



**Butterfly Conservation**  
**Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch**  
**Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting**  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Held at Littleton Memorial Hall, Littleton, Winchester**

The AGM commenced at 12:00 with Chairman, Andy Barker, welcoming everyone to the meeting. Attendance: 75. Andy informed the meeting that the 2021-22 Branch Accounts and 2021 AGM Minutes had been made available to members in advance, via the Branch website.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from: Bob & Jean Annell, Lizzie Beer, Rupert & Sharron Broadway, Peter Eeles, Nick Radford, Paul Tinsley-Marshall and Clive Wood.

**2. Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were unanimously confirmed as an accurate record.

**Proposed:** Andy Barker

**Seconded:** Francis Plowman

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Presentation of Accounts**

- a. The Chairman presented the accounts for 2021/22 informing the meeting that they were also located on the Branch website. Moreover, Andy reiterated that there was no longer a legal requirement for branches to gain members' endorsement since BC were the sole managers of accounts for all branches.

- b. Opening and closing balances respectively were: £62,592.59; £60,928.71.
- c. Subscriptions remained the prime source of income, £9,852 then HBIC £3,415 with donations and sales respectively £630 and £388. The Branch had transferred £10,000 to BC Head Office to support the work of the BC SE Regional staff. A further £500 was expended to contribute to the ongoing conservation of the scarce Reddish Buff Moth. The cost of producing and despatching newsletters and annual reports amounted to £4,164 with increasing postage costs now a significant factor.
- d. Responding to a question concerning donations from Branch to Head Office, the Chairman explained that BC's wider funding had been impacted by Covid pandemic and that the Branch was able to contribute. There were no plans to repeat the donation in the current year.

## 5. Chairman's Report

- a. **Branch Membership.** Using comparative data, the meeting was updated on current membership as follows:
  - 2021 AGM: Branch Membership of 1682 households (2286 individuals)
  - 2022 AGM: Branch Membership of 1646 households (2238 individuals)This makes Hampshire and IoW the 2nd largest BC Branch.
- b. **Organisation & Roles.** The branch organisation diagram (from the website) was shown indicating some vacancies requiring filling by volunteers eg, Branch Secretary (Main Committee) and Publicity Officer (Information Sub-Committee). Andy thanked all Committee members for their contribution during the year, and welcomed the contribution of Suzie Brown as Membership Secretary. He noted that the previously elected Branch Secretary (Sarah Crawford) was forced to resign due to personal

circumstances. Presenting an additional graphic of the current non-committee roles, the Chairman warmly thanked *all* volunteers for their year's efforts that ensured a significant contribution to Butterfly Conservation's strategic objectives in our area and, indeed, beyond.

- c. **BC Employees.** Paul Tinsley-Marshall had been appointed by BC in May 2022 (succeeding Steve Wheatley) to become the South-East Regional Conservation Manager . Andy envisaged the Branch forging good opportunities to share and develop wider projects in our area with Paul. Andy also acknowledged the great work made by Fiona Scully (South Downs Landscape Project Officer) at both Yew Hill and Magdalen Hill Down.
  
- d. **Reports, Newsletters, Website & Social Media.** The meeting was reminded of the excellent work of: Kevin Freeborn, Dan & Rosemary Powell (Branch Newsletter), Jon Holden-Dye (Branch e-newsletter editor), Bob Ansell and his team (Annual Butterfly Report), and Freya Brown (Social Media Editor). All were thanked for the considerable time and effort they contributed in their respective roles. Andy encouraged contributions to all Branch sources of literature and information including its Facebook page and website. As to the latter, Andy recognised the valuable contribution of Bob Whitmarsh as Webmaster as well as member Peter Eeles' recent work of upgrading the Branch website to ease access for all IT platforms as well as adding details of the branch's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.
  
- e. **Field Meetings.** Andy recorded special thanks to Ashley Whitlock (Hants) and Kay Shaw & Jim Baldwin (IoW) for organising a full programme of field meetings during 2022. These had been very well supported with Ashley Whitlock noting an average of 20 participants for each of his conducted walks.

f. **New Members' Day - 6 August 2022.** This was held at Magdalen Hill Down reserve and coordinated by Suzie Brown (Membership Secretary). It was a great success notwithstanding an adverse impact on numbers caused through Covid. Excellent support came from St Swithun's School and many contacts were made not least a follow-up by Otterbourne Primary School in terms of our assisting the school with butterfly conservation measures.

g. **Records, Surveys and Monitoring.**

**(1) Butterflies.** 2021 Records = 113,824; Recorders = 4,170 Bob Ansell (County Butterfly Recorder – Hants & IoW); Andy & Linda Barker (Butterfly Transect Co-ordinators – Hants & IoW); Jacky Adams (WCBS – Hants & IoW).

**(2) Moths.** 2021 Records = 115,129; Mike Wall (County Moth Recorder – Hants) & Jim Baldwin (County Moth Recorder – IoW).

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to all the County Recorders, and survey scheme co-ordinators for the exceptional contributions they each make regarding data verification and database management. He also thanked all those who submitted records either as part of formal monitoring schemes, Big Butterfly Count, or simply ad hoc records. All data really helps us understand the status, distribution and trends of Hampshire & IoW butterflies and moths.

h. **BC Nature Reserves in Hampshire.** Fiona Scully was thanked for her excellent work at Yew Hill and Magdalen Hill Down, supported by a dedicated team of volunteers. The meeting was shown a graphic illustrating the inexorable rise in butterfly species at Magdalen Hill Down, from c.26 on transect in 1990 to a

consistent 31 on transect every year since 2018. Steve Lockett (Volunteer Reserve Officer) continues to ensure the viability of Bentley Station Meadow and was thanked for his significant contribution towards site management.

- i. **Landscape projects.** Andy briefly outlined his aspiration, and that of the Branch, for developing a big landscape project – ‘The Heart of Hampshire Fritillaries’. This would focus on a large area between Winchester, Romsey and Stockbridge, to improve habitat quality and connectivity for Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Duke of Burgundy. It would require a partnership involving Government agencies, Local Authorities, conservation charities and private landowners. Co-ordination with the SE Regional Conservation Manager towards this end would be sought.
- j. **Species Conservation Work.** The Chairman updated the meeting on the successful Marsh Fritillary Project in NE Hampshire with good numbers being recorded this year. The Reddish Buff Moth conservation project focuses on one specific area of the Isle of Wight, where an annual Branch contribution of £500 contributes towards securing the recovery of this increasingly scarce insect.
- k. **Volunteer Development & Education.** With BC Hants & IoW Branch support (£1000), Kate Merry (BC Engagement Manager), developed a joint project with Winchester Science Centre, for educational visits to Magdalen Hill Down. Nine School Groups (277 children) visited Magdalen Hill Down from end May – end July 2022. Andy explained how the Butterfly Conservation’s investment will be recouped through DeFRA Educational Access support funding.
- l. **Shows & Events.** The Chairman recorded that 2022 saw an increased Branch participation in shows and events, but we are still looking for a “Shows & Events

Organiser” to enable us to realise our full potential. Thanks to the following for their involvement in 2022:

Suzie Brown, Rupert Broadway and others, for participation in Blackmoor Apple Day and Whitchurch event.

Bob & Jean Annell, and others of New Forest Group.

Jim Baldwin & Kay Shaw for Isle of Wight activities.

- m. **2022 Weather.** A graphic of Andy’s own weather station records was used to highlight the exceptional summer drought of 2022, followed by an autumn with higher than average rainfall. Only time will tell how this has impacted on the Lepidoptera of Hampshire and Isle of Wight, but extremes of weather are something climate scientist are predicating will occur with increased frequency.
  
- n. **Winners and Losers.** Although consolidated records have yet to be analysed, the meeting was shown photographs of Chalk Hill Blue, Adonis Blue and Hummingbird Hawk-Moth as having been recorded in very good numbers. Conversely, Peacock and Red Admiral were selected as species that fared less well. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is a particular cause for concern, and may now be lost from Hampshire. Andy was not aware of anyone having observed it at Bentley Wood (Eastern Clearing) in 2022, which is the last known Hampshire site.
  
- o. **Long-tailed Blue.** Andy opined that this immigrant butterfly, widely reported this year in Sussex, had also been found at several Hants & Isle of Wight sites, including Southampton. The arrival of this species was an exciting prospect for the future.

p. **Butterfly Conservation Strategy 2021-2026.** Supported by graphics (located on the Branch website for closer scrutiny) Andy outlined a prospective Branch response or contribution towards BC's aim. These were:

**Goal 1:** Improve the status of at least half the high priority species found in Hants & IoW.

**Goal 2:** Improve the condition of 3 landscapes in Hants & IoW. Hants & IoW is c. 1.6% of UK land area (c. 3.00% of England). Our area is particularly rich for butterflies & moths, with 12+ key landscapes. In human population terms, Hants & IoW (c .1.5 million) accounts for c.2.1% of total UK population.

**Goal 3:** Transform 2,000 wild spaces in Hants & IoW for people, butterflies and moths. (This could be one's garden, local park, churchyard, field edge, road verge, woodland etc).

More detail of BC's overall strategy may be found at: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/our-work/our-strategy>

The Chairman concluded his report by noting the great work and volunteering currently being undertaken, but encouraging more help. Spreading 'the word' was something all members can do, but participation is also needed. We need more volunteers to support our nature reserves – look on the website for dates of work-parties, for example.

Survey & monitoring – always a magnificent effort but can you contribute? As reported earlier, more people are needed now to help with running the Branch. Do please get in touch with the Branch Chairman or relevant Committee members, if you'd like to help in any area of Butterfly Conservation's work in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

**6. Committee Changes.** Andy commended to the meeting two volunteers to fill the role of Treasurer and Chairman. The meeting was able to read the brief resumé of both prospective candidates ie, Graham Nichol (Treasurer) and Peter Eeles (Chair).

Election of Graham Nichol

**Proposed:** Andy Barker **Seconded:** Ian McIntosh. Approved unanimously.

Election of Peter Eeles

**Proposed:** Andy Barker **Seconded:** Bob Whitmarsh. Approved unanimously.

**7. Health and Safety Matters.** None

**8. Any Other Business.**

Vote of Thanks. Francis Plowman (**Proposed**) and Ashley Whitlock (**Seconded**) that the meeting formally records the deep debt of gratitude owed by the Hampshire and Isle Wight Branch of Butterfly Conservation to its departing Chairman Andy Barker. His exemplary leadership and sterling efforts over the last two most challenging years not only brought stability but sustained the viability of the Branch which he has since led forwards with great enthusiasm and focus. The motion which was passed unanimously was followed by a most generous and richly deserved ovation.

**9. Close of AGM.** The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.