **Date TBC**

##### **Big Butterfly Count**

At Carisbrooke Castle, Newport, PO30 1XY

#### **Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 September**

##### **Wolverton Garden Fair**

Wolverton Manor, Shorwell, PO30 3JS

Additional events will be publicised on our Facebook page Isle of Wight Butterflies and Moths, the Branch e-newsletter and on the website.

**Jim Baldwin,**  
*Isle of Wight Group Leader*



# Photographic Competition 2022 Results

The first in-person AGM and Members' Day for a couple of years last November saw the very welcome return of the Branch photographic competition, and well done and thank you to all those that entered to make it such a well-supported event.

The results are:

## UK Butterflies

- 1<sup>st</sup> **Helen Pinchin – Brimstones\***
- 2<sup>nd</sup> John Vetterlein – Dingy Skipper
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Piper – Small Blue

## UK Moths

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chris Piper – Merveille du Jour
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Freya Brown – Privet Hawk-moth
- 3<sup>rd</sup> John Vetterlein – Buff-tip

## Immature stages

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jacky Adams – Privet Hawk-moth
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Freya Brown – Burnet moth sp.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jacky Adams – Large White

## Overseas butterflies and moths

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rupert Broadway – Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Francis Plowman – Small Skippers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Francis Plowman – Small Tortoiseshells

## First time entrants

- 1<sup>st</sup> Helen Pinchin – Essex Skipper
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sheila Ann Williams – Silver-studded Blue
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheila Ann Williams – Adonis Blue

**\*Overall competition winner**

*This page,  
John Vetterlein – Buff-tip*

*Opposite, from top left, clockwise:  
Freya Brown – Burnet moth sp  
Sheila Ann Williams – Adonis Blue  
Rupert Broadway  
– Broad-bordered Bee Hawk-moth  
John Vetterlein – Dingy Skipper  
Francis Plowman  
– Small Tortoiseshells  
Chris Piper – Small Blue*

**Lee Hurrell**







## North Baddesley Nature Reserve

My reserve at North Baddesley had 32 species of butterfly recorded in 2022, which is a record. It's very pleasing to report that one new species, Green Hairstreak, was seen, and it would be great if it colonised here. Once again I was fortunate to have my annual visit from a male Chalk Hill Blue although due to my soil conditions there is no foodplant here for this species. I was also delighted that a Wall Brown made an appearance, as in 2020. I am convinced that there must be a local colony as yet undiscovered.

The majority of butterfly species counts increased, including tallies of 100 Marbled White, 100 Ringlet and 75 Gatekeeper. Small Heath numbers are growing, which is amazing given they were not originally found here. Unfortunately, there were very poor numbers of Orange-tip, White Admiral, Silver Y moth and ladybirds. Ladybirds have always been very prolific here so that is worrying.

Day-flying moth numbers also appeared to be increasing with new sightings of Latticed Heath.



Reptile counting went well with a new adder highest count of 14. According to the experts only 10% of the population are seen at one time! I actually took photos of adders mating, a rare sight that I never thought I would see. On a couple of occasions reptile panels were lifted and revealed an unusual mouse. I get a lot of mice, short-tailed voles, shrews, weasels, etc. but this one was new to me. However, when clearing some brambles I discovered a harvest mouse nest, so mystery solved, and a fabulous new addition to my species list. More good news is that the nightjars returned again.

More planting and seeding was carried out in the autumn so hopefully the wildflowers will be more profuse in the coming season.

You are very welcome to come and look round, whether you have been here before or not. Also I am looking for interested people to help with recording butterflies and/or reptiles.

**Kevin Ross**

*Email: [spark.ky@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:spark.ky@hotmail.co.uk)*

*Tel: 02380 733995*

*Adder. Kevin Ross*





## Corhampton Golf Club wins another ecology award

The Branch was delighted to see that Corhampton Golf Club won the prestigious Syngenta Operation Pollinator Award for the second time at the Golf Environment Awards in Harrogate earlier this year.

The award celebrates golf clubs that establish and manage areas of pollen and nectar-rich wildflower habitats, creating essential food and nesting resources for pollinators including native bees, butterflies and other insects. The judges were particularly impressed by Corhampton's long-term transformation of chalk scrapes into butterfly habitats. The scrapes, which are visible on Google Earth, have been colonised by the Small Blue which has established a small but healthy population on the downland course. Twenty-five species were recorded on the course last year and the total butterfly count has doubled since surveys commenced.

The Branch has established a long-term partnership with Iestyn Carpenter, the Head Greenkeeper, through Conservation & Records Sub-committee member, Clive Wood. Iestyn has formed a volunteer ecology group, made up of interested members, that has been crucial to the club's success. The volunteers undertake monthly butterfly surveys and contribute the findings to the UKBMS. The group help to manage the scrapes and also successfully applied for £4,000 in grant funding to purchase wildflower seeds.

An understandably proud Iestyn commented that: "Winning the Operation Pollinator Award has been a game changer for us. It's enabled us to spread the word, win the support of the membership and apply for even more funding to invest back into ecology. It's even better second time around and now it's onwards and upwards; we're able to do so much more now because of this award."

Well done Corhampton Golf Club!

**Clive Wood**

*Iestyn receiving the award. Iestyn Carpenter*





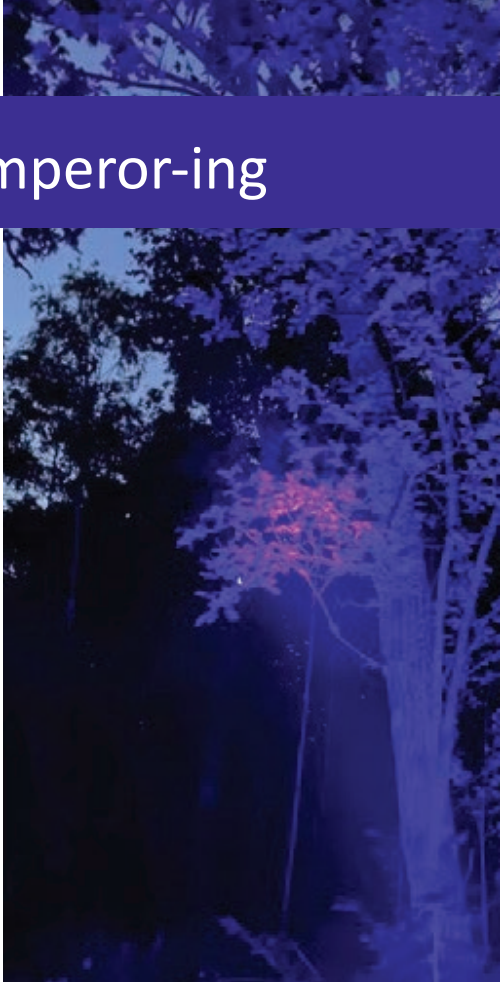
# Night-time Emperor-ing

I was very interested to chat to Mark Tutton at the Members' Day last November about his exploits looking for Purple Emperor pupae with a UV light source. While night-time walks along woodland rides may not appeal to everyone – and Mark's alibi is walking the dog – he was chuffed, and rightly so, to have a couple of successes in this venture. Under UV light, a pupa shows up as a bright spot against the dark vegetation.

Although difficult to make out in print, zooming in on his camera phone images demonstrated the principle well enough. The location found at night was noted and then revisited the next day. As Mark recalls, "One was fairly low down and still rather difficult to re-find in daylight, even though it was right in front of my face; but the other was about 20 feet up and took a good bit of time scanning the foliage with binoculars to locate it – the pupae mimic the willow leaves pretty much perfectly, an absolute masterclass of camouflage as you can see from the daylight photo!"

**Mark Tutton**, as told to Kevin Freeborn

*All images Mark Tutton  
Searching the willow with a UV light  
and the give-away bright spot  
Master of disguise*





# Spring Butterflies of the Algarve

The south of Portugal isn't generally regarded as a top destination for butterfly watching, but a couple of weeks in May 2022, based close to the town of Loulé, 20km (12½ miles) or so from the coast, revealed some interesting and unusual species. The Algarve can be roughly divided into three habitat types – the coast, the mountains and the barrocal, which bridges the two and comprises rocky ground with various Mediterranean flowers, shrubs and trees. Unfortunately, butterflies have no protection from development and agricultural pressures all over the area.

We had recorded Large and Small White, Speckled Wood, European Swallowtail and Clouded Yellow in the preceding three days in the green spaces of Lisbon and quickly re-encountered these in the Algarve – the latter being particularly abundant. Other widespread species included Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Painted Lady and Iberian Scarce Swallowtail.

*All images, Rupert Broadway  
Two-tailed Pasha  
Chapman's Green Hairstreak  
Large Tortoiseshell*



A particularly interesting area was the Fonte de Benémola, an attractive wooded river valley with singing Nightingales and the alternate fluty whistles and parrot-like squawks of Golden Orioles as a background soundtrack. Here we encountered Holly Blue, Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Marsh Fritillary, Small Copper, and Cleopatra and, what looked at first to be a familiar species, but the white line extending into the forewing gave an indication and the diagnostic red colouration around the eyes revealed it to be a Chapman's Green Hairstreak. As we ascended higher, Spanish Gatekeepers started to make an appearance. A miniscule blue butterfly wouldn't stop for close examination, but the candidates would have been Baton or Lorquin's Blue.

Ria Formosa is an extensive coastal wetland reserve which hosts many different bird species throughout the year. It is less impressive for butterflies, but was one of only a couple of places where we encountered the Green-striped White, which only occurs in the Iberian Peninsula in Europe. One of its close relatives, the Dappled White, was more widespread: curiously, at the western edge of Europe this is now accepted to be an isolated population of the Eastern, rather than Western, Dappled White, although they are indistinguishable in the field. A visit to another wetland reserve at Castro Marim, close to the Spanish border, added Small Skipper to the list.

The barrocal proved to be the most rewarding habitat. A stroll up to an old stone tower behind the village of Espargal revealed the amazing sight of many butterflies ‘hill-topping’ –circling, apparently aimlessly, around the tower and its surrounding rocks, only landing occasionally and briefly to rest. These were mostly Spanish Marbled White and Wall Brown, but included a number of others, such as the two Swallowtail species, the magnificent Two-tailed Pasha and a single False Ilex Hairstreak. A visit to a nearby grassy meadow yielded Common Blue and Spanish Brown Argus, the latter more heavily marked than its close relative that we see at home.



We visited the Rocha da Pena, a large rocky outcrop with panoramic views, in search of the beautiful Spanish Festoon, but were disappointed. Ironically a day or two later, one turned up flying around a garden close to our base, but wouldn't stop to be photographed.

Some of the best sightings were reserved for our last full day, once again on a walk close to home. A couple of large butterflies sparring at head height landed to reveal themselves as Two-tailed Pasha and Large Tortoiseshell respectively: and the walk was rounded off by a pair of pristine Blue-spot Hairstreaks.

The number of bird species we recorded outstripped the butterflies by nearly five to one, but it was the quality of the sightings that really enhanced our enjoyment of the trip.

**Rupert Broadway**





## Spirituality, Numerology and Butterflies

About six years ago, I invited Andy Barker to guide a butterfly walk through our local woods. From that, unintentionally, a new transect was born! I have been doing that transect ever since, and it has been an honour and a privilege. Butterflies have proved to be a true ally in my life, reflecting the metamorphosis and transformation that we all experience in our life journeys. It's Soul growth. 'Psyche' is defined as the human soul, mind or spirit, and it is no coincidence that the ancient Greeks called butterflies 'psyche'. So, it was a delight to read Sheila Williams article in Newsletter 113 and to see her wonderful photo of Brimstones dancing.



*Red Admiral. Francis Plowman*

Over recent years, I have been re-connecting with my psychic abilities. We all have them. I am also connecting to Spirit through divination – tarot and oracle cards, and numerology; they complement each other. In both of the last two editions of the Newsletter there have been instances of synchronicity where numerology can shed spiritual light on the butterfly encounters that were featured.

Let me begin with Francis Plowman's Tale Piece in Newsletter 112, the intriguing image of a Red Admiral with a clearly marked '98' on its underside hind wing. In the 'Story behind the picture' feature, Francis recounts how he took the photograph on Portsdown Hill while waiting for his 98-year-

old father attending a hospital appointment at nearby Queen Alexandra's. He comments on the rare coincidence of the unusual '98' marking and his father's age and concludes with the words 'How strange was that!?' ... and my reply is 'not strange at all Francis'. Such synchronicities are signs and messages from Spirit. The numerology of 98 reduces to  $9 + 8 = 17$  ... 17 is The Star card in tarot – a Major Arcana card – which is a wonderful card of hope, happiness, renewal, spirituality and cosmic blessings.  $1 + 7 = 8$  ... eight is the number of empowerment.



*Purple Emperor. Bryn Jones*

Now let me turn to the Purple Emperor Tale Piece by Bryn Jones in Newsletter 113. The Emperor in tarot is number 4. It is a Major Arcana card, representing mastery, control of emotions, and masculine authority and power. And there were two Purple Emperor butterflies representing  $4 + 4$  which equals 8! On an Audi R8 – wow! This again is no coincidence. The message depends on the person observing the synchronicity – in this case Jan and Bryn. There is most likely a personal message for both of them in their sightings but, overall, I think it is a message for Butterfly Conservation, a message of encouragement to keep battling for butterflies and for our beautiful world.

Both Newsletters carried positive, powerful messages of hope, and also the fact that Francis, and Jan and Bryn's stories landed up in Tale Piece, is significant. If you are fighting a battle you would want Admirals and Emperors to take charge! Back page? They are right behind us, supporting us! Red is the colour for courage, and purple, is for mystery and power.

***Lisa Joynes***



## Branch Field Trip Programmes 2023

**Field trips are for everyone.** Walks have been arranged across both counties at a variety of interesting sites, aiming to see target species associated with each location at the optimum time in the season.

These field trips can be enjoyed by everyone, whether butterfly-novice or expert. Photographers, children (with adult supervision) and first-time field trippers, **YOU ARE ALL WELCOME!** Please wear suitable footwear, and it is often desirable to bring a packed lunch.

Rough ground over fields and woods could, most regrettably, make access difficult for those with mobility issues. Please check with the walk leader if in doubt.

The Hampshire field meetings programme is organised by **Ashley Whitlock**; the Isle of Wight programme by **Kay Shaw**. Contact details for each are given respectively at the end of each programme listing and in the Useful Contacts directory on page 32 of this Newsletter.

### **If the weather is looking dodgy...**

If inclement weather is forecast, then please phone the leader of the event. Field trip dates may change if the five-day forecast suggests a planned meeting is likely to be affected by rain and/or stormy conditions.

Alternatively, nearer the time of each field trip, do check postings on:

- the Branch website: **[hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk](http://hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk)**
- social media and in particular the Branch **Facebook** site: **[www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHampshireAndIsleOfWight](http://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHampshireAndIsleOfWight)**
- and Ashley's website: **[purple-emperor.co.uk](http://purple-emperor.co.uk)**





# Hampshire Walks 2023

The Branch is grateful to the site owners/managers of the nature reserves visited in our walks for maintaining public access and safeguarding these very special places of wildlife interest.

**Wednesday 19 April**, meet at 10.30am

**Broxhead Common**, site: Hampshire County Council

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet at the entrance to the nature reserve – lay-by parking (**SU803374**) on Broxhead Farm Road, B3004, 1 mile north of Bordon, midway between the A325 at Sleaford and the B3002 at Linford.

*Aiming to see:* Emperor Moth, Orange-tip, Green Hairstreak.

**Wednesday 26 April**, meet at 10.30am

**Danebury Hillfort**, site: Hampshire County Council

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet at Danebury Hillfort car park (**SU329377**) signposted off Old Stockbridge Road, 2 miles north-west of Stockbridge. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Wall Brown, other early-spring butterflies and wildflowers.

**Sunday 7 May**, meet at 10.30am

**Little Butser Hill and Pillow Mound**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the hilltop car park at Butser Hill (Pay and Display) (**SU711200**). This is a strenuous walk over uneven and very steep slopes. Bring a packed lunch. Good Duke of Burgundy colony with skylarks, buzzards and (possibly) cuckoo, and spectacular views towards Ashford Hill and the Meon Valley.

*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy, Grizzled Skipper.

**Wednesday 10 May**, meet at 10.30am

**Beacon Hill NNR, Exton**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the reserve car park (**SU598227**), which is approx. 1¼ miles west of Warnford and a similar distance north-west of Exton, both off the A32. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Brown Argus.

**Sunday 14 May**, meet at 10.30am

**Old Winchester Hill NNR**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the nature reserve's car park (**SU645214**), which is signposted off the A32 at Warnford. Steep hillsides in places. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy, Adonis Blue, Green Hairstreak.

**Wednesday 17 May**, meet at 10.30am

**New Copse Inclosure and Lymington River, New Forest**, site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the car park at Ivy Wood on B3055 (**SU315024**), about 1 mile east of Brockenhurst. In the afternoon the walk will be extended along the Lymington River looking for dragonflies and other invertebrates so bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

**Sunday 21 May**, meet at 10.30am

**West Wood and Pitt Down – Farley Mount**, site:

Forestry England and HCC

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in Spindle Trees car park (**SU420292**), signed off Sarum Road on Pitt Down, one of several Farley Mount Country Park car parks. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy.

**Wednesday 24 May**, meet at 10.30am

**Stockbridge Down** (East car park), site: National Trust

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Stockbridge Down is 1 mile east of Stockbridge and 6 miles west of Winchester on the B3049. Park in the east car park (**SU387344**); alternatively, use the west car park (**SU374346**) and walk onto the reserve and turn right. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary.

**Sunday 28 May**, meet at 10.30am

**Martin Down NNR and Kitts Grave**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the nature reserve's main car park off A354 (**SU036200**), 11 miles south-west of Salisbury. Bring a packed lunch. In the afternoon we may look for Duke of Burgundy near the lower car park.

*Aiming to see:* Marsh Fritillary, Adonis Blue and Small Blue.

**Sunday 4 June**, meet at 10.30am

**Bentley Wood**, site: Trustees of Bentley Wood

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet at Bentley Wood car park (**SU258291**), just across the

Wiltshire border, reached along a track signed off Scouts Lane, which runs between West Dean and Middle Winterslow to the east of Salisbury. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* possible Marsh Fritillary, and Argemone and Sable Moth.

**Wednesday 7 June**, meet at 10.30am

**Coulter's Dean, Queen Elizabeth Country Park**, site: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the country park car park (**SU733198**), off Kiln Lane, about ½ mile south-west of Buriton. Coulter's Dean is a small reserve within the country park with excellent displays of Cowslips. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Green Hairstreak (and various orchid species).

**Sunday 25 June**, meet at 10.30am

**Old Winchester Hill NNR**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the nature reserve's car park (**SU645214**), which is signposted off the A32 at Warnford. Steep hillsides in places. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Chalk Hill Blue, possible White-letter Hairstreak.

**Wednesday 28 June**, meet at 09.30am

**Beaulieu Heath, New Forest**

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the Hawkhill Inclosure Forestry England car park (**SU350019**), off the B3055, west of Hatchet Pond between Brockenhurst and Beaulieu. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Silver-studded Blue, early Grayling and Clouded Buff Moth.

**Sunday 2 July**, meet at 9.30am

**Abbotts Wood Inclosure, Alice Holt Forest**, site:

Forestry England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet at the Abbots Wood Inclosure car park (**SU810410**) off Dockenfield Street, just south-east of the Halfway House pub. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, White Admiral, and Silver-washed Fritillary.

**Wednesday 5 July**, meet at 9.30am

**West Wood and Pitt Down – Farley Mount**, site:

Forestry England and HCC

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in Spindle Trees car park (**SU420292**), signed off Sarum Road on Pitt Down, one of several Farley Mount Country Park car parks.



Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor and Purple Hairstreak in West Wood; Dark Green Fritillary on Pitt Down.

**Sunday 9 July**, meet at 9.30am

**Micheldever Wood**, site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in Micheldever Wood car park (**SU529362**), which is off Chillandham Lane, which is about 2½ miles south-east of Micheldever and 2½ miles west of Swarraton. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, White Admiral and Silver-washed Fritillary.

**Wednesday 12 July**, meet at 9.30am

**Basingstoke Canal and Odiham Common**, site:

Hart District Council

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in Colt Hill car park (**SU747517**), at the end of London Road in Odiham, past the Waterwitch pub, on the north side of the canal. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, White Admiral.

**Sunday 16 July**, meet at 9.30am

**West Harting Down**, site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the lane just over the railway bridge east of Charlton village (**SU739156**). From the A3 take the Butser Ancient Farm exit and at Charlton turn left before the Red Lion and then cross the railway. The lane (to Ditcham Park School) is immediately left with limited parking on the left-hand side. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Purple Emperor, Silver-washed, Dark Green Fritillary, and Hummingbird Hawk-moth.

**Sunday 13 August**, meet at 9.30am

**Shipton Bellinger**

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the village hall car park (**SU229456**). Bring a packed lunch as there will be a visit to another local site in the afternoon.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Hairstreak and Wall Brown.

**Wednesday 16 August**, meet at 10.30am

**Noar Hill**, site: HLOWWT

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the lane south from Selborne by Charity Farm, where there is limited verge parking only (**SU737321**): please park considerately. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Hairstreak, Clouded Yellow.

**Wednesday 23 August**, meet at 10.30am

**Idsworth Down and Chalton Down**

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the lane just over the railway bridge east of Chalton village (**SU739156**). From the A3 take the Butser Ancient Farm exit and at Chalton turn left before the Red Lion and then cross the railway. The lane (to Ditcham Park School) is immediately left with limited parking on the left-hand side. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Clouded Yellow, Brown Argus, Dark Green Fritillary and possible Silver-spotted Skipper.

**Sunday 27 August**, meet at 10.30am

**Butser Hill**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the hilltop car park at Butser Hill (Pay and Display) (**SU711200**). This is a strenuous walk over uneven and very steep slopes. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper.

**Wednesday 30 August**, meet at 10.30am

**Beacon Hill NNR, Exton**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the reserve car park (**SU598227**), which is approx. 1¼ miles west of Warnford and a similar distance north-west of Exton, both off the A32. Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Silver-spotted Skipper, Brown Argus, Clouded Yellow.

**Sunday 3 September**, meet at 10.30am

**Old Winchester Hill NNR**, site: Natural England

*Leader:* Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266; Mobile: 07752 182340

*Directions:* Meet in the nature reserve's car park (**SU645214**), which is signposted off the A32 at Warnford. Steep hillsides in places.

Bring a packed lunch.

*Aiming to see:* Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper, Clouded Yellow.

**Ashley Whitlock**, Field Trips Organiser

Tel: 02392 731266

Mobile: 07752 182340

Email: [ashleyrwhitlock747@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyrwhitlock747@gmail.com)

Ashley Whitlock Butterflies and Moths website: [www.purple-emperor.co.uk](http://www.purple-emperor.co.uk)



# Isle of Wight walks 2023

The Branch is grateful to the site owners/managers of the nature reserves visited in our walks for maintaining public access and safeguarding these very special places of wildlife interest.

**Saturday 29 April**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 30 April)

**Parkhurst Forest**; site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Graham Sherratt, Tel: 07944 029056

*Directions:* Meet at Parkhurst Forest main car park (**SZ480900**). A woodland walk with uneven paths; wear sturdy footwear.

*Aiming to see:* Brimstone, Comma, Orange-tip, Peacock.

**Saturday 13 May**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 14 May)

**First Glanville Fritillary Walk, The Revetment, Ventnor**

*Leader:* We are very fortunate to have Andy Butler leading this walk, a Glanville expert, so one not to be missed; Tel: contact Kay, 07562 974343, or Andy Butler, 01983 854923

*Directions:* Meet in Wheelers Bay Road car park (**SZ568775**), Ventnor, with steep steps from the car park down to the Revetment. Alternatively, use the Eastern Esplanade Long Stay car park (**SZ565773**), and walk to the bottom of the steps at Wheelers Bay by 1.30. Parking there makes this walk wheelchair accessible. On the No.3 bus route.

*Aiming to see:* Glanville Fritillary and other spring butterflies.

**Saturday 20 May**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 21 May)

**Second Glanville Fritillary Walk, Mottistone chalk pits;**

site: National Trust

*Leader:* Graham Sherratt, Tel: 07944 029056

*Directions:* Meet in the Jubilee Car Park, Lynch Lane (**SZ420845**), Brighstone.

A downland walk with uneven ground, steep slopes and chalk pits; wear sturdy footwear.

*Aiming to see:* Dingy and Grizzled Skipper, Glanville Fritillary.

**Saturday 27 May**, meet at 10.30am (or, if wet, Sunday 28 May)

**Third Glanville Fritillary Walk, Compton Chine;** site: National Trust

*Leader:* Sue Davies, Tel: 07702 151312

*Directions:* Meet in the NT Afton Down chalk pit car park (**SZ367854**), off the A305 Military Road. On the No.12 bus route. A downland walk with some steep steps and uneven ground; wear sturdy footwear.

*Aiming to see:* Glanville Fritillary, Green Hairstreak, Small and Adonis Blue.

**Saturday 24 June**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 25 June)

**Newtown Meadows and Walter's Copse;** site: National Trust

*Leader:* Nikki Kownacki, Tel: 07929 614423

*Directions:* Meet at the entrance to the Meadows Butterfly Walk on Town Lane



**(SZ423906)**, parking at the National Trust car park (charge) close by. Uneven ground and stiles to cross.

*Aiming to see:* White Admiral, Marbled White, Ringlet, Brown Argus.

**Saturday 1 July**, meet at 10.30am (or, if wet, Sunday 2 July)

**Tennyson Down**; site: National Trust

*Leader:* Nikki Kownacki, Tel: 07929 614423

*Directions:* Meet in the National Trust car park at the end of Highdown Lane **(SZ324855)**, Totland. Share cars, if possible, as there's limited parking. The Needles Breezer open-top bus stops at the High Down Inn. This is a downland walk.

*Aiming to see:* Dark Green Fritillary, Chalk Hill Blue and Brown Argus.

**Saturday 15 July**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 16 July)

**Kemphill Moor Copse, Havenstreet**; site: Forestry England

*Leader:* Kay and Colin Shaw, Tel: 07562 974343

*Directions:* Meet at Ashley Cemetery **(SZ577897)** as parking is very limited at the site (entrance on Rowlands Lane) or contact Kay about a lift. This is a woodland ride walk.

*Aiming to see:* White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary (including Valezina) and Purple Hairstreak.

**Saturday 22 July**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet, Sunday 23 July)

**Mount Joy, Carisbrooke**

*Leader:* Graham Sherratt, Tel: 07944 029056

*Directions:* Meet in Whitepit Lane **(SZ496883)**, Carisbrooke, by the fish and chip shop near the junction with Elm Grove, and close to the junction with footpath N24, along which the walk up to Mount Joy proceeds. Some steps are encountered on the route. Car parking is very limited so leave plenty of time to find a space.

*Aiming to see:* Chalk Hill and Common Blue, Brown Argus and Wall Brown.

**Saturday 5 August**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet Sunday 6 August)

**Arreton Down, Arreton**; site: HIOWWT

*Leader:* Kay and Colin Shaw, Tel: 07562 974343

*Directions:* Meet in Arreton Down car park **(SZ533874)**, off Downend Road. On the No.8 bus route, getting off at the Robin Hill Country Park stop. A downland walk, uneven and steep ground in places; wear sturdy footwear.

*Aiming to see:* Brown Argus, Chalk Hill Blue and Wall Brown.

**Saturday 2 September**, meet at 1.30pm (or, if wet Sunday 3 September)

**The Revetment, Ventnor**

*Leader:* Kay and Colin Shaw, Tel: 07562 974343

*Directions:* Meet in Wheelers Bay Road car park **(SZ568775)**, Ventnor, with steep steps from the car park down to the Revetment. Alternatively, use the Eastern Esplanade Long Stay car park **(SZ565773)**, and walk to the bottom of the steps at Wheelers Bay by 1.30. Parking there makes this walk wheelchair accessible. On the No.3 bus route.

*Aiming to see:* Clouded Yellow, Hummingbird Hawk-moth.

**Kay Shaw**, IoW Field Meetings Organiser

Tel: 07562 974343

Email: [kay1950shaw@btinternet.com](mailto:kay1950shaw@btinternet.com)



## Useful Contacts

# www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

 <https://www.facebook.com/ButterflyConservationHampshireAndIsleOfWight>

 <https://twitter.com/HantsIoWBC>

 [https://www.instagram.com/hampshire\\_iow\\_butterflies/](https://www.instagram.com/hampshire_iow_butterflies/)

**Branch Chair:** Pete Eeles, tel. 07796 331061, email. [pete@eeles.net](mailto:pete@eeles.net)

**Branch Treasurer:** Graham Nicol, email. [graham\\_nicol@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:graham_nicol@yahoo.co.uk)

**Branch Secretary:** vacant

**Branch Organiser:** vacant

**Conservation and Records Sub-Committee Chair:** Andy Barker, tel. 02380 270042, email. [aj3barker@btinternet.com](mailto:aj3barker@btinternet.com)

**Engagement Sub-Committee Chair:** Rupert Broadway, email. [rupert.broadway@bcs.org.uk](mailto:rupert.broadway@bcs.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:** Suzie Brown, email. [hisuziex@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hisuziex@yahoo.co.uk)

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**WCBS Co-ordinator:** Jacky Adams, tel. 02380 813671, email. [jackyna7579@gmail.com](mailto:jackyna7579@gmail.com)

**Moth Recorder, Hampshire (not a BC specific role):** Mike Wall, email. [mike@hantsmoths.org.uk](mailto:mike@hantsmoths.org.uk)

**Moth Recorder, Isle of Wight:** Jim Baldwin, tel. 01983 853580, mobile. 07528 586683, email. [wightmoths@gmail.com](mailto:wightmoths@gmail.com)

**Isle of Wight Group Leader:** Jim Baldwin, tel. 01983 853580, mobile. 07528 586683, email. [wightmoths@gmail.com](mailto:wightmoths@gmail.com)

**Isle of Wight Field Meetings organiser:** Kay Shaw, tel. 07562 974343, email. [kay1950shaw@btinternet.com](mailto:kay1950shaw@btinternet.com)

## Butterfly Conservation Team

**Regional Conservation Manager:** Paul Tinsley-Marshall,  
email. [ptinsley-marshall@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:ptinsley-marshall@butterfly-conservation.org)

**South Downs Landscape Officer (includes MHD and Yew Hill management):**  
Fiona Scully, email. [fscully@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:fscully@butterfly-conservation.org)

**Bentley Station Meadow Volunteer Reserves Officer:** vacant

## Newsletter Production

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Cover painting: Silver-washed Fritillaries

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## Newsletter Deadline

Please send your Lepidoptera-related newsworthy pieces and features to Kevin Freeborn... and you don't have to wait until August!

**The deadline for the autumn Newsletter, edition no. 115, is 13 August 2023**

## Lepidoptera Tale Piece... your story behind the picture

The Branch photographic competition made a very welcome return at the AGM and Members' Day last November. It was splendid to see such a high standard of photographic excellence. Voted for by attendees on the day, congratulations go to the overall winner Helen Pinchin, who also had first place in the UK butterflies category with her image of Brimstones in flight. To illustrate the back cover, I've turned to two strikingly different entrants in the UK moths category: illustrating the beautiful brilliance of the Privet Hawk-moth's magenta markings against its black and white ground colouring and, by way of contrast, the near-perfect camouflage of Merveille du Jour in its ancient oak habitat.

**Kevin Freeborn,**  
*Newsletter Editor*



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



## Lepidoptera Tale Piece ...



*...runner-up and winner of the UK Moths category in the 2022 photographic competition – top, Privet Hawk-moth by Freya Brown; bottom, Merveille du Jour by Chris Piper*